

IBPS BANK PO/CLERK 2013 GENERAL AWARENESS (with special reference to Banking Industry)

- 1) India and Japan extended the size and duration of their currency swap agreement, which works in an emergency to tackle the balance of payments (BoP) problem, on September 6, 2013. Under the agreement which of the following is/are correct?
- Bank of Japan will accept rupees and give dollars to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - RBI will take yen and send dollars to the Bank of Japan
 - Bank of Japan will accept rupees and give yen to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - RBI will take yen and send rupees to the Bank of Japan
- I and II
 - II and III
 - III and IV
 - IV and I
 - All are Correct.

India on September 6, 2013 enlarged its agreement with Tokyo to swap the Indian currency with dollars from \$15 billion to \$50 billion till December 2015. Japan, too, can exchange the yen for dollars, according to the arrangement. The currency-swap deal, which works in an emergency to tackle the balance of payments (BoP) problem, was announced by the two countries after bilateral talks, on the sidelines of the Group of 20 Leadership Summit in St Petersburg, Russia. The arrangement means the Bank of Japan will accept rupees and give dollars to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and, similarly, India's central bank will take yen and send dollars to the Bank of Japan to stabilise the two nations' currencies, in a contingency.

The arrangement can be put into operation if foreign exchange reserves deplete or speculators hammer the currencies. "This arrangement is aimed at addressing possible short-term liquidity mismatches and supplementing existing international financial arrangements," RBI said in Mumbai. Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram said he did not think that India would need the dollars from Japan under this agreement. "The problem today is not of reality but of perception. Arrangement of this nature shores up sentiments. Japanese investors also feel greater comfort."

India and Japan had inked a bilateral swap agreement for \$15 billion on December 4, 2012, for three years. The Indian currency had depreciated 20.21 per cent to 65.25 against a dollar this financial year till September 6. Much of the depreciation, 17.73 per cent, was after May 22. (A)

- 2) Who among the following is the Chairperson of the Expert Panel set up by RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan to scrutinise the applications for new bank licenses on September 4, 2013?
- Urjit Patel
 - Bimal Jalan
 - Nachiket Mor
 - C. Rangarajan
 - Duvvuri Subbarao

New Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan on September 4, 2013 removed uncertainties over the new bank licence process by setting a timeframe. An expert panel under former RBI governor Bimal Jalan will scrutinise the applications. The RBI announced five names for setting up a high-level panel of experts from the banking and financial sector to screen applications of the 26 aspirants for new banking licences. Those selected are market regulator SEBI Chairman U K Sinha, insurance regulator IRDA Chairman T S Vijayan, pension regulator PFRDA Chairman Yogesh Agarwal, Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Takru and financial sector expert Y H Malegam. (B)

- 3) Who among the following is the Chairman of the Expert Committee set up on September 12, 2013 to examine the current monetary policy framework of the Reserve Bank of India?
- Urjit Patel
 - Bimal Jalan
 - Nachiket Mor
 - Vikram Pandit
 - Duvvuri Subbarao

An Expert Committee has been set up on September 12, 2013 to examine the current monetary policy framework of the Reserve Bank of India and recommend what needs to be done to revise and strengthen it with a view to, inter alia, making it transparent and predictable. The Committee is expected to submit its report within three months. The Committee will comprise: **Chairman** – Dr. Urjit Patel, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India. **Members** – Dr. P.J. Nayak; Dr. Chetan Ghatge, Associate Professor, Economics and Planning Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi; Dr. Peter J. Montiel, Professor of Economics, Williams College, USA; Dr. Sajjid Z. Chinoy, Chief Economist and Executive Director, J.P. Morgan; Dr. Rupa Nitsure, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda; Dr. Gangadhar Darbha,

Executive Director, Nomura Securities; Deepak Mohanty, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India; **Member Secretary:** Dr. Michael D. Patra, Principal Adviser, Monetary Policy Department, Reserve Bank of India

The terms of reference of the Committee are:

To review the objectives and conduct of monetary policy in a globalised and highly inter-connected environment
To recommend an appropriate nominal anchor for the conduct of monetary policy
To review the organisational structure, operating framework and instruments of monetary policy, particularly the multiple indicator approach and the liquidity management framework, with a view to ensuring compatibility with macroeconomic and financial stability, as well as market development
To identify regulatory, fiscal and other impediments to monetary policy transmission, and recommend measures and institutional pre-conditions to improve transmission across financial market segments and to the broader economy(A)

- 4) Who among the following is the Chairman of the 'Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households' set up in September 2013?
- Urjit Patel
 - Bimal Jalan
 - Nachiket Mor
 - Vikram Pandit
 - Duvvuri Subbarao

The Reserve Bank on September 23, 2013 announced a 13-member committee headed by Dr Nachiket Mor to frame a "clear and detailed" vision for financial inclusion and deepening banking services across the country. The 'Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households' has been tasked to develop a comprehensive monitoring framework to track the progress of the financial inclusion and deepening efforts on a nationwide basis, the central bank said. The committee has been asked to frame a clear and detailed vision and lay down principles that will guide the development of institutional frameworks and regulation for achieving financial inclusion and deepening of financial services in India. The panel will submit its final report by 31 December 2013.

The members of the committee are: **Vikram Pandit** (former Citibank CEO); **Shikha Sharma** (Axis Bank CEO), **Bindu Ananth**, (president, IFMR Trust), **Prakash Bakshi**, (chairman, NABARD), **Bharat Doshi**, (chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services), **AP Hota** (MD & CEO, National Payments Corporation of India), **Sunil Kaushal** (CEO, Standard Chartered Bank India) and **Roopa Kudva** (MD & CEO, CRISIL), lawyer **Zia Mody** (managing partner, AZB & Partners), **SS Mundra** (CMD, Bank of Baroda) and **Ramesh Ramanathan** (chairman, Janalakshmi Financial Services). (C)

- 5) RBI unveiled revised guidelines for banks' Base Rate methodology in September 2013. A bank which desires to review its Base Rate methodology after _____ from the date of its finalization, the bank may approach Reserve Bank for permission in this regard.
- Two years
 - Three years
 - Four years
 - Five years
 - Six years

Banks had switched over to the Base Rate system for calculation of their lending rates with effect from July 1, 2010. In order to give banks some time to stabilize the system of Base Rate calculations, banks were permitted to change the benchmark and methodology any time upto June 30, 2011. Since then, the banks had been requesting the RBI for permission to change the Base Rate methodology on various grounds. Base rate is the minimum rate at which a bank can lend.

The RBI on September 2, 2013 decided to allow banks flexibility in computation/revision of Base Rate methodology in order to enable them to overcome the difficulties faced in this regard. Major points are as follows:

Banks that have commenced their banking operations in India after the coming into effect of the Base Rate regime in July 2010 but have not completed one year of their banking operations as on September 2, 2013, will be allowed to revise their Base Rate methodology within a year from the date of commencement of their business operations in India.

Banks that will commence their banking business in India after September 2 will be allowed to revise their Base Rate methodology within a year from the date of commencement of their banking business in India.

In case, a bank, including banks listed above, desires to review its Base Rate methodology after five years from the date of its finalization, the bank may approach Reserve Bank for permission in this regard. (D)

- 6) The RBI on September 2, 2013 decided to allow banks to include _____ in the scope of activities undertaken by Business Correspondents (BCs).
- Processing and submission of applications to banks
 - Receipt and delivery of small value remittances
 - Recovery of principal and collection of interest
 - Distribution of banknotes and coins
 - Sale of mutual fund products

RBI allows use of Business Correspondents in distribution of Banknotes and Coins

The scope of activities of Business Correspondents (BCs) currently includes:

- identification of borrowers
- collection and preliminary processing of loan applications including verification of primary information/data
- creating awareness about savings and other products and education and advice on managing money and debt counselling
- processing and submission of applications to banks
- promoting, nurturing and monitoring of Self Help Groups/Joint Liability Groups/Credit Groups/others
- post-sanction monitoring
- follow-up for recovery, (viii) disbursement of small value credit
- recovery of principal/collection of interest
- collection of small value deposits
- sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/pension products/other third party products and
- receipt and delivery of small value remittances/ other payment instruments

With a view to effectively meeting the growing demand of banknotes and coins in the country there is a need for identification of alternative avenues for their distribution by banks. The RBI on September 2, 2013 decided to allow banks to include distribution of banknotes and coins also in the scope of activities which may be undertaken by BCs. (D)

- 7) The RBI has cautioned banks against upfront disbursement of loans in which sector in a notification on September 2013?
- Housing
 - Jewellery
 - Infrastructure
 - Vehicle finance
 - Medium & Small Enterprises

Banks have introduced certain innovative Housing Loan Schemes in association with developers/builders, e.g. upfront disbursement of sanctioned individual housing loans to the builders without linking the disbursements to various stages of construction of housing project, interest/EMI on the housing loan availed of by the individual borrower being serviced by the builders during the construction period/specified period, etc. This might include signing of tripartite agreements between the bank, the builder and the buyer of the housing unit. These loan products are popularly known by various names like 80:20, 75:25 Schemes.

Such housing loan products are likely to expose the banks as well as their home loan borrowers to additional risks e.g. in case of disputes between individual borrowers and developers/builders, default/delayed payment of interest/EMI by the developer/builder during the agreed period on behalf of the borrower, non-completion of the project on time, etc.

In view of the higher risks associated with such lump-sum disbursement of sanctioned housing loans and customer suitability issues, The RBI on September 3, 2013 advised banks that the disbursement of housing loans sanctioned to individuals should be closely linked to the stages of construction of the housing project/houses and upfront disbursement should not be made in cases of incomplete/under-construction/green field housing projects. (A)

- 8) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lowered the annual spending limit by Indians abroad to \$75,000 for which of the following from August 2013?
- Education
 - Medical expenses
 - Gifts & donations
 - All the above
 - None of the above

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 4, 2013 said it had not imposed curbs on expenses for overseas medical treatment and studies when it reduced the limit on outward remittances on August 14 from \$200,000 to \$75,000 to check the outward flow of capital and contain the sliding value of the rupee. According to the clarification by the RBI, only gifts and donations were included under the annual LRS limit of \$75,000. Expenses on education and medical treatment purposes would be independent of this limit. (C)

- 9) Consider the following statements on The Food Security Bill 2013 passed by the Parliament in September 2013.
- Free meals will be provided in case of non-supply of food grains to entitled persons
 - Centre will provide assistance to States for intra-State transportation and handling of foodgrains
 - Elders woman of eighteen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest male member is to be the head of the household.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- I only
 - I & II only
 - II & III only
 - III & I only
 - I, II & III

Parliament on September 2, 2013 passed the Food Security Bill 2013 which seeks to provide highly subsidised foodgrains to the country's two-third population as a right. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on September 2, 2013 and the Lok Sabha on August 26.

Highlights are as follows:

Two thirds of population to get highly subsidized food grains: Up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population to be entitled to 5 kg of food grains per month at the highly subsidized prices of Rs. 3, Rs. 2, Rs. 1 per kg for rice, wheat, coarse grains, respectively, to be delivered via the Targeted Public Distribution System. A maximum of five members (25 kg) of a household will be considered.

Poorest of the poor to continue to get 35 kg per household: The poorest of poor households would continue to receive 35 kg foodgrains per household per month under Antyodaya Anna Yojana at subsidized prices of Rs 3, Rs 2 and Rs 1. Existing allocation of foodgrains to the states/union territories, where they are already larger, are preserved, subject to a restriction to average annual offtake during the last three years;

Eligible households to be identified by the states: Beneficiaries to consist of 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population at the all-India level, with state-wise coverage to be determined by the Planning Commission. Identification of eligible households is left to the states/union territories, which may frame their own criteria or use Social Economic and Caste Census data.

Special focus on nutritional support to women and children: Pregnant women and lactating mothers, besides being entitled to nutritious meals as per prescribed nutritional norms, will also receive a monetary maternity benefit at least of INR 6,000. Children aged 6 months to 14 years are to be entitled to either a "take home ration" or hot cooked food (i.e., hot school lunch) as per prescribed nutritional norms.

Food Security Allowance in case of non-supply of food grains: The central government will provide funds to states/union territories in case of short supply of food grains from the central pool. In case of non-supply of food grains or meals to entitled persons, the concerned state/union territory governments will be required to provide such food security allowance as may be prescribed by the central government to the beneficiaries.

States to get assistance for intrastate transportation and handling of food grains: In order to address the concern of the states regarding additional financial burdens, the central government will provide assistance to the states towards the cost of intra-state transportation, handling of food grains and Fair Price Shop dealers' margins.

Women's Empowerment: The eldest woman of eighteen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest male member is to be the head of the household until such time as the eldest woman attains the age of 18 years.

Grievance redress mechanism at district level: There will be state and district level redress mechanism with designated officers. The redress mechanism may also include call centers and help lines.

Social audits and vigilance committees: The Bill mandates public disclosure of records relating to the Public Distribution System, including publication of lists of beneficiaries, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees in order to ensure transparency and accountability. (C)

- 10) Which of the following statements on The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012 in Monsoon Session of Parliament is correct?
- Not considered for introduction
 - Passed by Lok Sabha only
 - Passed by Rajya Sabha only
 - Passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
 - Promulgated as an Ordinance

The Lok Sabha on September 6, 2013 passed the protection and rehabilitation of scavengers' bill. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012 prohibits the employment of scavengers, the manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks without protective equipment and the construction of unsanitary latrines. A central monitoring committee will be formed to oversee the law's implementation, banning employment of people for manual scavenging and cleaning of septic tanks. The bill also seeks to rehabilitate manual scavengers with one-time cash assistance and provide for their alternative employment. The bill has higher penalties and stiff provisions for people who violate the law. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on September 7. (D)

11) The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012 was passed by the Lok Sabha on September 6, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. Street vendors who were issued vending certificates before the passage of the Bill will have to apply for new certificate with the commencement of the Act
 - II. The Bill has an overriding clause that will enable the street vendors to carry on their business without the fear of harassment by the authorities under any other law.
- a) I only
b) II only
c) Both I & II
d) Neither I nor II

The Lok Sabha on September 6, 2013 passed the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012. The Bill provides for protection of livelihoods rights, social security of street vendors and regulation of urban street vending in the country. The Bill is aimed at creating an atmosphere where street vendors, are able to carry out their business in a fair and transparent manner, without the fear of harassment and eviction. The Bill was moved for consideration and passing in the house by Girija Vyas, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Main features of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012 are as follows:

Number of street vendors that can be issued certificates: The Bill states that at least 2.5% of the population of the ward or zone or town or city would be eligible for vending licences and it would be mandatory to form Town Vending Committee (TVC) in each and every city. The Bill makes it necessary for all street vendors to register with their respective TVC. The TVC is required to have representation of officials and non-officials and street vendors, including women vendors. In places where the number of street vendors identified is more than the holding capacity of the vending zone, the TVC is required to carry out a draw of lots for issuing the certificate of vending for that vending zone and the remaining persons will be accommodated in any adjoining vending zone to avoid relocation.

Survey of street vendors and issue of certificates: To avoid arbitrariness of authorities, the Bill provides for a survey of all existing street vendors, and subsequent survey at-least once in every five years, and issue of certificate of vending to all the street vendors identified in the survey.

Status of street vendors issued certificates before the commencement of this Act: Those street vendors who have been issued a certificate of vending/license etc. before the commencement of this Act, they will be deemed to be a street vendor for that category and for the period for which he/she has been issued such certificate of vending/license.

Transfer of certificates: It has also been provided that in case a street vendor, to whom a certificate of vending is issued, dies or suffers from any permanent disability or is ill, one of his family member i.e. spouse or dependent child can vend in his place, till the validity of the certificate of vending.

Rules for eviction of street vendors: It has been provided that no street vendor will be evicted until the survey has been completed and certificate of vending issued to the street vendors. Procedure for relocation, eviction and confiscation of goods has been specified and made street vendor friendly. It is proposed to provide for recommendation of the TVC, as a necessary condition for relocation being carried out by the local authority.

Release of seized goods: The Bill provides for time period for release of seized goods, for both perishable and non-perishable goods. In case of non-perishable goods, the local authority is required to release the goods within two working days and in case of perishable goods, the goods shall be released the same day, of the claim being made.

Protection from harassment: Section 29 of the Bill provides for protection of street vendors from harassment by police and other authorities and provides for an overriding clause to ensure they carry on their business without the fear of harassment by the authorities under any other law. (B)

12) The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) constituted a District Level Advisory Committees for monitoring the progress of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in August 2013. Out of three components – Beneficiary's contribution, Subsidy, Bank loan – of projects coming under PMEGP, which of the following is the largest?

- a) Beneficiary's contribution
- b) Subsidy
- c) Bank loan
- d) All the above are in equal proportion

A conference was organised by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) in New Delhi on September 4, 2013 on the recent initiatives for enhancing the effectiveness of implementation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The PMEGP is the major credit linked subsidy programme being implemented by the Ministry. The MSME said it had constituted a District Level Advisory Committee for each district of the country on August 30, 2013 for monitoring the progress of PMEGP with active involvement of Members of Parliament from the district.

A District Level Advisory Committee comprising around 30 members would provide overall guidance and suggestions for the implementation of the programme. The committee would liaise and coordinate with KVIC, State Government and other agencies including Banks for effective mobilization of young entrepreneurs under PMEGP. It would also ensure that the scheme is implemented in accordance with its guidelines.

The Committee would be chaired by the Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) elected from the District having the largest part of the district under his/ her Parliamentary constituency. Other Members of Parliament of Lok Sabha having part constituency in the district would be co-chairperson and Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha will be a member.

About PMGEP

The PMEGP was launched by merging the two schemes that were in operation till 31.03.2008 namely Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas. The PMEGP is a central sector scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The Scheme is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency at the National level. At the State level, the Scheme will be implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.

Objectives

- To generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises
- To bring together widely dispersed traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth and give them self-employment opportunities to the extent possible at their place
- To provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans and rural and urban unemployed youth in the country, so as to help arrest migration of rural youth to urban areas
- To increase the wage earning capacity of artisans and contribute to increase in the growth rate of rural and urban employment

Quantum and Nature of Financial Assistance

Levels of funding under PMEGP			
Categories of beneficiaries under PMEGP	Beneficiary's contribution (of project cost)	Rate of Subsidy (of project cost)	
		Urban	Rural
Area (location of project/unit)			
General Category	10%	15%	25%
Special (including SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/ etc.)	05%	25%	35%

Note:
The maximum cost of the project/unit admissible under manufacturing sector is Rs. 25 lakh.
The maximum cost of the project/unit admissible under business/service sector is Rs. 10 lakh.
(3) The balance amount of the total project cost will be provided by Banks as term loan (C)

- 13) The government approved the establishment of which of the following with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore for "transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households in tribal areas" in September 2013?
- a) Bharat Rural & Tribal Fund
 - b) Bharat Rural & Tribal Foundation
 - c) Bharat Tribal Livelihoods Foundation
 - d) Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
 - e) Bharat Livelihoods Development Foundation

The United progressive Alliance (UPA) government on September 3, 2013 approved the establishment of an independent society for "transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women" in tribal areas. The cabinet approved a proposal to set up the Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) with a corpus of Rs 500 crore in partnership between the government and private sector philanthropic organizations, besides private and public sector undertakings, under their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. The objective is to ensure a "smooth flow and utilization of government funds to rural communities and poor households under the centrally-sponsored schemes for promoting livelihoods of the poor". Once it becomes operational, the BRLF would have reached 1 million poor families. (D)

- 14) The Constitution (120th Amendment) Bill, 2013 passed by the Rajya Sabha on September 5, 2013 refers to which of the following?
- Appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges
 - Process to be followed in acquisition of land for development projects
 - Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation
 - Consideration of Special Category status for economically under-developed states
 - Statutory status for the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

The Rajya Sabha on September 5, 2013 passed a Constitution Amendment Bill to create a Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) which will replace the collegium system of appointing judges to higher courts. The Bill could not be introduced in the Lok Sabha as the Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on September 7, 2013. The Constitution (120th Amendment) Bill, 2013 envisages the setting up of the JAC, to be decided by Parliament, that will recommend appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges. Currently, the collegium consisting of five top judges of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India, decides the appointment of judges to higher courts. "Appointment of judges is the role of the executive and not the judiciary. By this amendment, we are not trying to interfere with the judicial processes ... We are trying to have a transparent system of appointment and participate with the judiciary to have best judges for a better future," Law Minister Kapil Sibal said taking part in the debate. It was in 1993 that the judiciary "rewrote the Constitution" when it introduced the collegium system of appointing judges to higher courts, disturbing the delicate balance between the judiciary, the legislature and the executive. (A)

- 15) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on September approved the continuation of Affordable Housing in Partnership Scheme (AHP) as part of RAY with amendments. Central assistance under the AHP Scheme has been increased to _____ per dwelling unit.
- Rs. 25,000
 - Rs. 50,000
 - Rs. 75,000
 - Rs. 100,000
 - Rs. 150,000

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on September 3, 2013 approved the launch of the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), to be implemented in Mission mode during 2013-2022.

The CCEA has also approved the continuation of Affordable Housing in Partnership Scheme (AHP) as part of RAY with amendments.

It has also been decided to continue the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) and rechristen it as the Rajiv Rinn Yojana (RRY). The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 32,230 crore for implementation of RAY during 12th Five Year Plan.

The RAY will provide support to States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Government agencies for providing housing, including rental and transit housing, development/improvement of basic civic and social infrastructure and operation and maintenance of assets created under the scheme. RAY will cover all cities and towns, the selection of which will be made by the States in consultation with the Centre.

The ISHUP scheme will be continued as a central sector scheme to be called RRY in the 12th Plan period. It is proposed to provide interest subsidy of 5 percent on long tenure loans of 15 to 20 years, limited to Rs.5 lakh borrowed by EWS/LIG; with ceiling of Rs. 8 lakh loan for LIG.

As an integral part of RAY, CCEA has also approved continuation of implementation of Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) Scheme with suitable amendments. The scheme has been amended to provide Rs. 75,000 per economically Weaker Section/Low Income Groups (EWS/LIG) dwelling unit for housing and internal development components with an objective to improve private sector participation in affordable housing. (C)

- 16) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on September 3, 2013 approved the restructuring and renaming of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) as the _____.
- Bharat Urban Livelihoods Mission
 - Bharat Urban Employment Mission

- National Urban Livelihoods Mission
- National Urban Employment Mission
- National Urban Empowerment Mission

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on September 3, 2013 approved the restructuring and renaming of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) as the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) in the 12th Plan with an allocation of approximately Rs. 6,405 crore.

The Mission of NULM is to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. The mission would also aim at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the Mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors also by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills to the urban street vendors for accessing emerging market opportunities.

The NULM will be implemented in two phases: Phase I (2013-2017) and Phase II (2017-2022). In Phase I, NULM will target all cities with a population of one lakh or more and district headquarter towns with a population of less than one lakh as per Census of India 2011. However, other towns may be allowed in exceptional cases on the request of the States.

Funding will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. For North Eastern and Special Category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), this ratio will be 90:10. (C)

- 17) The C-17 Globemaster III was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on September 2, 2013. It is a form of _____ aircraft.
- Trainer
 - Fighter
 - Transport
 - Surveillance
 - Maritime Reconnaissance

Giving impetus to the long standing strategic airlift of the Indian Air Force, the Defence Minister AK Antony on September 2, 2013 formally inducted the Boeing C-17 Globemaster III into the IAF at the Hindon airbase of the IAF near Ghaziabad, UP. The Globemaster is widely regarded as the world's most sophisticated, capable and expensive heavy-lift transport aircraft. The government accorded approval to buy 10 C-17 Globemaster III along with associated equipment for the IAF in June 2011. Presently three aircrafts have been delivered and are operational. The newly inducted C-17 Squadron (81 Squadron) named 'Skylords' will be based in Hindon. (C)

- 18) The Union Culture Minister Chandresh Kumari Katoch on September 6, 2013 announced the decision to establish the Gandhi _____ Sites Mission to be headquartered at Delhi.
- Legacy
 - Heritage
 - Memorial
 - Freedom
 - Independence

The Union Culture Minister Chandresh Kumari Katoch on September 6, 2013 announced the decision to establish the Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission to be headquartered at Delhi. It will have a total budget outlay of Rs. 42 crore for a period of 5 years. Conceptually, the core of the Mission's tasks would be: (i) identification, collation and assessment of information on 'Gandhi Heritage' material for its management and deployment, (ii) determination of conservation methodology and priorities, and (iii) dissemination of information based on relevant material. The Mission will aim at preserving for posterity 39 Core Sites as well as other 2,000 important sites earlier identified by the Panel under the Chairmanship of Gopalkrishna Gandhi, ex-Governor of West Bengal. (B)

- 19) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched a portal aimed at making Mahatma Gandhi "accessible all over the world" on September 2, 2013. The portal has been created by the _____ Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust.
- Bapu
 - Ahimsa
 - Mahatma
 - Sabarmati
 - Gramodyog

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on September 2, 2013 launched a portal aimed at making Mahatma Gandhi "accessible all over the world". The portal is a technology-driven initiative aimed at making Mahatma Gandhi

accessible all over the world on an electronic platform. The portal, which will house the intellectual heritage of Gandhi, has been developed at the Gandhi Ashram in Gujarat's Sabarmati, where its office is also located. The culture ministry had sanctioned Rs.8 crore as a corpus fund to the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT), Ahmedabad, to create the portal. The trust would earn about Rs.75 lakh as annual interest to run and maintain the portal. (D)

- 20) Central Information Commission comprises Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (IC). Which of the following statements about service conditions of ICs is/are correct?
- I. IC is not eligible for reappointment as IC
 - II. IC is eligible for appointment as CIC
 - III. IC is appointed for a term of 3 years or till he attains the age of sixty years, whichever is earlier
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Deepak Sandhu, who has been an information commissioner since 2009, on September 5, 2013, became the first woman Chief Information Commissioner of the country. A former Indian Information Service officer of the 1971 batch, she was administered the oath of office by President Pranab Mukherjee at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Sandhu

About Central Information Commission:

Central Information Commission includes 1 Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and not more than 10 Information Commissioners (IC) who are appointed by the President of India.

Commission has its Headquarters in Delhi. Other offices may be established in other parts of the country with the approval of the Central Government.

Candidates for Chief Information Commissioner/ Information Commissioner (CIC/IC) must be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

CIC/IC shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory. He shall not hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

Appointment Committee includes Prime Minister (Chair), Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and one Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

CIC shall be appointed for a term of 5 years from date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. CIC is not eligible for reappointment. Salary will be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner.

IC shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment as IC. Salary will be the same as that of the Election Commissioner. IC is eligible for appointment as CIC but will not hold office for more than a total of five years including his/her term as IC. (B)

- 21) Which of the following is/are matched correctly?
- a) CTBT – Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
 - b) CWC – Chemical Weapons Convention
 - c) FMCT – Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty
 - d) All (a), (b) & (c)
 - e) None of the above

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on September 2, 2013 appointed Rakesh Sood, India's former Ambassador to Nepal, Afghanistan and France, as his new Special envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. Sood retired from the Indian Foreign Service in March 2013. He is a recognised expert in his field and is expected to make a valuable contribution to the country's foreign policy on security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues. He served in New Delhi for nine years as Joint Secretary DISA (Disarmament and International Security Affairs), a division that he set up and headed from 1992 to 2000. In that post he oversaw the negotiations concerning the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the deliberations on the Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty (FMCT). He also participated in bilateral dialogues on nuclear and other non-proliferation questions with the world's major powers (D)

- 22) The leaders of Brazil, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) agreed to the setting up of a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) during their meeting on September 5, 2013. What will be India's contribution?
- a) US\$ 10 billion
 - b) US\$ 14 billion
 - c) US\$ 18 billion
 - d) US\$ 22 billion
 - e) US\$ 26 billion

BRICS Leaders met on September 5, 2013, ahead of the formal opening of the G20 Summit in St Petersburg. The Leaders of Brazil, India, China and South Africa congratulated Russia for the successful Presidency of the G20 in 2013. The Leaders welcomed the good progress made towards the establishment of the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

The New Development Bank (NDB) will be principally responsible for financing infrastructure projects in the BRICS countries. Progress has been made in negotiating its capital structure, membership, shareholding and governance. The Bank will have an initial subscribed capital of US\$ 50 billion from the BRICS countries. No agreement had been reached yet about how much each country would contribute. The BRICS also agreed to form a Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA), a 100 billion dollars fund to be managed by the central banks of the member countries. The facility will provide precautionary effect to forestall short term liquidity pressures and strengthen global financial stability. The CRA will have an initial size of US\$100 billion. Country's individual commitments to the CRA will be as follows: China – US\$ 41 billion; Brazil, India, and Russia – US\$ 18 billion each; and South Africa – US\$ 5 billion. (C)

- 23) The Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014 of 148 countries was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in September 2013. India's lowest rank is in:
- a) Inflation
 - b) Trade tariffs
 - c) Total tax rate
 - d) Women in labour force

India has slipped to 60th position in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) of 148 economies for 2013-14, while Switzerland has retained its top rank for the fifth continuous year, followed by Singapore and Finland at second and third, respectively. Germany, moving up two places, was ranked fourth, and the US reversed a four-year trend and climbed two places to fifth. The GCI defines competitiveness as "the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country".

Releasing the annual Global Competitiveness Report 2013-2014, Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) on September 4, 2013 said highly innovative countries with strong institutions continue to top the rankings.

The GCI scores are calculated by drawing together country-level data covering 12 categories - institutions, innovations, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size and business sophistication and innovation.

Some of the sub-indices in which India's rank is the worst are: women in labour force (137 rank), inflation (130), total tax rate (128) and trade tariffs (128). India received its best ranking in local supplier quantity (2), domestic market size (3), GDP in purchasing power parity terms (4) and foreign market size (4).

Infrastructure has been looked upon as the single biggest hindrance for doing business in India followed by corruption and cumbersome bureaucracy, the WEF report said. Inadequate supply of infrastructure was cited by a majority of respondents as the most problematic factor for doing business in India, followed by bureaucracy, corruption, tax regulation, policy instability and restrictive labour regulations.

Some of the other factors that were cited as problematic factors for doing business in India include, inflation, access to financing, tax rates, government instability, inadequately educated workforce, crime and theft; and poor public health, among others.

According to WEF, efficient infrastructure is critical to ensuring the effective functioning of the economy as a well-developed infrastructure reduces the effect of distance between regions, helps integrating the national market and connecting it to markets in other countries and regions. (D)

- 24) What was the theme of the sixth Global Skills Summit (GSS) organised in New Delhi in September 2013?
- a) India Leads
 - b) Economy Leads
 - c) Talent Leads
 - d) Services Leads
 - e) Industry Leads

The sixth Global Skills Summit (GSS) was organised by FICCI in New Delhi from September 4 to 6, 2013. Union HRD Minister M. M. Pallam Raju inaugurated the GSS on September 4. The annual event was organised by FICCI in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Labour and Employment and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). New Zealand is the country partner this time for the Summit. The theme of the sixth GSS was "Industry Leads". The Summit was also addressed by Naina Lal Kidwai, President of FICCI and Country Head of HSBC India and Jan Henderson, High Commissioner of New Zealand to India. (E)

25) Gautam Mukhopadhyay is India's Ambassador to which ASEAN country?

- Indonesia
- Myanmar
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- The Philippines

India on September 4, 2013 handed over a cheque of \$ one million to Myanmar for development projects in Rakhine state, which was hit by communal clashes in 2012. Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Gautam Mukhopadhyay symbolically handed over a cheque of \$ 1 million for construction of 10 schools in four townships in Rakhine State as India's contribution towards the reconciliation process between the two communities there. After the clashes primarily between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in northern Rakhine State, a commitment was made by External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, during his trip to Myanmar in December 2012, to earmark \$ 1 million. Following this pledge, the Ministry of Border Affairs, Myanmar, submitted a proposal for construction of ten primary, post primary, sub-high and affiliated middle schools in four townships viz. Sittwe, Maungdaw, Kyauktaw and Minbya of Rakhine state. (B)

26) India is planning to cut its outgo of US dollars by increasing crude oil imports from which of the following?

- UAE
- Iraq
- Iran
- Norway
- Venezuela

As its current account deficit widens and the value of the rupee dwindles, India plans to increase crude oil imports from Iran so as to save \$8.5 billion in foreign exchange. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Veerappa Moily on September 2, 2013 sent the proposal to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Yielding to sanctions imposed on Tehran by the U.S. and the European Union so as to force it to roll back its nuclear programme, India slashed crude imports from Iran by 26.5 per cent during 2012-13, buying just 13.1 million tonnes against 18.1 million tonnes in 2011-12. In his note to the PM, the Petroleum Minister said that in the remainder of the year, the country should import 11 million tonnes so as to save \$8.5 billion on foreign exchange. New Delhi, which spent \$144.29 billion for oil imports last fiscal, pays Tehran in rupee, unlike other countries. Import of an additional 11 million tonnes would help to cut the foreign exchange outgo by \$8.47 billion (given that crude rules at \$105 a barrel). Because of the sanctions, India pays Iran in rupee through a UCO Bank branch in Kolkata. Payments in euro ceased on February 6. (C)

27) The 3rd India - Republic of _____ Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD) was organised at _____ on September 2, 2013.

- Korea, Seoul
- China, Beijing
- Korea, New Delhi
- China, New Delhi

India and South Korea on September 2, 2013 discussed the potential for space and nuclear cooperation, upgrading of the bilateral trade and economic ties and collaboration in defence production. The two sides held their 3rd India - Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD) at Seoul. Both sides discussed ways to further expand and deepen their strategic partnership. They undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral ties, including in the fields of economic collaboration, defence and security cooperation, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts. The Indian side was led by Ashok K Kantha, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). (A)

28) Which American think-tank has launched a website www.Southasianvoices.Org to encourage India-Pak dialogue in September 2013?

- Cato Institute
- Stimson Center
- Chatham House
- RAND Corporation
- Brookings Institution

An American think-tank based in Washington on September 5, 2013 launched a bloggers website to encourage cross border dialogue between India and Pakistan by enabling young analysts from both the sides to communicate directly on security issues. The website -- South Asian Voices: Generation Why -- by Stimson Center has been launched in association with bloggers from India and Pakistan. "This new website is designed to serve a new generation of young analysts in India and Pakistan to enable them to find common ground and communicate directly with each other on security issues that now divide their nations," said the Stimson Center. The think tank said that two Indian and as many Pakistani security bloggers writing for the new website will be selected each year as visiting fellows at the Stimson Center in Washington. The fellowships and the new website are being funded by the Carnegie Corporation of

New York, the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, and the US Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. (B)

29) India and _____ have agreed to set up a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETC) during the New Delhi visit of Lillianne Ploumen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, in September 2013.

- Germany
- Switzerland
- UK
- The Netherlands
- USA

In a meeting with the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Anand Sharma held in New Delhi on September 3, 2013, Lillianne Ploumen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Netherlands, said that the "recent downturn has not reduced the interest of Netherlands in India." The Netherlands Minister was in India with forty Dutch entrepreneurs to further boost trade ties between the two nations. India and Netherlands have agreed to set up a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETC) which will provide a platform for both sides to engage on investment & trade issues. Netherlands is India's 4th largest trading partner in Europe. India's exports to the Netherlands were USD 10 billion in 2012, while the imports were USD 2.63 billion. Netherlands is the sixth largest investor in terms of FDI inflows into India with FDI flow of around USD 9.37 billion, which is 4.72% of total FDI inflows into India during the period April 2000 to June 2013. (D)

30) The 11th Asian Pacific _____ Union Congress was organised in New Delhi from September 3 to 7, 2013.

- Trade
- Postal
- Railway
- Banking
- Telecom

The 11th Asian Pacific Postal Union Congress (APPU) was organised in New Delhi from September 3 to 7, 2013. President Mukherjee inaugurated the meeting which saw participation from postal leaders and stakeholders from the Asian Pacific Postal Union's 32 member countries and observers from 15 countries. The purpose of the APPU is to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between member countries and to promote cooperation in the field of postal services. It decides and pursues the regional stance in response to global postal issues and strategy. (B)

31) Which of the following had detained India's crude oil tanker MT Dosh Shanti in September 2013?

- UAE
- Iraq
- Iran
- Qatar
- Bahrain

Iran on September 5, 2013 ordered the release of an Indian tanker, carrying crude from Basrah that it seized in the Persian Gulf and took to its Bandar Abbas Port 24 days ago. The vessel, MT Dosh Shanti, was seized by Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps on August 12, citing environmental and pollution concerns. (C)

32) The All India Radio (AIR) handed over the recordings of two important speeches by _____ to Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) in September 2013.

- Lord Mountbatten
- Liaquat Ali Khan
- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah

The All India Radio (AIR) September 4, 2013 handed over to Pakistan the recordings of two important speeches by the country's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) is planning to broadcast these speeches, delivered June 3 and Aug 11, 1947, after checking the quality and authenticity. The AIR handed over the recordings to the Pakistan high commission in New Delhi. (E)

33) Who among the following is the Indian writer famous for the book 'A Kabuliwala's Bengali Wife' about her escape from the Taliban in 1995?

- Kalyani Roy
- Roopa Sen
- Chandra Bose
- Sushmita Banerjee
- Radhika Mukherjee

Sushmita Banerjee (49), whose memoir about her dramatic escape from the Taliban was turned into a Bollywood film, was shot dead in Kharana town of Paktika province of Afghanistan on September 4, 2013. She was married to Afghan businessman Jaanbaz Khan and had recently moved back to live with him after leaving Afghanistan in 1995. Banerjee's book 'Kabuliwalar Bangali Bou' ('A Kabuliwala's Bengali Wife'), about her escape from the Taliban in 1995, became a bestseller in India and was made into Bollywood film 'Escape From Taliban' in 2003. (D)

- 34) Which of the following pairs of new Ambassadors/High Commissioners to India appointed in September 2013 is/are matched correctly?
- Bothata Tsikoane – Kenya
 - Bernhard Wrabetz – Germany
 - Lim Thuan Kaun – Singapore
 - Francesco Polidori – Italy
 - All the above

Envoys of Lesotho, Austria, Singapore and San Marino presented their credentials to the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on September 4, 2013. The envoys who presented their credentials were: Bothata Tsikoane – High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho; Bernhard Wrabetz – Ambassador of the Republic of Austria; Lim Thuan Kaun – High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore; Francesco Polidori – Ambassador of the Republic of San Marino (C)

- 35) The G20 _____ was organised in Russia on September 5-6, 2013.
- Leaders' Summit 2013
 - Labour Ministers' Meeting
 - Trade Ministers' Meeting
 - Foreign Ministers' Meeting
 - Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

The civil war in Syria dominated the agenda of the G20 Leaders' Summit organised in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 5-6, 2013. Member nations also agreed to enhance cooperation in curbing tax evasion by MNCs. (A)

- 36) A federal election to elect the 44th Parliament of Australia was organised on September 7, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Australia is a Federal Parliamentary Republic
 - Voting is compulsory only
- II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

A federal election to elect the 44th Parliament of Australia was organised on September 7, 2013. Voting in Australia's federal elections has been compulsory since 1925. Tony Abbott led the Liberal/National Coalition to a landslide victory at the 2013 election against the Australian Labor Party led by Kevin Rudd. Abbott was sworn in as the 28th Prime Minister of Australia on September 18, 2013. Australia's opposition Liberal-National coalition got 90 seats while the governing Australian Labor Party had 55 in the 150-seat **House of Representatives** (lower house of parliament). Party positions: **Liberal-National coalition** – 90 – [Liberal Party of Australia (58); Liberal National Party (QLD) (22); National Party of Australia (9); Country Liberal Party (NT) (1)]; **Australian Labor Party** – 55. **Others** – 5 [Australian Greens (1); Palmer United Party (1); Katter's Australian Party (1); Independents (2)]. In the 76-member **Senate** (Upper House); Liberal/National Coalition had 33 seats while the Australian Labor Party trailed at 26 seats. The main election issues were how to tackle an expected economic slowdown, whether to keep a tax on carbon emissions, and how to reduce the number of asylum seekers arriving by boat. Australia is a Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy and has Elizabeth II as its Monarch. Quentin Bryce is the Governor-General. (A)

- 37) Majuro Declaration was made by the members of the 15-nation _____ Islands Forum at Majuro, Marshall Islands on September 5, 2013.
- Pacific
 - Atlantic
 - Indian Ocean
 - Mediterranean

Leaders of Pacific Island nations signed a declaration at Majuro, Marshall Islands on September 5, 2013 that commits them to urgent action on climate change and pleads with the rest of the world to follow their lead on an issue that threatens their existence. Members of the 15-nation Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) finalised the so-called Majuro Declaration, named after the Marshall Islands' capital where they met. The declaration contains specific pledges on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and adopting renewable energy from each of the PIF nations, some of which are barely a metre (three feet) above sea level and face being swamped by rising waters. (A)

- 38) Who among the following was reappointed Prime Minister of Cambodia following election victory in September 2013?
- Hun Sen

- Chan Sy
- Chea Sim
- Heng Samrin
- Norodom Sihanouk

Cambodia's ruling People's Party (CPP) has officially won July's disputed general election, the national election committee confirmed on September 8, 2013. Prime Minister Hun Sen's CPP won 68 seats, compared with 55 for the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). The announcement came after thousands of people took part in a rally in the capital Phnom Penh to protest against alleged electoral fraud. Hun Sen has run Cambodia for 28 years. The 61-year-old has vowed to stay in power until he is in his seventies. (A)

- 39) Who among the following had the highest vote-share in the first round of the Presidential Elections in Maldives organised in September 2013?
- Abdulla Yameen
 - Mohamed Nasheed
 - Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
 - Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik

The presidential elections in the Maldives will go to a second round after frontrunner Mohamed Nasheed failed to win an outright majority on September 8, 2013. Nasheed obtained 45% but needed more than 50% to avoid a run-off against his rival, Abdulla Yameen, who got 25% of the vote. After decades of autocratic rule, the Maldives held its first free election in 2008, which was won by Nasheed. But he was ousted as president 18 months ago in an alleged coup. The run-off was due to be held on September 28. (B)

- 40) Which African country's Parliament passed to resolution to pull out of The Hague-based International Criminal Court in September 2013 to protest against the trial of its President and Vice-President for human rights violations?
- Ghana
 - Kenya
 - Zambia
 - Nigeria
 - South Africa

Kenyan lawmakers on September 5, 2013 backed a motion to pull out of the International Criminal Court, a snub to The Hague-based tribunal ahead of the forthcoming trial of Vice President William Ruto. Kenya is the first country to hold such a vote to leave the world court. The motion "to suspend any links, cooperation and assistance" to the court was overwhelming approved by the National Assembly through a voice vote. The ICC wants to start trial of Vice-President Ruto on three counts of crimes against humanity for allegedly organising 2007-2008 post-election unrest that killed at least 1 more than thousand people. Ruto's trial comes about two months ahead of that of President Uhuru Kenyatta, who faces five charges of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, persecution and deportation. Both Kenyatta and Ruto have said they would cooperate fully with the court and deny the charges against them. The ICC was set up in 2002 to try the world's worst crimes, and countries voluntarily sign up to join. (B)

- 41) Which of the following was readmitted into the 12-member Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in September 2013?
- Bolivia
 - Colombia
 - Uruguay
 - Venezuela
 - Chile

Paraguay has been welcomed back into 12-member South American regional group Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). Suspended in June 2012 after it impeached its President, Uruguay was reinstated at the summit held in Surinamese capital Paramaribo on September 1, 2013. Members of UNASUR are: Bolivia; Colombia; Ecuador; Peru; Argentina; Brazil; Paraguay; Uruguay; Venezuela; Chile; Guyana; Suriname (C)

- 42) Which country's President issued a decree reserving a special seat for Sikh and Hindu Afghan nationals in the Lower House of Parliament, the Wolesi Jirga, in September 2013?
- Iraq
 - Mongolia
 - Uzbekistan
 - Afghanistan

Afghan President Hamid Karzai on September 4, 2013 issued a historic legislative decree reserving a special seat for Sikh and Hindu Afghan nationals in the Lower House of Parliament, the Wolesi Jirga. The National Assembly of

Afghanistan is a bicameral body, comprising two chambers, Wolesi Jirga with 249 seats and Meshrano Jirga or the Upper House with 102 seats. With the designated seat, the Lower House will now have 250 members. (D)

- 43) What was the cash prize given to Zubin Mehta who was conferred the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony, 2013 on September 6, 2013?
- Rs. 1 crore
 - Rs. 2 crore
 - Rs. 3 crore
 - Rs. 4 crore
 - Rs. 5 crore

President of India Pranab Mukherjee on September 6, 2013 conferred Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony, 2013 on Maestro Zubin Mehta. The award carries an amount of One Crore Rupees (Rs. 1 Crore), a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The annual award was instituted by the Govt. of India during the commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality or language. The first Tagore Award was conferred on Pt. Ravi Shankar, the Indian Sitar Maestro in 2012. (A)

- 44) Which of the following award was given for Best Actor and Best Actress at the Venice Film Festival on September 7, 2013? Napoli Cup
- Volpi Cup
 - Sofia Cup
 - Perugia Cup
 - Genoa Cup

An Italian documentary, which explores the lives of people living along Rome's notorious ring road, won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival on September 7, 2013. Sacro GRA, directed by Gianfranco Rosi, becomes the first documentary ever to win the Golden Lion. Britain's Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope won best screenplay for 'Philomena' directed by Stephen Frears. The Volpi Cup for Best Actress went to Italian Elena Cotta, for her performance in Emma Dante's 'A Street in Palermo', a film in which she did not utter a word. The Silver Lion, for best director, went to Greece's Alexandros Avranas for 'Miss Violence', a disturbing look at sexual violence and abuse perpetrated by a father and grandfather, played by Greek actor Themis Panou, who won the Volpi Cup for Best Actor. (A)

- 45) Each winner of the Teachers' Day National Award was given a certificate of merit, a silver medal and a cash prize of _____ by President Pranab Mukherjee on September 5, 2013.
- Rs. 25,000
 - Rs. 50,000
 - Rs. 75,000
 - Rs. 100,000
 - Rs. 150,000

177 primary teachers and 140 secondary teachers are among the awardees. 6 Sanskrit teachers and 4 Madrasa teachers were also honoured on the occasion. Teachers Day is celebrated on the birthday of the second President of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan who was an eminent scholar. The scheme of the National Awards to teachers was introduced in 1958 with the objective of enhancing the prestige of teachers and giving public recognition to teachers of outstanding merit. Each award constitutes a certificate of merit, a silver medal and a cash prize of Rs. 25000/-. (A)

- 46) The RBI on September 4, 2013 said that under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), Indian citizens can make remittances to:
- buy shares of listed overseas companies
 - buy shares of unlisted overseas companies
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The RBI on September 4, 2013 said that under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for resident individuals, funds could be used to buy shares of both listed and unlisted overseas companies. (C)

- 47) The RBI on September 4, 2013 said that under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), Indian citizens:
- Cannot make remittances for acquiring immovable property abroad
 - Can make remittances for acquiring immovable property abroad in deals signed on or before August 14, 2013
 - Can make remittances for acquiring immovable property abroad in deals signed after August 14, 2013
 - None of the above

The RBI on September 4, 2013 clarified that resident individuals are permitted to make remittances for acquiring immovable property within the annual limit of USD 75000 for already contracted cases, i.e. only for those contracts which were entered into on or before the date of the circular, i.e., August 14, 2013. (B)

- 48) The Reserve Bank of India, on September 5, 2013, allowed cash withdrawals of up to _____ a day through pre-paid cards issued by banks from point of sale (POS) terminals.
- Rs. 1,000
 - Rs. 2,000
 - Rs. 3,000
 - Rs. 4,000
 - Rs. 5,000

The Reserve Bank of India, on September 5, 2013, allowed cash withdrawals of up to Rs. 1,000 a day through pre-paid cards, including gift cards, issued by banks from point of sale terminals, a move aimed at enhancing customer convenience in using plastic money. As of now, this facility was available only to debit cards issued by banks (A)

- 49) The RBI on September 4, 2013 allowed companies to use external commercial borrowing (ECB) raised from foreign partners for general corporate purposes provided the ECBs have minimum average maturity of _____.
- 2 years
 - 3 years
 - 5 years
 - 7 years
 - 9 years

In order to encourage capital flows, the RBI on September 4, 2013 eased the external commercial borrowing (ECB) norms by allowing companies to use funds raised from foreign partners for general corporate purposes. ECB must have minimum average maturity of 7 years. The measure is aimed at encouraging capital inflows and arresting the decline in rupee value. (D)

- 50) The Reserve Bank of India on September 4, 2013 allowed Indian companies raising funds via external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to invest up to _____ of their net worth abroad.
- 100%
 - 200%
 - 300%
 - 400%
 - 500%

The Reserve Bank of India on September 4, 2013 partially relaxed some of the restrictions imposed on August 14 on capital outflows from residents, including allowing Indian companies more leeway if they are raising funds via external commercial borrowings (ECBs). Companies raising ECBs will be allowed to invest up to 400% of their net worth abroad. The RBI had reduced the overseas direct investment (ODI) limit to 100% of a company's net worth for all companies, except for a few PSUs. Also ODI limits would not be applicable on commitments made on or before August 14. (D)

- 51) The Reserve Bank of India on August 28, 2013 decided to open a special window to meet the foreign exchange needs of public sector companies in which sector?
- Defence production
 - Oil marketing
 - Telecom
 - Shipping
 - Power

The Reserve Bank of India on August 28, 2013 decided to open a special window to meet the foreign exchange needs of three public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). The move is likely to bring some relief to the battered rupee as it will ease the demand for dollars from the OMCs. Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd are the biggest buyers of dollars, which they use to purchase crude oil. India imports around 80 per cent of its crude oil requirements. Dollar demand from the OMCs amounts to around \$6 billion per month. "On the basis of the assessment of current market conditions, the RBI has decided to open a forex swap window to meet the entire daily dollar requirements of three public sector oil marketing companies," the central bank said. Currency swaps involve an exchange of cash flows in two different currencies. (B)

- 52) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 6, 2013 enhanced the limit of Indian rupees any person residing in India can take outside the country to _____ per person.
- Rs 10,000
 - Rs 20,000
 - Rs 50,000
 - Rs 100,000

e) Rs 500,000

In a bid to provide greater flexibility to resident individuals travelling abroad and to attract more foreign exchange inflows in India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 6, 2013 enhanced the limit of Indian rupees any person residing in India can take outside the country or a person who has gone out of India on a temporary visit can bring into India. The amount has been enhanced to Rs 10,000 a person compared with Rs 7,500 earlier. "Any person resident in India might take outside India (other than to Nepal and Bhutan) currency notes of government and RBI notes up to an amount not exceeding Rs 10,000 a person and who had gone out of India on a temporary visit, might bring into India at the time of his return from any place outside India (other than from Nepal and Bhutan), currency notes of government and RBI notes up to an amount not exceeding Rs 10,000 a person," said RBI in a notification. (A)

- 53) Which of the following has made registration of warehouses compulsory for commodity exchanges from September 2013?
- NSE
 - FMC
 - RBI
 - IRDA
 - SEBI

In a bid to ring fence the six commodity futures market from an NSEL-like fraud, the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) on September 2, 2013 directed all the exchanges to register their accredited warehouses with Warehouse Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) and obtain certificate of accreditation from the authority by end of this year.

Warehouses play a critical role in settlement and trade in commodities market. An efficient warehousing facility needs to ensure the integrity of the delivery mechanism by assuring the market participants of delivery of right quantity with quality of the commodities. As per Forward Contract Regulation Act 1952, forward contracts in commodity markets entail that all the contracts must eventually result in delivery of the commodities.

In August 2013, National Spot Exchange, a group company of MCX had halted trading on its platform and is now struggling to settle trade worth Rs 5,600 crore entered on the platform. Most of the stocks that the exchange claimed to be in the warehouses are untraceable. (B)

- 54) The compensation for those whose land is acquired will be _____ the market value in urban areas under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2012 passed by Parliament on September 5, 2013.
- 1.5 times
 - 2.0 times
 - 2.5 times
 - 3.0 times
 - 4 times

The Parliament on September 5, 2013 passed the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2012 that aims to provide fair compensation to those whose land is taken away, brings transparency to the process of land acquisition to set up factories or buildings and assures generous compensation and rehabilitation of those affected by land takeover. The Bill replaces a law enacted by the British in 1894. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha (LS) on August 29 and the Rajya Sabha (RS) on September 4. It was referred to the LS again to approve the amendments passed by the RS on September 4.

Highlights of the Bill:

Consent: For private industry, consent of 80% landowners and people on government assigned land will have to be taken. Consent of people dependent on land for their livelihood not required. For Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, consent of 70% landowners must be taken. Government can retain land ownership in PPP projects. States free to increase the consent provision

Time limit: The time limit for acquisition is one year.

Compensation: The compensation for those whose land is acquired will be twice the market value in urban areas. In rural areas it will be between twice to four times. States free to enhance the package.

Unused land: Acquirers of the land will be required to return the land to state land bank if unused for five years.

Public Purpose: The bill defines "public purpose" to include: mining, infrastructure, defence, manufacturing zones, roads, railways, highways, and ports built by government and public sector enterprises, land for project-affected

people, planned development and improvement of village or urban sites and residential purposes for the poor and landless and government-administered schemes or institutions, among others. (B)

- 55) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill (PFRDA), 2011 was passed by the Lok Sabha on September 4, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- NPS fund managers disallowed from launching schemes that promise minimum assured returns
 - PFRDA has been conferred statutory status
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill (PFRDA), 2011 was passed by the Lok Sabha on September 4, 2013 with official amendments. It was earlier introduced in Lok Sabha in March 2011 to provide for a statutory regulatory body – The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) – under the provisions of the Bill. The legislation seeks to empower PFRDA to regulate the New Pension System (NPS). The NPS is based on the principle that 'you save while you earn' especially for retirement and is mainly for those who have a regular income.

Some of the key features of the Bill are: – The Bill would make the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority a statutory authority. Presently, it has non-statutory status. – A subscriber seeking minimum assured returns in NPS shall be allowed to opt for investing his funds in such scheme providing minimum assured returns as may be notified by the PFRDA. – A Pension Advisory Committee will be established with representation from all major stakeholders to advise PFRDA on important matters of framing of regulations under the PFRDA Act. – The foreign investment in the pension sector at 26% or such percentage as may be approved for the Insurance Sector, whichever is higher. (B)

- 56) Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) having Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 500 crore and above are required to spend at least ___ of their PAT for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the next financial year.
- 0.5%
 - 1%
 - 1.5%
 - 2%
 - 2.5%

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has issued guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in April, 2013 wherein each CPSE shall, with the approval of its Board of Directors, make a budgetary allocation for CSR and Sustainability activities/projects for the year. Giving this information in written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha recently, Sachin Pilot, Minister of Corporate Affairs, on September 3, 2013, said that the budgetary allocation is to be based on the profitability of the company and it is determined by the Profit After Tax (PAT) of the company in the previous year as per the following details:

PAT of CPSE in the previous year	Range of Budgetary allocation for CSR & Sustainability activities (as % of PAT in previous year)
(i) Less than Rs. 100 crore	3% - 5%
(ii) Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore	2% - 3%
(iii) Rs. 500 crore and above	1% - 2% (B)

- 57) Which state launched the 'Zero Landless Project' aimed at providing land to all landless people in the state by 2015, on September 8, 2013?
- Goa
 - Bihar
 - Kerala
 - Gujarat
 - Haryana

Kerala government's ambitious 'Zero Landless Project' aimed at providing land to all landless people in the state by 2015, was launched by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi in Thiruvananthapuram on September 8, 2013. (C)

- 58) Tokyo was selected to host the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in the voting organised by the IOC at _____ on September 7, 2013.
- Buenos Aires
 - Montevideo
 - Rio de Janeiro
 - Mexico City

e) Santiago

Tokyo has been chosen to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games ahead of Istanbul and Madrid. The Japanese capital won a final round of voting by International Olympic Committee (IOC) members in Buenos Aires on September 7, 2013 to beat Istanbul by 60 votes to 36. Madrid had earlier been eliminated in a first-round ballot. Tokyo will host the event for the second time after 1964. **Recent venues:** •1972: Munich, West Germany •1976: Montreal, Canada •1980: Moscow, Soviet Union •1984: Los Angeles, US •1988: Seoul, South Korea •1992: Barcelona, Spain •1996: Atlanta, US •2000: Sydney, Australia •2004: Athens, Greece •2008: Beijing, China •2012: London, UK •2016: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil •2020: Tokyo, Japan **Multiple hosts:** Only Athens (1896, 1906, 2004) and London (1908, 1948, 2012) have hosted the Games three times while Tokyo (1964, 2020), Los Angeles (1932, 1984) and Paris (1900, 1924) have hosted them twice. (A)

59) Which of the following statements regarding the 8th Asia Cup hockey tournament organised in August-September 2013 is/are correct?

- I. South Korea won the tournament
 - II. India won bronze medal
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

India lost 3-4 against defending champions South Korea in the final of the 8th Asia Cup hockey tournament at the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium at Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia on September 1, 2013. The winner of this tournament qualified for the 2014 World Cup. South Korea's Jang Jong-Hyun with 8 goals was the top scorer of the tournament while India's V. R. Raghunath was adjudged the best player. South Korea had defeated Pakistan 2-0 in the semi-finals while India had won against hosts Malaysia 3-1. Pakistan beat Malaysia 3-1 in the match for bronze medal. Japan finished 5th followed by Oman, Bangladesh and Chinese Taipei in the eight-team tournament. Sardar Singh was the captain of the Indian team. (A)

60) Which of the following launched the 'Ahimsa Messenger' programme on August 31, 2013?

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Environment and Forests
- c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- e) Ministry of Human Resource Development

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on August 31, 2013 launched its 'Ahimsa Messenger' programme that seeks to curb violence against women in rural forms through a mass movement by creating numerous Ahimsa Messengers in various parts of the country. The programme aims at preventing violence against women and children and generating awareness about basic legal rights, procedures and provisions amongst women and children at the grassroots. Ahimsa Messengers would also serve as link workers in case of any violence and also facilitate the women to approach the concerned authorities in case of incidences of violence for suitable redressal and follow up on the case. (D)

61) What is the Mission of Indian Space Research Organisation's GSAT-7 launched on August 30, 2013?

- a) Weather monitoring
- b) Minerals exploration
- c) Communication
- d) Navigation
- e) Space exploration

Indian Space Research Organisation's advanced multi-band communication satellite, GSAT-7, was successfully launched on August 30, 2013 by the Ariane-5 launch vehicle of Arianespace from Kourou, French Guiana. Ariane-5 precisely placed GSAT-7 into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) after a flight of 34 minutes 25 seconds duration.

Important facts: **Mission** – Communication; **Mass At Lift-Off** – 2650 kg; **Physical Dimensions** – 3.1 m X 1.7 m X 2.0 m; **Launch site** – Kourou, French Guiana; **Launch vehicle** – Ariane-5 VA-215; **Orbit** – 74oE Geo Stationary; **Mission life** – > 7 Years

GSAT-7 is an advanced communication satellite built by ISRO to provide wide range of service spectrum from low bit rate voice to high bit rate data communication. GSAT-7 Communication payload is designed to provide communication capabilities to users over a wide oceanic region including the Indian land-mass. (C)

62) The RTE (Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education) Anthem was launched by Union HRD Minister M. M. Pallam Raju in August 2013. It has been sung by Sunidhi Chauhan and _____.

- a) Shaan
- b) Sonu Nigam
- c) Udit Narayan
- d) Kunal Ganjawala
- e) Shankar Mahadevan

The RTE Anthem was launched by Union HRD Minister M. M. Pallam Raju on August 29, 2013. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates eight years of elementary education to all children in the 6 to 14 years age group. In this context, the creation of demand in a rights based perspective is also of utmost importance. Different media tools have been used in this regard and the RTE Anthem is an attempt to do it in a joyful and child friendly manner, wherein children will imbibe the RTE message from popular public figures in a creative melody. National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) supported the Ministry in creating the Anthem, which has been written by renowned lyricist Javed Akhtar and sung by Sonu Nigam and Sunidhi Chauhan. The Anthem will be dubbed in English and 15 regional languages (Assamese, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Dogri, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Naga, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu) to generate constructive awareness among the community and stakeholders for the implementation of RTE. (B)

63) Who among the following is the author of the book 'My Journey—Transforming Dreams into Actions' released in August 2013?

- a) Ratan Tata
- b) Amartya Sen
- c) Nandan Nilekani
- d) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- e) M. S. Swaminathan

My Journey—Transforming Dreams into Actions by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was released on August 27, 2013. **About the book:** From a small boy growing up in Rameswaram, to becoming the country's eleventh President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's life has been a tale of extraordinary determination, courage, perseverance and the desire to excel. In this series of anecdotes and profiles, Dr. Kalam looks back on key moments in his past some small and some momentous and tells the reader how each of them inspired him profoundly. Nostalgic, honest and deeply personal, My Journey is the story of a life as rich as it is unusual and the beautiful lessons to be learnt from it. **About the author:** Born on 15 October 1931, at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology. Dr Kalam is one of the most distinguished scientists of India and has been awarded the Padma Bhushan (1981), the Padma Vibhushan (1990) and India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna (1997). Dr Kalam became the eleventh President of India on 25 July 2002. His focus and greatest ambition remains finding ways that will transform India into a developed nation. (D)

64) L. Nageswara Rao, Santosh Kumar Bagaria and K.V. Viswanathan were appointed as _____ on August 27, 2013.

- a) High Court judges
- b) Supreme Court judges
- c) Additional Solicitors Generals
- d) Members of Law Commission
- e) Joint Parliamentary Committee

Three senior advocates — L. Nageswara Rao, Santosh Kumar Bagaria and K.V. Viswanathan — were on August 27, 2013 appointed as Additional Solicitors General in the Supreme Court for a period of three years. They will be in addition to the existing ASGs and handle various cases assigned to them and would also assist the Attorney General G.E. Vahanvati and Solicitor General Mohan Parasaran. (C)

65) India agreed to contribute _____ for Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan on August 30, 2013.

- a) Rs. 500 crore
- b) Rs. 1500 crore
- c) Rs. 2500 crore
- d) Rs. 3500 crore
- e) Rs. 4500 crore

India on August 31, 2013 announced an aid of Rs 5,000 crore, including a special package of Rs 500 crore, for Bhutan as part of commitment to its continued socio-economic development, a move that assumes significance against the backdrop of unease in the bilateral ties recently. The decision was announced after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay, who was in India on his first visit after being elected in July 2013. The two sides agreed upon India's Assistance Package for Bhutan's 11th Five-Year Plan for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018. India will contribute Rs 4500 crore towards Bhutan's 11th Plan, as well as Rs 500 crore towards an Economic Stimulus Package. Broad parameters of the package will be discussed by the officials, External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said. (E)

66) Who among the following experts was asked by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria in August 2013?

- Nils Brunsson
- Ake Sellstrom
- Hans Davidsson
- Jörgen Lehmann
- Maria Wetterstrand

The UN chemical investigation team in Syria will start a probe on the latest incident of the alleged use of chemical weapons, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement on August 25, 2013. The Syrian government has agreed to cooperate for an on-site investigation that will include the observance of the cessation of hostilities at related locations of the chemical weapon incident. Ban Ki-moon has instructed the investigation team, led by Swedish expert Ake Sellstrom, to focus its attention "on ascertaining the facts of the Aug 21 incident as its highest priority". On Aug 21, Syrian opposition claimed that 1,300 people were killed in a government chemical weapon attack on militant strongholds in the suburbs of Damascus, the Syrian capital. The Syrian government denied the allegation. (B)

67) _____ and Japan in August 2013 agreed to launch a joint satellite project to track the spread of radiation caused by nuclear accidents.

- Russia
- Ukraine
- Georgia
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan

Ukraine and Japan on August 26, 2013 agreed to launch a joint satellite project to track the state of crippled Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear plants, sites of the world's greatest nuclear disasters. The project aims to put into orbit by 2014 eight miniature satellites to gather information on the effects of radioactive fallout on the areas adjacent to the plants. In March 2011, an earthquake and tsunami caused meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear plant in northeast Japan. Cleanup after the disaster is expected to take around four decades. The explosion at reactor number four of the Chernobyl power plant in the early hours of April 26, 1986 sent radioactive fallout into the atmosphere that spread from the Soviet Union across Europe. According to official Ukrainian figures, more than 25,000 of the cleanup workers from then-Soviet Ukraine, Russia and Belarus have died since the disaster. The two catastrophes are the world's only nuclear disasters to have been categorised as level seven on the United Nations' seven-point International Nuclear Event Scale (INES). (B)

68) Which of the following hosted the 13th Conference of Islamic Capitals and Cities organised in September 2013?

- Dubai
- Jeddah
- Riyadh
- Makkah
- Medina

The 13th Conference of Islamic Capitals and Cities was organised in Saudi Arabia's Makkah city from September 1 to 3, 2013 under the patronage of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. More than 400 delegates of the 141-member Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) participated in the conference. The OICC is an international non-governmental and non-profitable organisation with its headquarters located in Makkah and Jeddah cities. (D)

69) Seamus Heaney, the winner of Nobel Prize _____ in 1995 passed away on August 30, 2013 at the age of 74.

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Economic Sciences
- Physiology or Medicine
- Literature

Irish writer and poet Seamus Heaney, who won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature, died in Dublin, Ireland on August 30, 2013 at the age of 74. Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize "for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past". Northern Ireland-born Heaney published his first major collection of poems, "Death of a Naturalist", in 1966 and went on to become one of the English language's leading poets. Heaney was the professor of poetry at Oxford University between 1989 and 1994. Two years ago, he donated a large collection of his literary papers to the National Library of Ireland. (D)

70) Match the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards-2012 winners and their sports conferred on August 31, 2013 correctly.

Awardee	Sport
I. Naib Subedar Paramjeet Singh Siddhu	1. Mountaineering

II. Prem Singh	2. Sailing
III. Hari Ram	3. Hang Gliding

- I-2, II-2, III-2
- I-3, II-2, III-2
- I-3, II-1, III-1
- I-2, II-1, III-1

President of India Pranab Mukherjee on August 31, 2013 conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dronacharya Awards, Arjuna Awards, Dhyan Chand Awards, Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar at a specially organised function at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. (C)

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards-2012

S. No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Basant Singh Roy	Mountaineering
2.	Major Ranveer Singh Jamwal	Mountaineering
3.	Lt. Cdr. Abhilash Tomy	Sailing
4.	Naib Subedar Paramjeet Singh Siddhu	Hang Gliding
5.	Prem Singh	Mountaineering
6.	Hari Ram	Mountaineering

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

Sl. No.	Name	Year
1.	Guru Nanak Dev Vishwavidyalaya, Amritsar	2010-11
2.	Punjab Vishwavidyalaya, Patiala	2011-12
3.	Punjab Vishwavidyalaya, Patiala	2012-13

71) The Amrita Devi Bishnoi Wildlife Protection Award 2010 was conferred upon Dadu Paryavaran Sansthan of _____ in institutional category and on Saurabh Gupta and Gaurav Gupta in individual category.

- Bihar
- Rajasthan
- Jharkhand
- Chhattisgarh
- Uttarakhand

Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award 2009 was conferred upon S. P. Yadav, Deputy Inspector General in National Tiger Conservation Authority on birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on August 20, 2013. The Amrita Devi Bishnoi Wildlife Protection Award 2010 was conferred upon Dadu Paryavaran Sansthan of District Tonk in Rajasthan in institutional category and on Saurabh Gupta and Gaurav Gupta in individual category.

Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award 2009

S. P. Yadav was honoured for busting a hub of thriving illegal trade in wildlife specimens, during his tenure as Divisional Forest Officer, Agra in 2007-08. He was instrumental in major seizure of almost 30,000 wildlife specimens, including a large number of endangered species, in close coordination with the local Police and Special Task Force of Utter Pradesh for successful prosecution of the offenders.

Amrita Devi Bishnoi Wildlife Protection Award 2010

Saurabh Gupta and Gaurav Gupta were recognised for their significant contribution for protection of Wildlife. The awardees have been assisting government authorities in detection, apprehension and prosecution of large number of offences under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana and Union Territory of Delhi. The efforts of Saurabh Gupta and Gaurav Gupta, made at considerable personal risks, have strengthened the enforcement of wildlife laws in the concerned States, resulting in check on wildlife crime.

Dadu Paryavaran Sansthan of District Tonk in Rajasthan has been recognised for its remarkable contribution not only in saving the endangered wild animals, especially black bucks, from poachers, but also by working continuously for developing suitable habitat for them. They have worked for conservation and protection of black bucks and have raised awareness for the cause. (B)

72) The inaugural Mahathir Award for Global Peace, named after the former Prime Minister of _____, was conferred on former South African President Nelson Mandela on August 27, 2013.

- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Malaysia

- d) Philippines
- e) Myanmar

The inaugural Mahathir Award for Global Peace has been awarded to former South African President Nelson Mandela. Current South African President Jacob Zuma on August 27, 2013 accepted the award in Kuala Lumpur on behalf of Mandela, who is in a critical condition in a hospital in Pretoria. The Mahathir Award for Global Peace is a peace award instituted by the Mahathir Global Peace Foundation, which was formed to contribute to worldwide peace efforts. Mahathir Mohamad was Malaysia's Prime Minister for 22 years before he stepped down. The Mahathir Award for Global Peace will be presented annually to recognise those who have made valiant efforts in promoting peace. **(D)**

- 73)** Which of the following has conferred its 2013 Ambassador of Conscience Award on Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai in September 2013?
- a) Red Cross
 - b) Human Rights Watch
 - c) Amnesty International
 - d) Medecins Sans Frontieres
 - e) Reporters Without Borders

The London-based rights group Amnesty International has awarded its highest honor to the Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai. Malala shared the 2013 Ambassador of Conscience Award with American singer and human rights activist Harry Belafonte. The award recognizes "individuals who have promoted and enhanced the cause of human rights through their life and by example." The awards were given on September 17, 2013 in the Irish capital, Dublin. Malala, a schoolgirl and former BBC blogger, wrote about life under Taliban pressure and her views about promoting education for girls. The 16-year-old was shot in the head and neck by Taliban gunmen in her native Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan last October, in an attack that drew worldwide condemnation. She was flown to Britain for surgery and returned to school in Birmingham in March. **(C)**

- 74)** Former chairperson of South Africa's election commission Brigalia Bam was conferred the Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation in Durban on August 26, 2013. The award was created in 2003 to commemorate the centenary of _____, a newspaper started by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa.
- a) Indian Nation
 - b) Indian Voice
 - c) Indian Heritage
 - d) Indian Thought
 - e) Indian Opinion

Former chairperson of South Africa's election body Brigalia Bam has received the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation for her commitment to democracy. Bam received the 2013 award in Durban on August 26, 2013 for ensuring free and fair elections since the advent of democracy in 1994 when anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela was elected the country's first democratic president. The annual awards, administered by a foundation headed by Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of the Mahatma Gandhi, are given to world leaders for their role in promoting peace. The award was created in 2003 to commemorate the centenary of Indian Opinion, a newspaper started by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa. **(E)**

- 75)** Who among the following was honoured for his "courageous commitment to freedom of expression and human rights" with the M100 Media Award, awarded annually by a jury of journalists in Germany, on September 5, 2013?
- a) Faruk Celik
 - b) Fatma Sahin
 - c) Cevdet Yilmaz
 - d) Erdem Gunduz
 - e) Mehmet Mehdi Eker

Turkey's "Standing Man", a performance artist who became an icon of anti-government protests this year, was conferred the a major German human rights award on September 5, 2013. Erdem Gunduz, a 34-year-old dancer and choreographer, was honoured for his "courageous commitment to freedom of expression and human rights" with the M100 Media Award, awarded annually by a jury of journalists. He became known around the world by remaining motionless for hours, staring, on Istanbul's Taksim Square during protests that challenged Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in June and July 2013. "With his silent protest, he became the icon of peaceful resistance and has been emulated around the world," said the jury that awarded the prize on September 5 at Potsdam, just outside Berlin. In 2012, European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi won the award. **(D)**

- 76)** The government on August 27, 2013 decided to set up a task force which will look at the possibility of having currency swap agreements with key trading partners. What is the objective?
- a) To improve availability of forex for Indian companies
 - b) To reduce India's Imports
 - c) To bring down current account deficit

- d) To boost India's exports
- e) To reduce transaction costs

The government on August 27, 2013 decided to set up a task force which will look at the possibility of having currency swap agreements with key trading partners, a move which would help in bridging current account deficit. The 11-member task force would include representatives from the commerce ministry, department of economic affairs and financial services, RBI, SBI, CII, FICCI and exporters body FIEO. "In view of the rising trade deficit and consequent CAD, a need has been felt to examine the role of Currency Swap Arrangement/Agreements in order to suggest a possible mechanism to address the issue. It has been decided to constitute a Task Force," an official statement said. The issue came up for discussion during the meeting of Board of Trade which was chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma. Currency swap agreements involve exchange of one currency for another currency. A dollar swap arrangement would help India support the rupee. Swap agreements in US dollar is expected to provide confidence to the market and prevent excess volatility in financial and foreign exchange markets. Currency swap has emerged as an important derivative tool after the global financial crisis of 2008 to hedge the exchange rate risks. India has signed currency swap agreements with Japan (USD 15 billion) and Bhutan (USD 100 million). **(C)**

- 77)** Who among the following is the Chairperson of the seven-member Tax Administration Reform Commission (TARC) set up by the government on August 26, 2013 to review the application of tax policies and tax laws?
- a) Kirit Parikh
 - b) Vijay Kelkar
 - c) Bimal Jalan
 - d) Yezdi H. Mategam
 - e) Parthasarathi Shome

The government, on August 26, 2013, set up a seven-member panel under the chairmanship of Parthasarathi Shome to revisit tax laws and recommend measures for putting in place a stable and non-adversarial tax administration. The setting up of the tax panel with a tenure of 18 months marks compliance of Finance Minister P. Chidambaram's budget proposal this fiscal "to set up a Tax Administration Reform Commission (TARC) to review the application of tax policies and tax laws and submit periodic reports that can be implemented to strengthen the capacity of our tax system." Apart from Dr. Shome as Chairman in the rank of Minister of State, the TARC, with two full-time members — Y. G. Parande and Sunita Kaila — and four part-time members — M. K. Zutshi, S. S. N. Moorthy, M. R. Diwakar and S. Mahalingam — is expected to suggest various measures, including appropriate organisational structure for tax governance. **(E)**

- 78)** The CCEA on August 29, 2013 gave its approval for continuing the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) during the 12th Plan period with a major focus on _____ in accordance with the Budget announcement for the financial year 2013-14.
- a) Spinning Mills
 - b) Powerlooms
 - c) Handlooms
 - d) Industrial textiles
 - e) Apparel

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on August 29, 2013 gave its approval for continuing the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) during the 12th Plan period with a major focus on powerlooms in accordance with the Budget announcement for the financial year 2013-14. **Background:** Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme(TUFS) is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Textiles and has helped the industry to garner investments of Rs. 2.43 thousand crore. The scheme was launched in 1999 and has been instrumental in helping India achieve new heights in the development of the textile sector and particularly in the spinning segment. The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of February, 2013, had announced continuation of TUFS in the 12th Plan with a major focus on modernisation of the powerloom sector. Higher subsidies for weaving/powerloom sector have accordingly been planned in the continued TUFS. **(B)**

- 79)** Who among the following was the Chairperson of the High Power Committee, set up by the railways to review duty hours of running staff and other safety related issues, that has recommended upgrading of existing facilities for guards and loco drivers in its report submitted in August 2013?
- a) Amar Nath
 - b) M. S. Khan
 - c) D. P. Tripathi
 - d) Vinay Mittal
 - e) Arunendra Kumar

A High Power Committee, set up by the railways to review duty hours of running staff and other safety related issues, has recommended upgrading of existing facilities for guards and loco drivers. The four-member committee headed by D P Tripathi, former secretary of Food Processing Ministry, has submitted its final report to Railway Board Chairman Arunendra Kumar in August 2013. There were complaints that running staff (guards and drivers) get little time for rest

and are always overburdened with work schedule. The Railway Ministry will examine the report for implementation of the recommendations of the panel. Other three members of the committee were V K Manglik, former West Central Railway General Manager, Amar Nath, former Chittaranjan Locomotive Works GM and M S Khan, former additional member of Railway Board. (C)

- 80) What proportion of India's annual crude oil requirement is met by imports according to Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister M. Veerappa Moily in August 2013?
- 58%
 - 68%
 - 78%
 - 88%
 - 98%

The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas M. Veerappa Moily informed the Rajya Sabha on August 27, 2013 that Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) has reported that as per the Original Estimates (OE), the estimated demand of petrol, diesel and LPG is 16,335 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT), 73,500 TMT and 16,712 TMT respectively in the country in the year 2013-14. Crude oil from which these products are derived has to be largely (78.75% import) imported. As per the Working Group Report of this Ministry (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas) for the 12th Five year Plan, the estimated demand of petroleum products during 2016-17 would be 186.2 Million Metric Tonne (MMT). (C)

- 81) What is India's annual crude oil refining capacity (Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum) according to Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister M. Veerappa Moily in August 2013?
- 115 MMTPA
 - 215 MMTPA
 - 315 MMTPA
 - 415 MMTPA
 - 515 MMTPA

The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas M. Veerappa Moily informed the Rajya Sabha on August 27, 2013 that as on July 1, 2013, the refining capacity in the country is 215 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) which is more than the domestic demand of products. During 2012-13, the production of petroleum products in the country, including production from fractionators was 217.8 MMT (Provisional) against the demand of 155.4 MMT. Thus, the present refining capacity is adequate to meet the demand of petroleum products in the country in near future on an overall basis. However, some products like LPG and Lubes are in deficit, which are being imported. The net import (Prov.) of LPG and Lubes was 6,093 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) (Value Rs. 30,402 crore) and 1,409 TMT (Value Rs. 8,877 Core) respectively during the year 2012-13. (B)

- 82) Which of the following had negative growth in the first quarter (April-June) of 2013-14, according to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on August 30, 2013?
- Manufacturing
 - Trade, hotels, transport & communication
 - Financing, insurance, real estate & business services
 - Community, social & personal services
 - None of the above

India's economic growth slumped to 4.4 percent in the first quarter of this fiscal, the worst in over four years, due to poor performance of the manufacturing and mining sectors, data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed on August 30, 2013. This is the worst quarterly growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) since January-March quarter of 2009, the year of the global financial crisis.

The manufacturing sector contracted 1.2 percent and mining output dropped 2.8 percent in the quarter ended June 30. The growth of agriculture sector fell to 2.7 percent, while the services sector registered a healthy 9.4 percent growth in April-June quarter of the current financial year.

Quarterly GDP at factor cost at constant (2004-2005) prices for the first quarter of 2013-14 was estimated at Rs.13.71 lakh crore, as against Rs.13.14 lakh crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, showing a growth rate of 4.4 percent year-on-year. The economy had expanded by 4.8 percent in the previous quarter and 5.4 percent during the corresponding quarter of last year. (A)

Industry	APRIL-JUNE (Q1)				
	₹ crore)			Percentage change	
	Gross Domestic Product for Q1 of			Over previous year Q1	
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14
1. agriculture, forestry & fishing	171966	176888	181705	2.9	2.7
2. mining & quarrying	26205	26302	25568	0.4	-2.8
3. manufacturing	203349	201230	198827	-1.0	-1.2
4. electricity, gas & water supply	24508	26018	26978	6.2	3.7
5. construction	98410	105340	108266	7.0	2.8
6. trade, hotels, transport & communication	348903	370198	384567	6.1	3.9
7. financing, insurance, real estate & business services	229638	250955	273388	9.3	8.9
8. community, social & personal services	144517	157324	172149	8.9	9.4
GDP at factor cost	1247496	1314256	1371446	5.4	4.4

- 83) What was the share of Exports in India's GDP in 2012-13?
- 7%
 - 17%
 - 27%
 - 37%
 - 47%

The share of export sector in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has dipped marginally to 17.3% in 2012-13 due to the global economic crisis and demand slowdown, Parliament was informed on August 26, 2013. "The share of export sector in the GDP of the country has shown a consistent rise except for 2012-13, when there was a marginal dip in the share from 17.6% to 17.3%," Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. He informed that in 2010-11, the share of exports in the country's economy was 15.7% which increased to 17.6% in 2011-12. This dip is attributable to international economic crisis and contraction in global demand. Although the merchandise trade has increased, India's trade deficit has also increased. The global economic crisis, the sovereign debt crisis in Europe and the economic slowdown in developed economies have adversely impacted demand for Indian exports. Exports of engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles, electronic goods and iron ore have been affected in 2012-13. (B)

- 84) Earth Overshoot Day was observed on _____ 2013.
- August 20
 - August 21
 - August 22
 - August 23
 - August 24

Earth Overshoot Day 2013 was observed on August 20, 2013, the day when humanity officially exhausts nature's budget for the year. From this day forward, the planet will be operating under an ecological deficit, using more resources than the planet can produce and emitting more carbon dioxide than the planet can filter out. Originally developed by the New Economics Foundation, Earth Overshoot Day has been falling a few days earlier each year, an indication of ever-increasing consumption patterns. In 1993, Earth Overshoot Day fell on October 21. In 2003, it fell on September 22. (A)

- 85) International Ibsen Scholarship given by the government of Norway is for projects in the field of:
- Health
 - Theatre
 - Literacy
 - Painting
 - Renewable energy

A theatre project from Kerala has won this year's International Ibsen Scholarship initiated by Norwegian government. The scholarship is awarded for innovative projects in the field of drama and performing arts. 'The Indian Theatre Roots & Wings' based in Kerala won the scholarship "for its initiative of using Brand and Peer Gynt as a stepping stone for a forum theatre project involving indigenous communities" in the state. According to a release on August 31, 2013, the project shows "great inventiveness both in its interpretation of the two plays and the way they thematise identities and conflicts between traditional and modern societies". The Director of the project Sankar Chindavalap Venkatesvaran presented an "inventive and artistically superb" version of When We Dead Awaken at the 2012 Delhi Ibsen Festival, the release added. The International Ibsen Scholarship was initiated in 2007. (B)

- 86)** The _____ Correctional Services (Amendment) Bill, 2013 passed on August 28, 2013 has excluded persons who are members of any banned or terrorist organisations from being granted the status of political prisoners
- Bihar
 - Chhattisgarh
 - West Bengal
 - Jharkhand
 - Maharashtra

The West Bengal Correctional Services (Amendment) Bill, 2013 passed on August 28, 2013 has excluded persons who are members of any banned or terrorist organisations from being granted the status of political prisoners. The government said the Bill was urgently required, as the State has been finding it difficult to distinguish between political and non-political prisoners and those involved in terrorist activities kill people on the pretext of furthering a "political" cause. The Bill may have been prompted by a Calcutta High Court of August 2012 that had declared seven persons arrested for Maoists activities as "political prisoners". Following this, high-profile prisoners involved in terrorist activities approached courts demanding political prisoner status as this provides facilities like a solitary cell, newspapers, and better food to convicts. **(C)**

- 87)** Which state is launching an insurance scheme called 'Sukanya' for girl child born to below poverty line (BPL) families?
- Bihar
 - Chhattisgarh
 - West Bengal
 - Jharkhand
 - Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government on September 4, 2013 approved an insurance scheme 'Sukanya' for girl child born to below poverty line (BPL) families. The scheme under which the girl child would get an amount of Rs 1 lakh to finance her education after she completes 18 years of age was approved at a Maharashtra state cabinet meeting in Mumbai. As per the scheme, if a girl child is born in a BPL family after January 2014, the Maharashtra government would deposit an amount of Rs 21,200 in her name, in a bank. "The scheme's objective is to provide monetary help for higher education of girls from economically and socially backward families. The scheme will provide Rs 1 lakh on maturity after the girl completes her 18 years of age. The amount can be used only for the purpose of education," an official from the Maharashtra women and child development department. **(E)**

- 88)** Who among the following batsmen was in news in August 2013 for a creating a new record for the highest individual score in a T20 International match?
- Joe Root
 - Chris Gayle
 - Aaron Finch
 - Shane Watson
 - Brendon McCullum

Australian batsman Aaron Finch has made the highest individual score in all Twenty20 internationals during his country's win over England in the first T20 international at Southampton on August 29, 2013. Finch made an impressive 156, which was the cornerstone of Australia's 248 for six. England lost the match by 39 runs. Victorian opener Finch, whose runs came from just 63 balls, also made another world record for the most sixes in any individual T20 international innings, with his 14 sixes and also made 11 fours. Finch's century surpassed the previous T20 world record of 123 set by New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum against Bangladesh in 2012. **(C)**

- 89)** Which of the following became the first CPSE in the Petroleum & Natural Gas to appoint a female as its Chairman and Managing Director in August 2013?
- HPCL
 - ONGC
 - Indian Oil
 - GAIL
 - BPCL

The Director (marketing) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Nishi Vasudeva has been picked to head the company. The Public Enterprises Selection Board on August 21, 2013 recommended Nishi Vasudeva, 57, to the post of the chairman and managing director of HPCL. This makes her the first woman to reach at the helm of a Navratna public sector undertaking. Vasudeva will take charge of HPCL after the retirement of Subir Roy Choudhury on February 28, 2014. HPCL had posted an annual turnover of Rs 1,90,048 crore and income from operations of Rs 2,15,675 crore during the financial year 2012-13. It has a market capitalization of Rs 5,975 crore. Vasudeva will now enter into the elite league of women chiefs in India Inc including Chanda Kochhar of ICICI Bank, Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank, Naina Lal Kidwai of HSBC India, Vinita Bali of Britannia Industries and Kalpana Morparia of JP Morgan India. **(A)**

- 90)** Uttar Pradesh won the Buchi Babu Memorial _____ tournament organised in Chennai on August 31, 2013.
- Football
 - Volleyball
 - Hockey
 - Cricket
 - Polo

Riding on Prashant Gupta's (103) unbeaten century, Uttar Pradesh defeated TNCA President XI by five wickets to clinch the Buchi Babu Memorial Cricket tournament in Chennai on August 31, 2013. The Mohammad Kaif-led side surpassed TNCA President's total of 207 in 78.5 overs, with just five wickets down. Baba Indrajith was adjudged the Player of the tournament. **(D)**

- 91)** Which city was the venue of the first test in Australia-England Ashes series played at Old Trafford stadium in July 2013?
- Chester-le-Street
 - Manchester
 - Nottingham
 - London
 - Birmingham

England won the Ashes series against Australia 3-0 after the fifth and final Test ended in a thrilling draw at The Oval in London on August 25, 2013. Brief scores: Australia 492/9d and 111/6d; England 377 and 206/5 (40 overs, target: 227). Man of the Match – Shane Watson (Australia); England's Man of the Series: Ian Bell; Australia's Man of the Match: Ryan Harris. RESULTS: England had won the first test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham by 14 runs on July 14 and second Test at Lord's (London) by 347 runs on July 21. The third test at Old Trafford, Manchester ended in a draw on August 5 while England won the fourth test at Riverside, Chester-le-Street by 74 runs on August 12, 2013. **(B)**

- 92)** The Indian under-23 team on lifted the ACC Emerging Trophy _____ tournament after beating Pakistan in the final played at Kallang Ground, Singapore on August 25, 2013.
- Football
 - Volleyball
 - Hockey
 - Cricket
 - Polo

The Indian under-23 team on lifted the ACC (Asian Cricket Council) Emerging Trophy tournament after thrashing arch-rivals Pakistan by nine wickets in the final with opener Lokesh Rahul (93) being the star of a lopsided chase at Kallang Ground, Singapore on August 25, 2013. Indian Colts chased down the 160-run target in just 33.4 overs. The scores: Pakistan under-23 159 in 47 overs lost to India under-23 160 for one in 33.4 overs **(D)**

- 93)** Which Formula One race won by Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps on August 26, 2013?
- Belgian Grand Prix
 - Hungarian Grand Prix
 - German Grand Prix
 - San Marino Grand Prix
 - Monaco Grand Prix

Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel on August 26, 2013 extended his World Championship lead after claiming a convincing victory in the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps. The defending champion took the chequered flag 16.8 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Fernando Alonso with Lewis Hamilton completing the podium after starting the race from pole position. The German now has a 46 points lead over Fernando Alonso. **(A)**

- 94)** Sania Mirza won the women's doubles title at the WTA _____ Open along with new partner Jie Zheng on August 25, 2013.
- New Britain
 - New Haven
 - New London
 - Norwalk
 - Norwich

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza notched up her third title of the season and 17th overall as she lifted the women's doubles trophy at the WTA New Haven Open along with new partner Jie Zheng at New Haven, USA on August 25, 2013. Playing just their fourth event together, third seeds Sania and Jie pipped the second seeded pair of Anabel Medina Garrigues and Katarina Srebotnik 6-3, 6-4 in the summit clash **(B)**

- 95) Who among the following was the doubles partner of Leander Paes in his title win at the Winston-Salem Open on August 25, 2013?
- Radek Stepanek
 - Daniel Nestor
 - Rohan Bopanna
 - Treat Huey
 - Dominic Inglot

Leander Paes won his first title of the season when he triumphed at the Winston-Salem Open with Canadian Daniel Nestor as the veteran pair defeated Treat Huey and Dominic Inglot 7-6(10) 7-5 in the final at Winston-Salem, USA on August 25, 2013. Paes and Nestor, both aged 40, were playing together for just the second time in their careers. (B)

- 96) The Indian team of _____, Deepika Kumari and Rimil Buriuly won gold medal at the Women's Recurve Team final at Wroclaw, Poland on August 25, 2013.
- Dola Banerjee
 - Bombayla Devi
 - Chekrovolu Swuro
 - Pranitha Vardhini
 - Sumangala Sharma

The Indian trio of Bombayla Devi, Deepika Kumari and Rimil Buriuly won back-to-back World Cup titles beating the formidable South Korea in the women's recurve team final at Wroclaw, Poland on August 25, 2013. India got the better of Koreans Yun Ok-Hee, Ki Bo Bae, and Joo Hyun Jung 219-215 for their second major title in as many months. They had won the World Cup Stage 3 in Medellin, Colombia in July 2013. The World Cup Finals will be held in Paris in September 2013. (B)

- 97) Birendra Prasad Baishya is associated with administration of which sport?
- Badminton
 - Basketball
 - Weightlifting
 - Wrestling
 - Hockey

Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) President Birendra Prasad Baishya has been appointed chairman of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Ethics Commission. Baishya is the first Indian and Asian to be appointed the IWF Ethics Commission chairman in August 2013. (C)

- 98) Pep Guardiola is among world's best coaches in which sport?
- Tennis
 - Hockey
 - Football
 - Volleyball
 - Basketball

Pep Guardiola triumphed again in his rivalry against Jose Mourinho as Bayern Munich beat 10-man Chelsea 7-6 after a nerve-racking penalty shoot-out to win the European Super Cup at Prague on August 30, 2013. Chelsea substitute striker Romelu Lukaku saw his effort saved by Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer as the German team claimed a 5-4 penalty-kick win. Also Barcelona clinched the Spanish Super Cup despite being held to a 0-0 draw by 10-man Atletico Madrid at Barcelona on August 28, 2013. Barcelona eventually claimed the trophy on away goals following the 1-1 draw in the opening leg earlier. (C)

- 99) President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of _____ Union of Working Journalists at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on August 31, 2013.
- Kerala
 - Rajasthan
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Karnataka
 - Maharashtra

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 31, 2013. The deportation of Swadeshbhimani Ramakrishna Pillai in 1910, the banning of 'Kesar' in the 1930s, the confiscation of the properties of Malayala Manorama in 1938 and the arrest of Mathrubhumi Editor, K.A. Damodara Menon for his support of the Quit India Movement in 1942 are all landmarks in India's freedom struggle as well as the history of the media in Kerala. (A)

- 100) World _____ Championships was organised in Chungju, South Korea from August 25 to September 1, 2013.
- Fencing
 - Archery
 - Rowing
 - Taekwondo
 - Sepaktakraw

New Zealand men's rowing pair Hamish Bond and Eric Murray broke the world record for the highest number of consecutive wins at the World Rowing Championships in Chungju, South Korea from August 25 to September 1, 2013. (C)

- 101) Who won the Indian Badminton League (IBL) in the final played on August 31, 2013?
- Mumbai Masters
 - Delhi Smashers
 - Hyderabad Hotshots
 - Pune Pistons
 - Awadhe Warriors

Saina Nehwal-led Hyderabad Hotshots won the inaugural Indian Badminton League (IBL) title at the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) in Mumbai on August 31, 2013. The Hotshots beat the P.V. Sindhu-led Awadhe Warriors 3-1 in the final. (C)

- 102) South Korea won the International _____ Federation Super Series 2013 organised in New Delhi in August-September 2013.
- Fencing
 - Archery
 - Rowing
 - Taekwondo
 - Sepaktakraw

South Korea defeated Malaysia in the final on September 2, 2013 to win the International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF) Super Series 2013 organised at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi. India won the bronze medal. (E)

- 103) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on August 26, 2013 announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Maqsood Ahmed of _____ as the military adviser for peacekeeping operations.
- Iraq
 - Indonesia
 - Bangladesh
 - Pakistan
 - India

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on August 26, 2013 announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Maqsood Ahmed of Pakistan as the military adviser for peacekeeping operations. "Lieutenant General Ahmed recently completed his duties as a Corps Commander in Pakistan's Armed Forces, an appointment that he had held since February 2013," said a statement released by the UN secretary general's spokesperson. (D)

- 104) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the 43rd All-India Inter-Institutional Table Tennis Championships organised in Dharwad in August 2013?
- Poulami Ghatak
 - Divya Deshpande
 - Mouma Das
 - K. Shamini
 - Mousumi Paul

Reigning men's national champion Soumyajit Ghosh (PSPB) and last year's women champion K. Shamini (PSPB) retained their titles in the 43rd All India Inter-Institutional Table Tennis Championships which concluded at Dharwad, Karnataka on August 27, 2013. In the men's finals, Soumyajit defeated Anthony Amalraj 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-6 and in the women's finals Shamini trounced Poulami Ghatak (PSPB) 11-7, 11-1, 11-8, 11-2. The men's doubles title was won by Sourav Saha and G. Sathiyar who defeated Jubin Kumar and A. Amalraj 8-11, 11-8, 12-10, 12-10 in the final match. In the women's doubles Shamini and Madhurika Patkar defeated Ankita Das and Reeth Rishya 11-9, 11-5, 11-5 in the final to win the title. (D)

- 105) The World _____ Day was observed on September 2, 2013.
- Rice

- b) Sugarcane
- c) Coconut
- d) Cotton
- e) Pulses

The World Coconut Day was observed on September 2, 2013. (C)

106) Where was the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference organised in August-September 2013?

- a) Dhaka
- b) New Delhi
- c) Kathmandu
- d) Vancouver
- e) Johannesburg

The 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was organised in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 28 to September 6, 2013 under the theme 'Effective Solutions to Commonwealth Developmental Challenges'. The conference was attended by over 800 elected members of Parliament and presiding officers of State/provinces from 53 countries and 179 branches. Issues discussed include human rights issues, conflict resolution and peace building. (E)

107) The UNESCO conferred King Sejong Literacy Prize and Confucius Prize for Literacy on the occasion of International Literacy Day on September 8, 2013. Who among the following is the Director General of UNESCO?

- a) Irina Bokova
- b) Julian Huxley
- c) Luther H. Evans
- d) Koichiro Matsuura
- e) Vittorino Veronese

Literacy programmes in Bangladesh, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, India and Namibia are the winners of UNESCO's literacy prizes for 2013. The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, conferred the awards on the winners at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on September, 2013 as part of the celebrations for International Literacy Day on 8 September under the theme 'Literacies for the 21st century'.

There are five awards in total: two under the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize created in 1989 by the Government of the Republic of Korea, and three under the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy, created in 2005 by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Each of the five winners received \$ 20,000, a diploma and a medal.

UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prizes

The **National Literacy Mission Authority** of the Ministry of Human Resource Development in **India** received one of the two UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prizes. The Saakshar Bharat (Literate India) Mission addresses problems of access, equity and quality in adult literacy and works with out-of-school youth, women and girls, minority groups and indigenous people. The programme functions in 25 Indian states, working in 26 languages and reaches 10 million Indians annually. Mission activities include basic education, vocational education, functional literacy and women's equality.

The second UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize was awarded to the programme **Mother Tongue Literacy** in the Guera Region of **Chad** implemented by the Federation of Associations for the Promotion of Guera Languages. The Federation was founded in 2001 to develop the 26 languages of the region of Guera, promote language education, provide training and create income-generating activities. The programme was selected for its focus on development and standardization of the Guera languages, allowing learners to become literate in their mother tongues. In the 2012-13 campaign, 13 languages were being taught in 143 adult literacy centres with 6,577 learners enrolled of whom 5,356 were women.

UNESCO Confucius Literacy Prizes

The Directorate of Adult Education of the Ministry of Education of **Namibia** will be awarded one of the three UNESCO Confucius Literacy Prizes. This governmental programme, available in 13 regions of Namibia, provides learning opportunities for out-of-school youth, illiterate and disadvantaged women and men. Learning is brought closer to communities through local development initiatives and learning centres. The programme also reaches out to learners in the workplace and those with special needs. Since its inception, more than 600,000 people have participated in the programme.

The second UNESCO Confucius Literacy Prize was awarded to the Dhaka Ahsania Mission in **Bangladesh**. This NGO focuses on development work, concentrating initially on education and human development, and subsequently diversifying to address health, work skills, human rights and social justice. The Mission's "Ganokendra" (People's

Centre) Programme concentrates on work-skills training for rural adults and out-of-school youth, especially women and girls. Since 1992, more than 4.000 Ganokendras have been established throughout the country and more than six million participants have been involved in the programme.

The third UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy was awarded to the organisation 'Savoir Pour Mieux Vivre' (Knowledge for Living Better) in **Côte d'Ivoire**. This NGO, established in 2006, aims to save the languages that provide access to Ivorian culture. Literacy programmes focus on urban and rural development, gender, information and communication technology (ICT) and sustainable development in a multilingual context. It promotes literacy by encouraging the creation of literate environments in French, national and local languages. The programme "J'apprends ta langue, tu apprends ma langue, nous nous comprenons, demain nous appartenons" ("I learn your language, you learn my language, we understand each other, tomorrow belongs to us") is recognized for its strong advocacy to raise public awareness and its commitment in favour of the use, development and enhancement of local languages and cultures. (A)

108) Klaus Schwab is associated with which of the following organisations?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) EU
- d) OECD
- e) UNCTAD

Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014 of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was released by the WEF in Geneva on September 3, 2013 Commenting on the findings, World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab said "Persisting divides in competitiveness across regions and within regions, particularly in Europe, are at the origin of the turbulence we are experiencing today, and this is jeopardising our future prosperity." "Committed to Improving the State of the World" is the motto of WEF. (A)

109) Doctor's Day was observed in India on July 1, 2013. It is the birth anniversary of:

- a) Founder of AIIMS
- b) Former Mayor of Kolkata
- c) Former Speaker of Lok Sabha
- d) Former Governor of West Bengal
- e) Former Chief Minister of West Bengal

The Indian Medical Association celebrated Doctor's Day on July 1, 2013. The Doctor's Day is celebrated on July 1 all across India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was born on July 1, 1882 and passed away on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years. Doctor Roy was honoured with the highest civilian honour of Bharat Ratna in 1961. (E)

110) Who among the following was appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva was on July 26, 2013?

- a) Malay Mishra
- b) M. Subashini
- c) Ashok Kumar Amrohi
- d) Arun Kumar Singh
- e) D. Bala Venkatesh Varma

D. Bala Venkatesh Varma was on July 26, 2013 appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva. (E)

111) Nigeria's Tope Folarin was announced as the winner of the 2013 Caine Prize for African _____ on July 8, 2013.

- a) Music
- b) Writing
- c) Science
- d) Journalism
- e) Diplomacy

Nigeria's Tope Folarin has won the 2013 Caine Prize for African Writing, described as Africa's leading literary award, for his short story entitled 'Miracle'. The Chair of Judges, Gus Casely-Hayford, announced Tope Folarin as the winner of the £10,000 prize on July 8, 2013 in Oxford, London. 'Miracle' is a story set in Texas in an evangelical Nigerian church where the congregation has gathered to witness the healing powers of a blind pastor-prophet. Religion and the gullibility of those caught in the deceit that sometimes comes with faith rise to the surface as a young boy volunteers to be healed and begins to believe in miracles. (B)

112) What is the PAT Scheme launched by Power Ministry's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to promote energy conservation and efficiency in energy intensive industries?

- Present, Activate and Trade
- Perform, Achieve and Trade
- Process, Activate and Trade
- Perform, Activate and Track
- Process, Achieve and Trade

To promote energy conservation and efficiency policies of the Ministry of Power, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has launched the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE). The PAT Mechanism is a market based mechanism to promote energy efficiency in the large energy-intensive industries. The scheme provides the option to trade any additional certified energy savings with other designated consumers to comply with the Specific Energy Consumption reduction targets. **(B)**

113) Which of the following pairs of persons from IT industry and their positions is/are matched correctly?

- Bhaskar Pramanik – Chairman of Microsoft India
 - T. K. Kurien – CEO of TCS
 - Natarajan Chandrasekaran – CEO of Wipro
 - Narayana Murthy – CEO of Infosys
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and IV only
 - III and I only
 - I, II, III, IV

Bhaskar Pramanik – Chairman of Microsoft India

T. K. Kurien – CEO, Wipro

Natarajan Chandrasekaran – CEO, TCS

S. D. Shibulal is the CEO and MD of Infosys.

Narayana Murthy is the Executive Chairman of Infosys **(A)**

114) Consider the following statements on the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 26, 2013.

- The divorce is "gender neutral" as either the wife or the husband can seek divorce.
- The right over property is gender neutral
- The court can take an ex parte decision on granting divorce if one of the two parties refuse to move a joint application.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- I only
- I & II only
- II & III only
- III & I only
- I, II & III

The Rajya Sabha on August 26, 2013 approved a proposal to make divorce friendly for women as it provides for the wife getting share in the husband's immovable property after "irretrievable breakdown" of marriage.

The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill seeks to empower the courts to decide the compensation amount from the husband's inherited and inheritable property for the wife and children once the marriage legally ends.

The Bill allows both parties to file for divorce on the ground of "irretrievable breakdown" of marriage. Both parties have to live apart for at least three years before filing for such a petition.

Provisions have been made to restrict grant of a decree of divorce on ground of "irretrievable breakdown" of marriage if the court is satisfied that adequate provision for maintenance of children has not been made consistently with financial capacity of the parties to the marriage.

Also, the wife has the right to oppose the grant of a divorce on the ground that the dissolution could result in grave financial hardship.

Union Law Minister Kapil Sibal said the divorce is "gender neutral" as either the wife or the husband can seek divorce. However, the right over property will not be gender neutral as wife can lay claim on husband's immovable property.

The Bill also provides that a court can take an ex parte decision on granting divorce if one of the two parties refuse to move a joint application. **(D)**

115) Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai was honored with the International Children's Peace Prize on September 6, 2013. The award is given by _____-based KidsRights Foundation.

- Germany
- France
- Holland
- Norway
- Sweden

16-year old Malala Yousafzai was honored with the International Children's Peace Prize in the Hague, the Netherlands, on September 6, 2013. Malala, 16, received her prize from the 2011 Nobel Peace laureate, Yemeni journalist and activist Tawakkol Karman. The International Children's Peace Prize, an initiative of the Dutch based KidsRights Foundation, was launched in 2005. It carries a cash value of 100,000 euros (\$133,000) that is invested in projects relating to the winner's cause. Last year's winner was 13-year-old Cris "Kesz" Valdez for his work with Filipino street children while he himself was destitute. **(C)**

116) Dinesh K Sarraf was selected as the new Chairman & Managing Director of which CPSE in August 2013?

- HPCL
- ONGC
- Indian Oil
- GAIL
- BPCL

Dinesh K Sarraf was on August 30, 2013 selected as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC). Sarraf, who is currently Managing Director of ONGC's overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd, will Sudhir Vasudeva in February 2014. The 56-year old Sarraf was selected by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB). Sarraf holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Commerce from the University of Delhi. He is also a member of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. Meanwhile the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), on September 6 appointed Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice-Chairman Vikram Kirloskar as its new President. Ashok Leyland MD Vinod Dasari is the new Vice-President. **(B)**

117) Where was the international edition of Encyclopedia of Hinduism launched on August 25, 2013?

- Texas University
- University of North Dakota
- University of Oklahoma
- University of South Carolina
- Tennessee University

The international edition of Encyclopedia of Hinduism was launched on August 25, 2013 at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, in the presence of Governor Nikki Haley, social activist Anna Hazare, and Swami Chidananda Saraswati, founder chairman of India Heritage Research Foundation. The Encyclopedia has been nearly twenty-five years in the making and it is the first time in history that the depth and breadth of India's great spiritual culture is made available in authentic, academic and scholastic form. The 11-volume work covers Hindu spiritual beliefs, practices and philosophy and is the culmination of a 25-year academic effort. **(D)**

118) Who among the following was nominated posthumously for the Ashok Chakra, the country highest peacetime gallantry medal, on August 14, 2013?

- Lohit Sonowal
- K Prasad Babu
- Murali Kannan
- Swagat Kumar Das
- Balwinder Singh

Andhra Pradesh police sub-inspector KLVSSHNV Prasad Babu, who killed top nine Maoist leaders as part of a counter-Naxal operation in the state, was on August 14, 2013 nominated posthumously for the Ashok Chakra, the country highest peacetime gallantry medal. President Pranab Mukherjee approved his name for the medal along with three others for Kirti Chakra, the second highest gallantry medal. Prasad Babu was nominated to receive the medal for leading an anti-Maoist operation as part of the commando unit, the Greyhounds, near Andhra Pradesh-Chattisgarh border. **(B)**

119) Which country sent the world's first talking robot astronaut Kirobo into space in August 2013?

- Japan
- Taiwan
- South Korea
- Thailand
- China

The world's first talking robot astronaut Kirobo was successfully blasted into space on August 4, 2013 by Japanese scientists. The robot was designed to be a companion for astronauts to stop them from getting lonely while in space. Officials at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the H2B rocket, carrying food, water and other supplies, lifted off from the island of Tanegashima. Included in the cargo is a small robot named Kirobo, which will serve as a companion for Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata who will join the crew later this year. Kirobo was put through a series of zero-gravity and other safety tests before it was deemed ready for flight. The 34 centimetres tall robot can speak Japanese and is designed to provide emotional support for people isolated for long periods. (A)

- 120) 'The Moon Baller', a book by former India No. 1 ranked women's _____ player Nirupama Vaidyanathan was released in August 2013.
- Tennis
 - Table tennis
 - Squash
 - Badminton

Ranked No.1 in the country for over a decade, Nirupama Vaidyanathan won the bronze medal in the mixed doubles with Bhupathi at the Bangkok Asian Games in 1998. The 36-year-old US-based Nirupama's story and career are now part of her memoir, The Moon Baller, which was launched in Chennai on August 5, 2013. (A)

- 121) Franck Ribery is among world's best players in which sport?
- Tennis
 - Hockey
 - Football
 - Volleyball
 - Basketball

Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery won UEFA Best Player in Europe Award for the 2012/13 season in Monaco on August 29, 2013. Ribery won the award ahead of Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo. The France international becomes the third player to win the award, the two previous winners being Messi (2011) and Andres Iniesta (2012). (C)

- 122) Neelkanth A. Kalyani, who passed away at the age of 87 in August 2013, was a well-known:
- Painter
 - Economist
 - Scientist
 - Industrialist
 - Journalist

Industrialist and agriculturist Neelkanth A. Kalyani, the founder and chairman of the over \$2.5 billion Kalyani Group, passed away in Pune on August 25, 2013. The pioneer of the Indian forging industry, Kalyani was 87. As Chairman of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Land Development Bank for 12 years, he was credited with advancing funds to farmers for modernisation and the use of advanced agricultural practices and methods. He was the recipient of a doctorate in science conferred 'honoris causa' by Karnataka University in 1976. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1991 for his outstanding contribution to the industry and agricultural sectors. (D)

- 123) The Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 2010 passed by Parliament in August 2013 is about:
- Subsidy for pilgrimage
 - Scholarship for students
 - Preventing encroachments
 - Increasing job opportunities
 - Maintaining communal harmony

The Rajya Sabha passed The Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 2010 for stopping encroachments of Wakf properties on August 19, 2013. The Bill, passed in the Lok Sabha over three years ago, was pending with the Upper House, as the elders wanted substantial changes in the legislation. The Government has accepted a number of amendments suggested by the Select Committee on the Bill, chaired by Saifuddin Soz. Minority Affairs Minister K. Rahman Khan said the Bill would help poor Muslims to use the Wakf properties commercially for their own benefit. It is estimated that there are four lakh registered Waqf properties across the country. The present value of these properties is estimated at Rs 6,000 crore. (Ans: C)

- 124) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified that the Aadhaar Card is a valid proof for opening of a bank account under the _____ scheme.
- Financial Inclusion
 - Interest Subvention
 - Know Your Customer
 - Priority Sector Lending

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified that the Aadhaar Card is a valid proof for opening of a bank account under the Know Your Customer (KYC) scheme. RBI has advised banks to accept the Aadhaar letter issued by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as an officially valid document for opening bank accounts without any limitations applicable to small accounts. Further, the RBI has also advised the banks that if the address provided by the account holder is the same as that on Aadhaar letter, it may be accepted as a proof of both identity and address. This was stated by Namo Narain Meena, MoS in the Ministry of Finance in the Lok Sabha on August 21, 2013. (C)

- 125) The National Food Security Scheme was launched in Delhi, Haryana and Uttarakhand on _____, 2013
- August 16
 - August 17
 - August 18
 - August 19
 - August 20

The Congress launched its ambitious National Food Security Scheme in Delhi, Haryana and Uttarakhand on August 20, 2013 on the occasion of Rajiv Gandhi's 69th birth anniversary. The scheme will come into effect from September 2. Under this scheme, the ration card holder will be the senior-most woman in every family. According to the scheme, the State government will provide 5 kg ration to 61.94 lakh people; it will comprise 3 kg rice at Rs 3 per kg and 2 kg wheat at Rs 2 per kg. The Antyodaya cardholders will be provided 35 kg ration per month as before. Beneficiaries will be entitled to an allowance in case ration is not delivered to them. However, the allowance amount is yet to be decided. A Food Security Commission will be established in States to solve the issues related to the implementation of the scheme. (E)

- 126) Which state saw the first-ever election in Indian history with the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system attached to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) on September 4, 2013?
- Arunachal Pradesh
 - Nagaland
 - Mizoram
 - Manipur
 - Tripura

The Election Commission on September 7, 2013 said that it had successfully conducted the first-ever election in Indian history with the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system attached to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Under this system, voters can check if their votes were properly registered in the EVMs with the help of printed slips. The system was used in the September 4 byelection to the Noksen (ST) Assembly constituency in Nagaland. (B)

- 127) Five new _____ have started functioning from the current academic session at Chittoor, Kota, Tiruchirapalli, Guwahati and Vadodara in 2012-13 academic session.
- Indian Institutes of Law
 - Indian Institutes of Journalism
 - Indian Institutes of Technology
 - Indian Institutes of Medical Sciences
 - Indian Institutes of Information Technology

Five new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) have started functioning from the current academic session. The institutes at Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, Kota in Rajasthan, Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu, Guwahati and Vadodara have been set up under the PPP mode, said a HRD Ministry statement on August 23, 2013. This is part of a major step initiated to promote 20 IIITs in the current Five Year Plan under this scheme. The next five IIITs to start functioning from 2014-15 are in Kerala, Himachal, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Karnataka. These institutes are steps forward in promoting academia - industries partnership in technical education as the content of the syllabi will be industry aligned. (E)

- 128) The Union Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to hear the request of which state for grant of special category status?
- Bihar
 - Jharkhand
 - Odisha
 - Rajasthan
 - None of the above

Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan do not meet the criteria for being accorded the special category status, while such proposal from Bihar is under consideration, Parliament was informed today. "It was found that states of Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan do not qualify for grant of special category status based on an integrated consideration of the existing criteria," Planning Minister Rajeev Shukla said in a reply to the Rajya Sabha on August 22, 2013. "In case of the request of Bihar, an inter-ministerial group (IMG) was set up in September, 2011. The IMG has submitted its report on March 30, 2012. The request of Bihar is under consideration," the minister said. **Benefits:** The states which enjoy the special category status are provided assistance for externally aided projects as 90 per cent grant. For the general category states, there is usually no grant and resources flow to states as back to back loans. Moreover, the requirement of state's share to access centrally sponsored schemes is usually lower for special category states especially the states of north-east region compared to general category states. Besides, special plan assistance and special central assistance grants are exclusively provided to special category states. The minister said that of the total normal central assistance (grant) 56.25 per cent is distributed among 11 special category states as compared to 43.75 per cent among seventeen general category states. (A)

- 129)** The 'National _____ Centre' was inaugurated in New Delhi by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on August 24, 2013.
- Crop
 - Media
 - Health
 - Science
 - Informatics

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on August 24, 2013 inaugurated the National Media Centre in New Delhi on Raisina Road which is said to be equipped with the latest technologies of information dissemination. The National Media Centre has been constructed by the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) at a cost of Rs. 60 crore over a period of three years. The Centre is located in proximity to Rashtrapati Bhawan, government offices, Vigyan Bhavan and Parliament House. The Ministry added that this initiative aims at improving dissemination of information about government policies and programmes. (B)

- 130)** A statue of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug was unveiled in New Delhi on August 19, 2013. He was a pioneer in the field of:
- Health
 - Education
 - Agriculture
 - Economics
 - Atomic energy

Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar on August 19, 2013 unveiled the statue of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug's statue at New Delhi. Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Pawar commended Dr. Borlaug's contribution to wheat production in India. He explained how Dr. Borlaug addressed the challenges and complexities of world food requirements, and how he dedicated his life to agriculture. He stressed upon the need to take the work started by Dr. Borlaug to fulfil the needs of the poor. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRl) have jointly organized the function to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Borlaug's introduction of high-yielding wheat varieties to India. (C)

- 131)** A national survey has found that 30 per cent of _____ across the country are anaemic, said Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in the Lok Sabha on August 23, 2013.
- Men
 - Women
 - Adolescent boys
 - Adolescent girls
 - Senior citizens

A national survey has found that more than half of adolescent girls and women, including those who are pregnant, are anaemic in the country, with the figure touching an alarming 70 per cent in some states. Also, 30.2 per cent of adolescent boys across the country were found to be anaemic. In a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on August 23, 2013 said that in some states the percentage of women suffering from anaemia is nearing 70 per cent. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3), 55.8 per cent of adolescent girls, 55.3 per cent of all women 15-49 years, 56.2 per cent of married women and 58.7 per cent of pregnant women are anaemic in the country. (C)

- 132)** In a bid to stop trade of _____ parts, the Environment and Forest Minister Jayanthi Natarajan on August 23, 2013 approved a policy which will prohibit removal of their fins for use in exotic soups.
- Tuna

- Shark
- Whale
- Dolphin
- Starfish

In a bid to stop trade of shark parts, the Environment and Forest Minister Jayanthi Natarajan on August 23, 2013 approved a policy which will prohibit removal of their fins for use in exotic soups. Due to the flourishing shark fin-soup industry, fins of the sharks captured in the mid sea are removed on the vessel by poachers and the de-finned sharks are thrown back in the sea to die a painful death. India is home to about 40-60 species of sharks but the populations of some of these have declined over the years due to over-exploitation and unsustainable fishing practices. Because of these, 10 species have been listed in the Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. (B)

- 133)** 'The March to a Modern Odisha', a book released at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on August 22, 2013, is about who among the following?
- Biju Patnaik
 - Janaki Ballabh Patnaik
 - Giridhar Gamang
 - Hemananda Biswal
 - Naveen Patnaik

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Dr. Karan Singh released a book 'Janaki Ballabh Patnaik : The March to a Modern Odisha', a tribute to J.B. Patnaik, Governor of Assam and a former Chief Minister of Odisha, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on August 22, 2013. The first copy of the book was presented to President Pranab Mukherjee. The March to a Modern Odisha encompasses commentary on the life and times of Patnaik, a veteran political leader who has been the Chief Minister of Odisha thrice spanning 14 years. An acclaimed Sanskrit scholar, Patnaik began his career as a journalist, which brought him in touch with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. In 1971 he became an MP and went on to become a Deputy Minister, a Minister of State and then Cabinet Minister at the Centre before becoming the Chief Minister of Odisha. (B)

- 134)** Dilip Trivedi took charge as the new Director-General of _____ paramilitary force on August 18, 2013?
- Border Security Force
 - National Security Guard
 - Central Reserve Police Force
 - Central Industrial Security Force
 - National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence

Dilip Trivedi, a 1978 batch IPS officer of the Bihar Pradesh cadre, on August 18, 2013 took charge as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). "The biggest challenge for the force is in the Left Wing Extremism theatre and we will aim to minimise the damage on our side while inflicting as much as we can on Naxals," he said. Trivedi was till now serving as Special Director-General of the Border Security Force. (C)

- 135)** Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of the National School of Drama (NSD) Society in August 2013?
- Vijaya Mehta
 - Girish Karnad
 - Ratan Thiyam
 - Arundhati Nag
 - Waman Kendre

Ratan Thiyam, a well-known theatre personality from Manipur, was on August 19, 2013 appointed as Chairperson of the National School of Drama Society. "The President of India has appointed Thiyam for a period of four years according to the relevant rules and regulations of the Society," a release from the Culture Ministry said. Thiyam, 65, an NSD alumnus, is a painter-playwright-actor-director and won the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1987. He is the founder director of the Chorus Repertory Theatre in Imphal and has worked to promote traditional theatre and forms in fusion with contemporary themes. Among his well-known plays are Urubhangam and Chakravayuh. Thiyam takes over from theatre director Amal Allana who demitted office as NSD Chairperson in June this year after serving two consecutive terms. Waman Kendre is the Director of NSD. (C)

- 136)** Who among the following was on August 22, 2013 appointed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as his Special Envoy to visit Japan in the rank of a Cabinet Minister?
- Srikant Jena
 - Ambika Soni
 - Shashi Tharoor

- d) Ashwani Kumar
- e) Pawan Kumar Bansal

Former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar was on August 22, 2013 appointed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as his Special Envoy to visit Japan in the rank of a Cabinet Minister. The Prime Minister has nominated Kumar "to visit for up to seven days as PM's Special Envoy for that period (in the rank and the privileges of a Cabinet Minister) to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges with Japan. Kumar had resigned in May 2013 after the Supreme Court came down heavily on the CBI for allowing the law ministry to vet the draft of CBI probe report on Coalgate. (D)

- 137)** Educationist P Kilemsungla became the first woman from Nagaland to be appointed as member of _____ on August 22, 2013.
- a) National Advisory Council
 - b) University Grants Commission
 - c) National Minorities Commission
 - d) Central Information Commission
 - e) Union Public Service Commission

Educationist P Kilemsungla is the first woman from Nagaland to be appointed as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She was appointed on August 19 for a period of six years or until she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, a notification issued by the Ministry of Personnel said on August 22, 2013. Kilemsungla, who hails from Kohima in the north eastern state, is the ninth member of the Commission, which conducts the prestigious civil services examination to select IAS, IPS and IFS officers, among others. Besides her, Rajni Razdan, Venkatarami Reddy Y, Alka Sirohi, David R Syiemlieh, Manbir Singh, former CBI Director Amar Pratap Singh and Former Navy Vice-Chief D K Dewan are other members of the UPSC. The Commission, headed by D P Agrawal, still has one vacancy. (E)

- 138)** Who among the following was appointed as the Director in the Prime Minister's Office on August 21, 2013?
- a) P.C. Pant
 - b) V. Sheshadri
 - c) R. Bhanumathi
 - d) N.V. Ramana
 - e) Rajesh Kumar Agrawal

Indian Administrative Service officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre V. Sheshadri will join as Director in the Prime Minister's Office. Sheshadri, a 1999 batch IAS officer, has been relieved as Collector of Visakhapatnam district on August 21, 2013 to enable him take up the new assignment. He will hold the new post for a period of five years. Sheshadri, who hails from Karnataka, previously served as collector of Chittoor district, joint executive officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and joint collector of Ranga Reddy district. (B)

- 139)** Which of the following appointments of Chief Justices and High Courts made in August 2013 is matched correctly?
- a) Rajesh Kumar Agrawal – Meghalaya High Court
 - b) Justice R. Bhanumathi – Jharkhand High Court
 - c) Justice N.V. Ramana – Madras High Court
 - d) Justice P.C. Pant – Delhi High Court
 - e) None of the above

The Supreme Court collegium on August 20, 2013 recommended that Rajesh Kumar Agrawal be made Chief Justice of the Madras High Court; Justice R. Bhanumathi be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court; Justice N.V. Ramana be appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and Justice P.C. Pant be elevated as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. These recommendations received by the Law Ministry are being processed and the appointments will be completed soon. (B)

- 140)** Eminent cardiologist _____ passed away at the age of 64 on August 21, 2013.
- a) Balwant Singh
 - b) Harikishore Singh
 - c) Sheikh Jalal-ud-din
 - d) Raghunath Panigrahi
 - e) Viresh Pratap Chaudhry

Eminent cardiologist Dr. Sheikh Jalal-ud-din succumbed to his injuries at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on August 21, 2013. The former director of the prestigious Shere-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical

Sciences (SKIMS) in Soura, 64-year-old Dr. Jalal, was shot by militants near his residence at Nambalal in Pampore, Jammu & Kashmir on July 18. (C)

- 141)** Who among the following led the Indian team at the Fifth India-China Strategic Dialogue organised in New Delhi on August 20, 2013?
- a) Shivshankar Menon
 - b) Salman Khurshid
 - c) Ranjan Mathai
 - d) Nirupama Rao
 - e) Sujatha Singh

The Fifth India-China Strategic Dialogue was organised in New Delhi on August 20, 2013. The two sides were led by Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh and Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin. According to an official release, issues discussed by the two sides included enhancing understanding on the utilisation of trans-border river waters, addressing problems of the large and growing deficit faced by India, ways of maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LAC and expansion of scientific and technological cooperation. The meeting saw both sides making firm moves to narrow the massive balance of trade in Beijing's favour but discussions on the border issue and trans-border river flows saw them reiterating positions stated during the high-level meeting in July this year between Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Li Keqiang. (E)

- 142)** The first ministerial meeting of the _____ was organised in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on August 19, 2013.
- a) Asia-Pacific Security Forum
 - b) India-ASEAN Trade Forum
 - c) Asia Pacific Economic Forum
 - d) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
 - e) Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma on August 20, 2013 attended the first ministerial meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on August 19, 2013. RCEP is an ambitious partnership involving the ten ASEAN countries and six FTA partners namely India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. It is a comprehensive arrangement involving agreements in areas like Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investment. The RCEP aims to be a high level modern free trade agreement which will go beyond liberalisation and pave the way for regional economic integration contributing to the prosperity of the Participating Countries. (D)

- 143)** Where was the 7th South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Ministerial Council meeting organised August 23, 2013?
- a) New Delhi
 - b) Islamabad
 - c) Dhaka
 - d) Colombo
 - e) Kathmandu

South Asian nations need to fast track economic liberalisation to increase their current \$2.5 billion worth of trade and catch up with East Asian nations, SAARC Secretary General Ahmed Saleem, said at the 7th South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Ministerial Council meeting in Colombo August 23, 2013. He called for greater reduction of sensitive lists, non-tariff barriers and aligning of customs procedures to boost trade in one of the most populous regions in the world. According to figures available to the SAARC Secretariat, SAFTA trade has crossed the \$2.5-billion mark, which is largely due to member states reducing sensitive lists by at least 20 percent before the 17th SAARC Summit in 2011. However, Saleem, who is a Maldivian diplomat, admitted that SAARC is still often criticised because its regional trade is low compared to other regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Latin American Free Trade Association. SAFTA is an agreement reached in January 2004 at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad, Pakistan. It created a free trade area of 1.8 billion people in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The seven foreign ministers of the region signed a framework agreement on SAFTA to reduce customs duties of all traded goods to zero by the year 2016. (D)

- 144)** Indian mining companies own a 56% stake in Hajigak _____ mines in Afghanistan.
- a) Bauxite
 - b) Silver
 - c) Copper
 - d) Iron
 - e) Coal

Afghanistan has conveyed to the SAIL-led consortium that it did not have any objections to the \$10.8 billion iron ore and steel plant project being developed in phases. The Afghan Iron and Steel Consortium (AIFSCO), which consists of state-owned SAIL, RINL and NMDC, is holding a combined 56 per cent stake. The balance is held by private players such as JSW, JSPL and Monnet Ispat & Energy. "We have concluded negotiations over the entire deal. During negotiations, SAIL has assured us that it will deliver on its commitment but that would be done in phases," Afghanistan's Mines Minister Wahidullah Shahrani said in New Delhi on August 22, 2013. After winning bid for three iron ore mines at Hajigak in war-torn Afghanistan in November, 2011, AIFSCO had said it would invest \$10.8 billion to set up a 6.1 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) steel plant in two equal phases along with an 800 MW power plant, besides creating necessary infrastructure. However, later it scaled down its plans and decided to set up a steel plant of 1.25 mtpa and a 120 MW captive power plant with \$2.9 billion investment. (D)

- 145) Indian Consulate in which city in Afghanistan was in news for a terrorist attack on August 3, 2013?
- Herat
 - Kunduz
 - Kandahar
 - Jalalabad
 - Mazar-i Sharif

India is committed to assisting Afghanistan in its critical period of transition, development and nation-building, President Pranab Mukherjee asserted at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on August 25, 2013 during his meeting with second Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Karim Khalili. Mukherjee said India was committed to Afghanistan at the political and strategic levels well beyond 2014 when international forces were scheduled to depart. India supported an all-Afghan owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled reconciliation process. The President expressed appreciation of the government of Afghanistan, its security services and in particular the police personnel in Jalalabad for the valour and dedication they showed in thwarting the suicide attack on the Indian consulate on August 3. (D)

- 146) Who among the following is Indian counterpart of Sri Lanka's Gamini Lakshman Peiris, who came on an official visit to India in August 2013?
- Anand Sharma
 - Salman Khurshid
 - Manmohan Singh
 - M. Veerappa Moily
 - Pranab Mukherjee

Sri Lanka on August 19, 2013 said it was not interested in detaining Indian fishermen for long but would put in place a strong deterrent, likely to be a fine for the 14 persons in custody. This was conveyed by the island nation's Foreign Minister Gamini Lakshman Peiris to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who sought the release of the fishermen on humanitarian grounds. Peiris was in New Delhi on August 17, 2013 to invite Dr. Singh to the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit to be held in Colombo in November — the first time it is being held in Asia after 24 years. The Sri Lankan Minister said the detention-and-release system failed to deter Indian fishermen from entering his country's waters. (B)

- 147) Who among the following is Indian counterpart of Iraq's Nouri al-Maliki, who came on an official visit to India in August 2013?
- Anand Sharma
 - Salman Khurshid
 - Manmohan Singh
 - M. Veerappa Moily
 - Pranab Mukherjee

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has invited his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh to visit Iraq at a mutually convenient time, according to a joint statement issued after the talks between the two leaders in New Delhi on August 22, 2013. This is the first Head of Government-level visit between the two countries since 1975 when the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited Iraq—Iraq has emerged as India's second largest crude oil supplier with bilateral trade in excess of USD 21 billion in 2012-13. (C)

- 148) Who among the following is Indian counterpart of Antonio Patriota of Brazil and Maite Nkoana-Mashabane of South Africa?
- Anand Sharma
 - Salman Khurshid
 - Manmohan Singh

- M. Veerappa Moily
- Pranab Mukherjee

India, Brazil and South Africa on August 23, 2013 supported the mediation efforts undertaken by the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in the Middle-East peace process and welcomed the announcement of resumption of direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis. Noting that Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains an urgent and key issue for the international community, tripartite grouping IBSA in Pretoria, South Africa, said the resolution of the conflict was a prerequisite for building a sustainable and lasting peace in the Middle East region. External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and his counterparts from Brazil, Antonio Patriota, and South Africa, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane also noted with satisfaction the decision of Israel to release 104 Palestinian prisoners, which is a gesture that contributes to the spirit of cooperation surrounding the negotiations. Antonio Patriota resigned on August 26. (B)

- 149) Indians have emerged as the _____ immigrant group in the US, according to a study by the American think-tank Migration Policy Institute released in August 2013.
- Largest
 - Second-largest
 - Third-largest
 - Fourth-largest
 - Fifth-largest

Indians have emerged as the third-largest immigrant group in the US behind Mexicans and Chinese, with nearly 1.9 million of them living in the country, a new study by an American think-tank Migration Policy Institute has found on August 23, 2013. The study also found that India was also the second most common country of origin for international students studying at US institutions of higher learning in 2011, behind China. As a group, immigrants from India are better educated, more likely to have strong English language skills and arrive on employment-based visas, and are less likely to live below the federal poverty line than the overall foreign-born population. (C)

- 150) India signed an MoU to provide financial assistance of Rs 27.6 million to construct _____ building in Kathmandu on August 20, 2013.
- Parliament
 - Consulate
 - University
 - Hospital
 - Library

India signed a MoU to provide financial assistance of Rs 27.6 million to construct a three-storied library building for Nepal Academy in Kathmandu. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on August 20 between the Embassy of India, Kathmandu and Nepal Academy for providing Indian grant assistance for the construction of a library building under Nepal-India Economic Cooperation Programme. Established in 1957, Nepal Academy is a premier national institution devoted to promoting languages, literature, culture, philosophy and research on development of cultural and intellectual field by bringing together national and international activities. The new library building being constructed with Indian assistance aims at providing better facilities to researchers and academicians of Nepal for research and reference of invaluable books. (E)

- 151) Eminent Indian classical singer Pandit _____ passed away at the age of 80 on August 25, 2013.
- Balwant Singh
 - Harikishore Singh
 - Sheikh Jalal-ud-din
 - Raghunath Panigrahi
 - Viresh Pratap Chaudhry

Eminent Indian classical singer and music director, better known as a noted vocalist of Jayadeva's 'Gita Govind', Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi passed away in Bhubaneswar on August 25, 2013 at the age of 80. His wife, noted Odissi dancer Sanjukta Panigrahi, had passed away in 1997. He was conferred Padmashri in 2010. (D)

- 152) Which of the following announced the selection of two Indian students Dr. Manmohan Singh PhD Scholars 2013 in August 2013?
- Oxford University
 - Harvard University
 - Stanford University
 - University of Cambridge
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge University on August 22, 2013 said it had selected two Indian students have been chosen as Dr. Manmohan Singh PhD Scholars 2013. Rishika Kundra, M.Sc. in Biomedical Science from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Centre for Biomedical Research and Kedar Pandya, M.Tech. in Aerospace Engineering from IIT Bombay have been selected. "These outstanding young scholars are the latest examples of the hugely talented people this scholarship has attracted. We look forward to welcoming them to Cambridge, and feel sure that they will achieve great things during their time here," Stephen Teal, Fellow & development director, St John's College, University of Cambridge, said in the statement. The programme was instituted in recognition of the Indian prime minister's achievements and nurtures future world leaders in the areas of science, technology and social sciences. (D)

- 153)** Who among the following is Indian counterpart of Nicaragua's Samuel Santos Lopez, who came on an official visit to India in August 2013?
- Anand Sharma
 - Salman Khurshid
 - Manmohan Singh
 - M. Veerappa Moily
 - Pranab Mukherjee

Nicaragua is keen for Indian participation in the Nicaragua Canal project, which is expected to rival the Panama Canal. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez, in India on an official visit Aug 19-23, 2013 wanted Indian businessmen involved in the proposed \$40 billion canal, foreign ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said. Lopez met his Indian counterpart External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and discussed the canal - a waterway through Nicaragua to connect the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. The Nicaragua Canal is expected to allow the world's largest ships through. Home to six million people, Nicaragua, bordering Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south, is famous for two largest fresh water lakes in Central America - Lake Managua and Lake Nicaragua. Panama lies to the south of Costa Rica. (B)

- 154)** Who among the following was selected to succeed Jayant Prasad as India's new ambassador to Nepal on August 23, 2013?
- Ranjit Rae
 - Amar Sinha
 - Ashok Tomar
 - Rajeev Shahare
 - Pankaj Saran

Ranjit Rae will be India's new ambassador to Nepal, succeeding Jayant Prasad who is retiring. The change takes place at a time when Nepal is bracing for second elections of the Constituent Assembly in November. Rae was previously ambassador to Vietnam. Prasad on August 23, 2013 met chairman of Interim Election Council Khil Raj Regmi and discussed issues ranging from strengthening Nepal-India relations, elections preparation and others. (A)

- 155)** The UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Amitabh Bachchan has joined the UN and its humanitarian partners to promote '_____ ' - a global campaign seeking to turn words into real assistance for communities affected by humanitarian crises.
- The Borderless World
 - The World That Cares
 - The World Needs More
 - World Without Borders
 - World Free From Hunger

The UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Amitabh Bachchan on August 23, 2013 said he has joined the UN and its humanitarian partners to promote 'The World Needs More' - a global campaign seeking to turn words into real assistance for communities affected by humanitarian crises. According to a UN statement, Bachchan joins a growing number of international celebrities who have supported the campaign, including Beyonce, Kid President, Jennifer Lopez, Susan Sarandon, LL Cool J, Geena Davis, Trey Songz and Christina Applegate. 'The World Needs More' campaign, produced in collaboration with Leo Burnett New York, allows brands and the public to sponsor a word they believe the world could use more of. (C)

- 156)** Which Latin American nation plans to start drilling oil in the ecologically fragile Yasuni National Park, a world biosphere reserve, after it was not granted the promised \$3.6 billion compensation for leaving it pristine in August 2013?
- Peru
 - Chile
 - Mexico
 - Panama

- e) Ecuador

Ecuador President Rafael Correa on August 22, 2013 said major oil exploration in an unspoiled Amazon nature reserve could go ahead after the failure of an ambitious plan to secure billions of dollars in donations to avoid drilling in the area. Correa said he would seek authorisation from lawmakers to allow drilling in a region of the Yasuni National Park, which was designated a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 1989. President Correa had sought to leave the oil untouched in order to avoid an estimated 400 million tonnes of CO2 emissions being pumped into the Earth's atmosphere. But for this the international community had to compensate by contributing \$3.6 billion. However, after six years Ecuador has received just \$13.3 million. (E)

- 157)** Which country was in news in August 2013 for its annual 'Ulchi Freedom Guardian' war games?
- Japan
 - China
 - Taiwan
 - North Korea
 - South Korea

Militaries of Korea and the US organised annual drills from August 17 to 30, 2013. The Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills were computer-simulated war games that involve 30,000 American and 50,000 South Korean troops, according to South Korea's Defence Ministry and the U.S. military command in Seoul. The allies say the drills are defensive in nature, but Pyongyang has reacted angrily to them in the past, calling the drills a preparation for a pre-emptive attack. But in an unusual move, North Korean state media have not made any major statements on this year's exercises so far. The two Koreas recently agreed to work toward reopening a shuttered jointly-run factory park, and Pyongyang on August 17 accepted South Korea's offer for talks on reuniting families separated by war. (E)

- 158)** A four-day _____ festival called Mountain Echoes 2013 was organised in Thimpu, Bhutan from August 8 to 11, 2013.
- Music
 - Film
 - Cultural
 - Literary
 - Mountaineering

A four-day literary festival called Mountain Echoes 2013 was organised in Thimpu, Bhutan from August 8 to 11, 2013. An initiative by the India-Bhutan Foundation, Mountain Echoes was produced by Siyahi. India-Bhutan Foundation was established in August 2003 during the visit of the then King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, to India with an aim of enhancing people to people exchanges in areas like education, culture and environment protection. (D)

- 159)** Who among the following was sworn in as the new President of Central African Republic in August 2013?
- Joseph Kabila
 - Michel Djotodia
 - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
 - Goodluck Jonathan
 - Ismail Omar Guelleh

The rebel leader whose fighters toppled the government of Central African Republic earlier this year has been officially sworn in President. Michel Djotodia, head of the Seleka rebel coalition, now has 18 months to organise elections in the landlocked country. In remarks during the swearing-in ceremony organised in capital Bangui on August 17, 2013, he called on the political class to observe a truce to allow a leader "with unchallenged legitimacy" to be voted into office. He declared himself President after the ouster in March of long-time ruler Francois Bozize. In Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, 89, was on August 22, 2013 sworn in for a seventh term in office as President. (B)

- 160)** Match the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar categories and their awardees announced in August 2013 correctly.

Category	Awardee
I. Community Sports Identification and Nurturing of Budding Young Talent	1. Petroleum Sports Promotion Board
II. Financial Support for Sports Excellence	2. Pullela Gopichand Academy of Badminton, Hyderabad
III. Establishment and Management of Sports Academies of Excellence	3. Services Sports Control Board
IV. Employment of Sportspersons and Sports welfare Measures	4. National Sports Academy, Allahabad

- I-1, II-2, III-3, IV-4
- I-2, II-1, III-4, IV-3
- I-2, II-3, III-1, IV-4
- I-3, II-1, III-2, IV-4
- I-4, II-3, III-2, IV-1

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports on August 22, 2013 announced the winners of National Sports Awards-2013.

The National Sports Awards-2013 will be conferred upon the following sportspersons/ coaches/organizations. The Government approved their names, as recommended by the Selection Committees.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (Name – Discipline): Ronjan Sodhi – Shooting
Sodhi is the seventh shooter after Abhinav Bindra (2001-02), Anjali Bhagwat (2002-03), Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (2004-05), Manavjit Singh Sandhu (2006-07), Gagan Narang (2010-11) and Vijay Kumar (2011-12) to get the Khel Ratna. It was also for the third consecutive year that a shooter was picked for the Khel Ratna.

Arjuna Awards (Name – Discipline): Chekrovolu Swuro – Archery; P.V. Sindhu – Badminton; Kavita Chahal – Boxing; Rupesh Shah – Billiards & Snooker; Virat Kohli – Cricket; Abhijeet Gupta – Chess; Gagan Jeet Bhullar – Golf; Saba Anjum – Hockey; Rajkumari Rathore – Shooting; Joshna Chinappa – Squash; Mouma Das – Table Tennis; Neha Rathi – Wrestling; Dharmender Dalal – Wrestling; Amit Kumar Saroha – Athletics (Para)

Dronacharya Awards (Name – Discipline): Poornima Mahato – Archery; Mahavir Singh – Boxing; Narinder Singh Saini – Hockey; K.P. Thomas – Athletics; Raj Singh – Wrestling* – * Lifetime contribution in coaching

Dhyan Chand Awards (Name – Discipline): Mary D'souza Sequeira – Athletics; Syed Ali – Hockey; Anil Mann – Wrestling; Giriraj Singh – Para Sports (Athletics)

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (Category – Awardee):

Community Sports Identification and Nurturing of Budding Young Talent – Dr. U.K. Mishra, Founder and President, National Sports Academy, Allahabad

Financial Support for Sports Excellence – Services Sports Control Board
Establishment and Management of Sports Academies of Excellence – Pallela Gopichand Academy of Badminton, Hyderabad

Employment of Sportspersons and sports welfare measures – Petroleum Sports Promotion Board

The Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by Michael Ferreira and other members of the Committee from the sports fraternity were Limba Ram, V. Devarajan, Zafar Iqbal, Vandana Rao, Anjali M. Bhagwat, Indu Puri, Shakti Singh, Ravi Shastri, Kripa Shankar Patel and Surinder Khanna. Similarly, the Committees for other awards too comprised of men and women of eminence in the field of sports. The different Committees made their recommendations after duly considering all the nominations.

Apart from a medal and a citation, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs.7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, citations and cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each. Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies. The awardees received their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on August 31, 2013. (E)

161) "Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman" was conferred on scholars of which language by the President of India in August 2013?

- Sanskrit
- Pali/Prakrit
- Arabic
- Persian
- All the above

President Pranab Mukherjee awarded Certificates of Honor and the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic and Pali/Prakrit scholars at a function at Rashtrapati Bhawan on August 15, 2013. (E)

162) Veteran freedom fighter _____, who had joined the Indian National Army of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and spent around seven years in a jail at Singapore, passed away at the age of 90 on August 18, 2013.

- Balwant Singh
- Harikishore Singh
- Sheikh Jalal-ud-din
- Raghunath Panigrahi
- Viresh Pratap Chaudhry

Veteran freedom fighter Balwant Singh, who had joined the Indian National Army of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and spent around seven years in a jail at Singapore, passed away at the age of 90 in Rewari District of Haryana on

August 18, 2013. After independence, Singh joined the Artillery Corps in the Indian Army as a Nayak on January 22, 1949, and retired on August 17, 1969 after serving for 20 years. (A)

163) How much was the dividend paid by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2012-13?

- Rs 11,010 crore
- Rs 22,010 crore
- Rs 33,010 crore
- Rs 44,010 crore
- Rs 55,010 crore

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 20, 2013 said it had doubled the dividend to the Government in 2012-13 to Rs 33,010 crore. (C)

164) Kerala became the first state to receive RBI permission to launch a _____ based on Islamic finance principles (Sharia law) in August 2013.

- Scheduled Commercial Bank
- Cooperative Bank
- Microfinance Company
- Non-Banking Finance Company
- Collective Investment Scheme

RBI has permitted Kerala Industrial Development Corporation to float a non-banking finance company and offer products based on Islamic finance principles (Sharia law). Cheraman Financial Services Ltd, India's first interest-free financial services company backed by the Kerala Government, aims to channel Gulf NRIs' savings as well as a small chunk of West Asia's petro dollars into the country's infrastructure development. Cheraman recently got the Reserve Bank's permission to function as a non-banking finance company and was formally launched in August 2013. "The RBI has permitted KSIDC to float a non-banking finance company and offer products based on Islamic finance principles," the Central bank spokesperson Alpna Killawala said on August 18, 2013. Banks based on Sharia law are still not permitted in India. Outgoing Governor Duvvuri Subbarao, who is retiring on September 4, had earlier said that Islamic banking was not possible in the country. Under the Islamic banking norms, depositors do not get interest on deposits, nor can the banks charge interest to its borrowers. Banks can invest the money, but keep off taboo areas like liquor, tobacco and gambling or speculation. Similarly, Islamic banks also cannot invest in bonds, treasury bills, and commercial papers, or lend to finance inventory or projects for interest. (D)

165) What was the penetration of life insurance sector in India in 2012?

- 1.17%
- 2.17%
- 3.17%
- 4.17%
- 5.17%

The penetration of life insurance sector in India has increased from 2.15% in 2001 to 3.17% in 2012 which is above Brazil, Russia, Malaysia, Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka, Australia and Germany but below France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. As per information furnished by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) insurance coverage in a country is generally measured by insurance penetration, which is the ratio of premium underwritten in a given year to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This was stated by Namo Narain Meena, MoS in the Ministry of Finance in the Lok Sabha on August 23, 2013. (C)

166) The government has decided that those bidding for ultra-mega power projects (UMPP) will now have to source equipment from domestic manufacturers. Projects with annual generation capacity of _____ and above are classified as UMPP.

- 3000 MW
- 4000 MW
- 5000 MW
- 6000 MW
- 7000 MW

Those bidding for ultra-mega power projects will now have to source equipment from domestic manufacturers. They will also have to offer the most competitive rates based on overall plant efficiency. This was decided by an Empowered Group of Ministers (eGoM) headed by Defence Minister A. K. Antony, which gave its go-ahead for the latest standard bidding documents. The move to make it mandatory to source equipment from domestic manufacturers is bound to help companies such as BHEL, L&T and Bharat Forge-Alstom, all of which are suffering

from lack of fresh orders. The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Praful Patel, has been asking the Government to make it mandatory for UMPPs to source equipment locally. The two UMPPs — Tata Power at Mundra and Reliance Power at Sasan — use imported equipment. The eGoM also decided that any increase in the fuel cost would be passed on to the consumer. (August 23, 2013). Projects with generation capacity of 4000 MW and above come under the classification of UMPP. (B)

- 167)** Which of its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Anjani Sinha for payment defaults in August 2013?
- BSE
 - NSE
 - NSEL
 - OTCEI
 - MCX-SX

With the National Spot Exchange Ltd failing to pay out Rs 174.72 crore to investors as scheduled, the NSEL board on August 20, 2013 sacked its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Anjani Sinha and five other top executives. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has taken the NSEL default seriously and the matter has been referred to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Meanwhile, the NSEL board appointed P. R. Ramesh as "Officer on Special Duty" to exercise all powers of a CEO. The NSEL deposited only Rs 92.12 crore in the escrow account as 11 of the 24 entities that owe money did not pay for the first tranche of settlement. The Forward Markets Commission has faulted the NSEL for not furnishing party-wise amounts deposited in the escrow account and for not putting up the details on its Web site. (C)

- 168)** Which state promulgated The Anti Black Magic & Superstition ordinance in August 2013?
- Chhattisgarh
 - Jharkhand
 - Bihar
 - West Bengal
 - Maharashtra

The anti black magic and superstition ordinance was promulgated in Maharashtra on August 24, 2013, four days after the murder of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar in Pune. Maharashtra Governor K Sankaranarayanan has given his assent to the anti black magic and superstition ordinance. The angry protests sparked by Dabholkar's killing prompted the Maharashtra government to clear an ordinance to enforce the anti-superstition bill he had championed for years. Dabholkar had drafted the Anti-Superstition and Black Magic Bill over a decade ago, but it repeatedly failed to get through the State Legislature. The Bill had proposed that those indulging in black magic or preying on peoples' superstitions be jailed for up to seven years. The bill also sought to ban a range of practices including black magic, animal sacrifice and magical remedies to cure ailments. The bill would be taken up for passage during the winter session of state legislature at Nagpur in December. (E)

- 169)** Which state on August 19, 2013 decided to distribute jowar and ragi under the Annabhagya scheme, which is at present limited to distribution of rice at Re 1 per kg for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families?
- Maharashtra
 - Karnataka
 - Kerala
 - Rajasthan
 - Tamil Nadu

The Karnataka government on August 19, 2013 decided to distribute jowar and ragi under the Annabhagya scheme, which is at present limited to distribution of rice at Re 1 per kg for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The state cabinet had decided to launch the addition of jowar and ragi under the Annabhagya scheme from October 2. Ever since the Congress government announced its flagship programme, there has been vociferous demand to distribute food grains to people based on regional food habits. While people in the old Mysore region are demanding ragi, those in north Karnataka wanted jowar. Under the proposed scheme, the BPL families getting 30 kg rice at Re 1 per kg, will have an option of buying 17 kg rice, five-kg wheat and eight-kg jowar at Re one per kilo. The BPL families getting 20-kg rice would have the option of buying 11-kg rice, 3-kg wheat and six-kg jowar at Re one under the scheme. (B)

- 170)** Which state has launched the project 'Udaan' aimed at improving the general knowledge of students in state-run schools and prepare them for competitive exams in August 2013?
- Punjab
 - Haryana
 - Rajasthan
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Madhya Pradesh

Punjab government on August 23, 2013 launched a project aimed at improving the general knowledge of students in state-run schools. The 'Udaan' project, which would educate students about current affairs and prepare them for competitive exams, has been launched in 1,082 schools for Classes 6 to 12. (A)

- 171)** Arunachal Pradesh government on August 21, 2013 signed an MOU with the Union Defence Ministry to provide free of cost land for establishment of the National Institute of _____ and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in the state.
- Winter
 - Defence
 - Martial Arts
 - Para Jumping
 - Mountaineering

Arunachal Pradesh government has signed an MOU with the Union Defence Ministry to provide free of cost land for establishment of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) at Dirang in West Kameng district of the state. NIMAS, an institute of Defence Ministry, was sanctioned by the Centre in 2012 to groom talents in mountaineering and allied sports. The state government was represented by Sports and Youth Affairs Director D K Dinglow and the Ministry was represented by the Director of the Institute Gulshan Chadha during MoU signing ceremony in Itanagar on August 21, 2013. NIMAS would train people from home and abroad. The executive council of the Institute is headed by Defence Minister A K Anthony as President and Chief Minister Nabam Tuki as Vice President. (E)

- 172)** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha inaugurated the Rs 100 crore National _____ School in Tiruchirappalli district on August 22, 2013.
- Law
 - Film
 - Sports
 - Nursing
 - Journalism

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha on August 22, 2013 inaugurated the Rs 100 crore National Law School at her native constituency Srirangam Tiruchirappalli district. The Chief Minister inaugurated the institution through video-conferencing in the presence of Justice Rajesh Kumar Agrawal, Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court, from Chennai. The Madras High Court Chief Justice will be the Chancellor and Law Minister Pro-Chancellor. The 25-acre campus will house various departments and amenities for students including hostel facilities and 100 students including 10 NRIs will be admitted in the 2013-14 academic year. (A)

- 173)** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the country's second 'Regional _____ Centre' in Jodhpur on August 19, 2013.
- Nutrition
 - Geriatric
 - Paediatric
 - Psychiatric
 - Cancer Care

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot August 19, 2013 inaugurated the country's second Regional Geriatric Centre at MDM Hospital in Jodhpur which will focus on the health care of elderly people. The only such centre is currently functioning at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi of the total eight such centres proposed across the country. Constructed at the cost of Rs. 267 lakh under the National Program for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) scheme, the centre will have a ward of 30 beds and separate OPD and Indoor facilities for the elderly persons. (B)

- 174)** Who among the following is the only athlete other than Usain Bolt to have won three gold medals at the World Athletics Championships organised in Moscow in August 2013?
- Milcah Chemos Cheywa
 - Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce
 - Christine Ohuruogu
 - Brittney Reese
 - Tatyana Lysenko

The 2013 World Championships in Athletics was organised in Moscow, Russia, from 10–18 August 2013. Russia won the most gold medals to top the table for the first time since 2001. The United States won the most overall medals. Jamaica's Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce both won three gold medals in the men's and women's 100

metres, 200 metres and 4×100 metres relay respectively to become the most successful athletes at the event. No world records were created. Russia topped the medal table with seven gold medals won, followed by the United States and Jamaica with six gold medals each. In the overall medal count, the United States won 25 medals in total, followed by Russia (17), Jamaica (9), Kenya – 12 (5 golds), Germany – 7 (4 golds), Ethiopia – 10 (3 golds), Great Britain – 6 (3 golds), Czech Republic – 3 (2 golds), Ukraine – 3 (2 golds) and France – 4 (1 gold). (B)

- 175)** Saurav Ghosal is India's top ranked men's player in which sport?
- Golf
 - Snooker
 - Badminton
 - Tennis
 - Squash

Reigning champions Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa successfully defended their singles titles in the men's and women's section respectively in the 61st National Squash Championship which concluded in Jaipur on August 23, 2013. Top seed Ghosal lived up to his billing and posted a facile 11-2 11-1 11-7 victory over Mahesh Mangaonkar to win his record ninth national title and winner's purse of Rs one lakh. Chinappa too had it easy against youngster Aparajita Balamurukan in the women's section and won 11-8 11-9 11-6. (E)

- 176)** The second Asian _____ Games were organised at Nanjing, China in August 2013.
- Scout
 - Youth
 - Cadet
 - Police
 - Military

The men's squash team settled for a silver after losing their title match against Malaysia as India rounded off their campaign in the second Asian Youth Games with a 10th-place finish in Nanjing, China on August 23, 2013. India's finished with an overall tally of 14 medals (3 golds, 4 silver, 7 bronze). Kush Kumar – men's singles squash, Manu Gandas – golf and Anjana Dhavalu Thamake – athletics won India's three golds. (B)

- 177)** The RBI issued updated guidelines on MTSS in July 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- The Indian entity facilitating MTSS is called Indian Principal
 - The foreign entity facilitating MTSS is called Overseas Principal
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The RBI issued an update on norms governing the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) on July 1, 2013. Important features are as follows:

Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) is a quick and easy way of transferring personal remittances from abroad to beneficiaries in India.

Only inward personal remittances into India such as remittances towards family maintenance and remittances favouring foreign tourists visiting India are permissible. No outward remittance from India is permissible under MTSS.

The system envisages a tie-up between reputed money transfer companies abroad known as **Overseas Principals** and agents in India known as **Indian Agents** who would disburse funds to beneficiaries in India at ongoing exchange rates.

The Indian Agent is not allowed to remit any amount to the Overseas Principal.

Under MTSS the remitters and the beneficiaries are individuals only.

RBI permission (authorization) is compulsory for any person to act as an Indian Agent under the Money Transfer Service Scheme.

Eligibility norms for 'Indian Agent'

The applicant to become an Indian Agent should be an Authorised Dealer Category-I bank or an Authorised Dealer Category-II or a Full Fledged Money Changer (FFMC), or a Scheduled Commercial Bank or the Department of Posts.

Net Owned Funds: The applicant should have minimum Net Owned Funds of Rs. 50 lakh

Collateral requirement:

Collateral equivalent to 3 days' average drawings or US \$ 50,000, whichever is higher, may be kept by the Overseas Principal in favour of the Indian Agent with a designated bank in India.

The minimum amount of US \$ 50,000 shall be kept as a foreign currency deposit while the balance amount may be kept in the form of a Bank Guarantee.

The adequacy of collateral should be reviewed by Indian Agents at quarterly intervals on the basis of remittances received during the past three months.

Other conditions

Types of remittances permitted: Only cross-border personal remittances, such as, remittances towards family maintenance and remittances favouring foreign tourists visiting India shall be allowed under this arrangement. Donations/contributions to charitable institutions/trusts, trade related remittances, remittance towards purchase of property, investments or credit to NRE Accounts shall not be made through this arrangement.

Ceiling on remittances: A cap of US \$ 2500 has been placed on individual remittance under the scheme.

Mode of paying remittances: Amounts up to Rs. 50,000/- may be paid in cash to a beneficiary in India. Any amount exceeding this limit shall be paid by means of account payee cheque/ demand draft/ payment order, etc., or credited directly to the beneficiary's bank account only. However, in exceptional circumstances, where the beneficiary is a foreign tourist, higher amounts may be disbursed in cash.

Number of remittances per year: Only 30 remittances can be received by a single individual beneficiary under the scheme during a calendar year.

Eligibility norms for Overseas Principals

Indian Agents entering into arrangements with Money Transfer Operators overseas, known as Overseas Principals, may note that Overseas Principals with adequate volume of business, track record and outreach will only be considered under the scheme.

Minimum net worth: The minimum net worth of Overseas Principals should be at least US \$ 1 million as per the latest audited balance sheet, which should be maintained at all times. (Ans:B)

Liability: The Overseas Principals will be fully responsible for the activities of their Agents and Sub Agents in India.

178) The RBI issued an update on norms governing the External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Trade Credits on July 1, 2013. Which of the following statements on repatriation of ECB proceeds is/are correct?

- ECBs meant for Rupee expenditure in India should be repatriated immediately
 - ECB meant only for foreign currency expenditure can be retained abroad pending utilization
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The RBI issued an update on norms governing the External Commercial Borrowings and Trade Credits on July 1, 2013. Important features are as follows:

External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) refer to commercial loans in the form of bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitized instruments (e.g. floating rate notes and fixed rate bonds, non-convertible, optionally convertible or partially convertible preference shares) availed of from non-resident lenders with a minimum average maturity of 3 years.

Amount and Maturity

The maximum amount of ECB which can be raised by a corporate other than those in the hotel, hospital and software sectors is USD 750 million or its equivalent during a financial year.

Corporates in the services sector viz. hotels, hospitals and software sector are allowed to avail of ECB up to USD 200 million or its equivalent in a financial year for meeting foreign currency and/ or Rupee capital expenditure for permissible end-uses. The proceeds of the ECBs should not be used for acquisition of land.

NGOs engaged in micro finance activities and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) can raise ECB up to USD 10 million or its equivalent during a financial year. Designated AD bank has to ensure that at the time of drawdown the forex exposure of the borrower is fully hedged.

SIDBI can avail of ECB to the extent of 50 per cent of their owned funds including the outstanding ECB, subject to a ceiling of USD 500 million per financial year.

Maturity period: ECB up to USD 20 million or its equivalent in a financial year should have minimum average maturity of three years. ECB above USD 20 million or equivalent and up to USD 750 million or its equivalent should have a minimum average maturity of five years.

End-uses permitted

ECB can be raised for investment such as import of capital goods (as classified by DGFT in the Foreign Trade Policy), new projects, modernization/expansion of existing production units in real sector - industrial sector including small and medium enterprises (SME), infrastructure sector and specified service sectors, namely, hotel, hospital and software in India.

Overseas Direct Investment in Joint Ventures (JV)/ Wholly Owned Subsidiaries (WOS) subject to the existing guidelines on Indian Direct Investment in JV/ WOS abroad.

Utilization of ECB proceeds is permitted for acquisition of shares in the disinvestment process.

Interest during construction (IDC) for Indian companies which are in the infrastructure sector, where "infrastructure" is defined as per the extant ECB guidelines

For lending to self-help groups or for micro-credit or for bonafide micro finance activity including capacity building by NGOs engaged in micro finance activities.

Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFCs) i.e. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) categorized as IFCs by the Reserve Bank, are permitted to avail of ECBs, including the outstanding ECBs, up to 75 per cent of their owned funds, for on-lending to the infrastructure sector as defined under the ECB policy, subject to their complying with the following conditions: i) compliance with the norms prescribed ii) Hedging requirement for currency risk should be 75 per cent of the exposure. Designated Authorised Dealer (DAB) should ensure compliance with the extant norms while certifying the ECB application.

Maintenance and operations of toll systems for roads and highways for capital expenditure provided they form part of the original project

SIDBI can on lend to the borrowers in the MSME sector for permissible end uses, having natural hedge by way of foreign exchange earnings. SIDBI may on-lend either in INR or in foreign currency (FCY). In case of on-lending in INR, the foreign currency risk shall be fully hedged by SIDBI.

Import of services, technical know-how and payment of license fees: The companies in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors may import services, technical know-how and payment of license fees as part of import of capital goods subject to certain conditions.

End-uses not permitted

Other than the purposes specified hereinabove, the borrowings shall not be utilized for any other purpose including the following purposes, namely:

For on-lending or investment in capital market or acquiring a company (or a part thereof) in India by a corporate [investment in Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), Money Market Mutual Funds (MMMFs), etc., are also considered as investment in capital markets].

For real estate sector

For working capital, general corporate purpose and repayment of existing rupee loans

Parking of ECB proceeds

Borrowers are permitted to either keep ECB proceeds abroad or to remit these funds to India, pending utilization for permissible end-uses.

The proceeds of the ECB raised abroad meant for Rupee expenditure in India, such as, local sourcing of capital goods, on-lending to Self-Help Groups or for micro credit, payment for spectrum allocation, etc. should be repatriated immediately for credit to the borrowers' Rupee accounts with authorised banks in India. The rupee funds, however, will not be permitted to be used for investment in capital markets, real estate or for inter-corporate lending.

ECB proceeds meant only for foreign currency expenditure can be retained abroad pending utilization.

Prepayment

Prepayment of ECB up to USD 500 million may be allowed by authorised banks without prior approval of Reserve Bank subject to compliance with the stipulated minimum average maturity period as applicable to the loan.

Refinancing of an existing ECB (Ans:C)

The existing ECB may be refinanced by raising a fresh ECB subject to the condition that the fresh ECB is raised at a lower all-in-cost and the outstanding maturity of the original ECB is maintained.

An existing ECB may, however, be refinanced by raising a fresh ECB at a higher all-in-cost under the approval route.

- 179)** What was the share of dollar-denominated debt in India's external debt at the end of financial year 2012-13 according to the data released by the RBI on June 27, 2013?
- 47%
 - 57%
 - 67%
 - 77%
 - 87%

India's external debt statistics for the quarter ending March 2013 was released by the Reserve Bank of India on June 27, 2013. The major developments relating to India's external debt as at end-March 2013 are as follows:

India's external debt, as at end-March 2013, was placed at US\$ 390.0 billion showing an increase of US\$ 44.6 billion or 12.9 per cent over the level at end-March 2012.

The long-term debt (debt of maturity period exceeding a year) at US\$ 293.4 billion and short-term debt (debt maturing within a year) at US\$ 96.7 billion accounted for 75.2 per cent and 24.8 per cent, respectively, of the total external debt as at end-March 2013

In terms of major components, the share of external commercial borrowings continued to be the highest at 31.0 per cent of total external debt, followed by short term debt (24.8 per cent) and NRI deposits (18.2 per cent).

The debt denominated in US dollar continued to account for the highest share of 57.2 per cent in total external debt as at end-March 2013, followed by that denominated in Indian rupee (24.0 per cent) and SDR (7.5 per cent).

The ratio of foreign exchange reserves to external debt as at end-March 2013 at 74.9 per cent was lower than the level of end-March 2012 (85.2 per cent). **(B)**

- 180)** A cheque issued by a joint account has bounced. Who among the following is liable for prosecution?
- Both account holders
 - Any one of the two account holders can be prosecuted
 - None of them is liable for prosecution
 - Only the account holder who signed the cheque

In case of issuance of cheque from joint accounts, only the person who signs the cheque can be prosecuted in a cheque bouncing case under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, the Supreme Court held on July 1, 2013. The other joint account holders cannot be prosecuted unless the cheque has been signed by them also, said a Bench of Justices P. Sathasivam and J.S. Khehar.

Writing the judgment, Justice Sathasivam distinguished between individuals and companies and said, "Section 141 of the N.I. Act is an instance of specific provision that in case an offence under Section 138 is committed by a company, the criminal liability for dishonour of a cheque will extend to the officers of the company.

"A company being a juristic person, all its deeds and functions are the result of acts of others. Therefore, the officers of the company, who are responsible for the acts done in the name of the company, are sought to be made personally liable for the acts which result in criminal action being taken against the company."

In the instant case, the appellant Aparna A. Shah and her husband Ashish Shah were joint account holders and her husband issued a cheque for Rs. 25 crore from their joint account and it bounced due to insufficiency of funds. A trial court in Mumbai issued summons to the husband and wife. On appeal, the Bombay High Court had refused to quash the summons. (D)

181) "It has been decided to compensate the banks _____ of the loss incurred in respect of counterfeit notes of Rs 100 and above detected by them and reported to RBI and Police authorities," The RBI said in a notification on June 30, 2013.

- a) 10%
- b) 25%
- c) 50%
- d) 75%
- e) 100%

The Reserve Bank will compensate banks 25% of the losses for reporting of counterfeit bank notes of Rs 100 and above to it and other authorities. "It has been decided to compensate the banks 25% of the loss incurred in respect of counterfeit notes of Rs 100 and above detected by them and reported to RBI and Police authorities," RBI said in a notification on June 30, 2013. RBI further said that these instructions have become effective from July 1, 2013 and the banks should commence reporting to RBI from August 2013. To address the menace of counterfeit notes, the central bank in its monetary policy statement had said that banks will be incentivised for reporting of counterfeit notes detected by them. To detect counterfeit notes at bank or branch level itself before putting it into circulation, banks are required to process notes of Rs 100 and above denomination through machines as per the standards prescribed by the RBI. According to RBI data, as many as 69.38 billion counterfeit notes were in circulation in 2011-12 and of these as many as 27.84 billion were of Rs 100 and higher denomination. However, of these only 5.21 lakh counterfeit notes were detected by the system. (B)

182) In a significant capability demonstration move by the Indian Air Force (IAF), a C 130J Super Hercules aircraft landed at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), the highest airstrip in the world, on August 20, 2013. What is the squadron of these aircrafts called?

- a) Hero Hawks
- b) Veiled Vipers
- c) Elegant Eagles
- d) Intrepid Iguanas
- e) Courageous Cobras

In a significant capability demonstration move by the IAF, a C 130J Super Hercules aircraft landed at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), Ladakh, **Jammu & Kashmir**, the highest airstrip in the world, on August 20, 2013. The aircraft touched down on the DBO airstrip located at 16614 feet in the Aksai Chin area after taking off from their home base at Hindon near Ghaziabad, **Uttar Pradesh**. DBO was built during the Indo-China conflict in 1962. The tactical airlift aircraft of the special operations squadron the "**Veiled Vipers**" which is capable of undertaking quick deployment of forces in all weather conditions created history by landing at this altitude and hostile terrain conditions. This achievement qualifies for the world record for the highest landing by an aircraft of this class. Incidentally, this was the same aircraft and crew that operated during "Op Rahat" for the Uttarakhand flood relief. (B)

183) What is the Anti Tank Guided Missile manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd under technical collaboration with Rosoboronexport of Russia named?

- a) Invar
- b) Topol
- c) Elbrus
- d) Strela
- e) Semyorka

Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad (BDL), a Mini Ratna category company under Department of Defence Production signed a contract with Ministry of Defence for supplying Invar Anti Tank Guided Missiles to Indian Army on August 19, 2013. The contract is valued about Rs. 3000 crore. The deliveries are expected to be completed over next

five years. Invar is a laser beam rider Anti Tank Guided Missile capable of being fired from T-90 tank. It has a range of 5 km. The missile can neutralize adversaries tanks fitted with Explosive Reactive Armour Protection. BDL has been manufacturing these missiles under technical collaboration with M/s Rosoboronexport of Russia. (A)

184) Who is the Chairperson of the 7-member committee set up by the government in August 2013 to assess the status of Scheduled Tribes with an aim of ensuring their uplift, particularly in socio-economic, health and education fields?

- a) Joseph Bara
- b) Abhay Bang
- c) Sunila Basant
- d) Virginius Xaxa
- e) Usha Ramanathan

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on New Delhi August 16, 2013 set up a panel to assess the status of Scheduled Tribes with an aim of ensuring their uplift, particularly in socio-economic, health and education fields. The seven-member committee, to be headed by National Advisory Council (NAC) member Virginius Xaxa, has been asked to submit its report in nine months. The Prime Minister's decision came after the government found that the STs, who form 7.5 per cent of the country's population, are not getting enough dues despite the special status in the Constitution. Xaxa, a sociologist, recently joined the NAC headed by Congress President Sonia Gandhi, replacing Aruna Roy who opted out of the Council in May. Members of the Committee are: Usha Ramanathan, Joseph Bara, K.K. Misra; Abhay Bang & Sunila Basant. (D)

185) Which state has the highest proportion of its urban population (85.75%) covered under the National Food Security Ordinance (NFSO), 2013 promulgated in July 2013?

- a) Goa
- b) Bihar
- c) Odisha
- d) Manipur
- e) Himachal Pradesh

The Government has promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance (NFSO), 2013 on July 5, 2013 to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. As per the Ordinance 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, at the all India level, will be entitled to receive 5 kg of subsidised foodgrains per person per month under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana households will however continue to receive 35 kgs of foodgrains per household per month. This information was given by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Prof. K.V. Thomas in Rajya Sabha on August 19, 2013. The State-wise coverage has been determined by the Central Government. Accordingly, based on National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Consumption Expenditure Survey data for 2011-12, the Planning Commission has estimated the State-wise percentage coverage is as follows:

	State/UT	Percentage coverage (%)	
		Rural	Urban
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	60.96	41.14
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	66.31	51.55
3	ASSAM	84.17	60.35
4	BIHAR	85.12	74.53
5	CHHATTISGARH	84.25	59.98
6	NCT OF DELHI	37.69	43.59
7	GOA	42.24	33.02
8	GUJARAT	74.64	48.25
9	HARYANA	54.61	41.05
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	56.23	30.99

11	JAMMU & KASHMIR	63.55	47.10
12	JHARKHAND	86.48	60.20
13	KARNATAKA	76.04	49.36
14	KERALA	52.63	39.50
15	MADHYA PRADESH	80.10	62.61
16	MAHARASHTRA	76.32	45.34
17	MANIPUR	88.56	85.75
18	MEGHALAYA	77.79	50.87
19	MIZORAM	81.88	48.60
20	NAGALAND	79.83	61.98
21	ODISHA	82.17	55.77
22	PUNJAB	54.79	44.83
23	RAJASTHAN	69.09	53.00
24	SIKKIM	75.74	40.36
25	TAMIL NADU	62.55	37.79
26	TRIPURA	74.75	49.54
27	UTTAR PRADESH	79.56	64.43
28	UTTARAKHAND	65.26	52.05
29	WEST BENGAL	74.47	47.55
30	A & N ISLANDS	24.94	1.70
31	CHANDIGARH	38.54	47.26
32	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	84.19	51.54
33	DAMAN & DIU	26.66	56.47
34	LAKSHADWEEP	35.30	33.56
35	PUDUCHERRY	59.68	46.94
	ALL INDIA	75.00	50.00

Minister said that as regards identification, the Ordinance provides that within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the identification of households is to be done by State Governments in accordance with guidelines to be prescribed by them. (d)

- 186)** Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Janata Dal(U) leader _____ passed away at the age of 86 on August 28, 2013.
- Balwant Singh
 - Harikishore Singh
 - Sheikh Jalal-ud-din
 - Raghunath Panigrahi
 - Viresh Pratap Chaudhry

Former Union minister and Janata Dal(U) leader Harikishore Singh passed away in Delhi on August 28, 2013 at the age of 86. Singh was Deputy Chairman of Bihar State Planning Board and had served as Minister of State for External

Affairs in the V P Singh government and as India's Ambassador to Syria during I K Gujral's tenure as Prime Minister. Singh was elected as a Lok Sabha member thrice from Sheohar in Bihar. (B)

- 187)** Which of the following has been rated as the Best City in the World to Live by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Global Liveability Survey in August 2013?
- Sydney
 - Hobart
 - Melbourne
 - Adelaide
 - Brisbane

Melbourne has once again been named the best city in the world to live, according to the latest Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Global Liveability Survey released on August 28, 2013. This is the third consecutive year that the Victorian capital has been at the top of the influential index. The EIU's Liveability Ranking, part of the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, assesses living conditions in 140 cities around the world by assigning a rating across five broad categories of stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. (C)

- 188)** Which private bank and the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) jointly launched a co-branded travel-currency card in US dollar, euro and pound for students in August 2013?
- HDFC Bank
 - IndusInd Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - YES Bank
 - Axis Bank

Axis Bank and the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) on August 29, 2013 jointly launched a co-branded travel-currency card for students. The 'Axis Bank- ISIC Forex Card', would be the first photo travel currency card available in US dollar euro and pound. It can be used across 34 million merchant locations and at over two million MasterCard ATMs globally. The validity of this card is for two years. The ISIC is an internationally recognised identity card which gives allows students to get discounts for traveling, at hotels and restaurants, museums, tourist attractions and so on. It is very useful for students who are living overseas on a budget and have to manage their expenses. Travel currency cards are a good option to lock in foreign currency at a fixed rate while traveling overseas. The card can be loaded with a maximum of \$100,000 per year. (E)

- 189)** Which of the following committees has not been associated with the estimation of poverty line?
- Alagh Committee
 - Lakdawala Committee
 - Narasimham Committee
 - Tendulkar Committee
 - Rangarajan Committee

The methodology for arriving at poverty estimates has been in place for the last several years and various committees in the past have arrived at estimates based upon certain indices of poverty from time to time. These Committees include the Alagh Committee (1977), the Lakdawala Committee (1989) followed by the Tendulkar Committee (2005) which submitted its recommendations in 2009. Former RBI Governor M. Narasimham headed the Committee of Banking Sector Reforms, 1998 also known as the Narasimham Committee. (C)

- 190)** The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) figures for estimation of population Below Poverty Line (BPL) for 2011-12 were released in July 2013. Which committee has been set up for suggesting a new method of poverty estimation from 2014 onwards?
- Venkitaramanan Committee
 - Tarapore Committee
 - Jalan Committee
 - Reddy Committee
 - Rangarajan Committee

The proportion of people living below poverty line (BPL) declined from 37.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 21.9 per cent in 2011-12, as per the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) figures released on July 23, 2013.

The country still counts nearly 26.89 crore poor among its citizens. The total number of people below the poverty line in the country is 26.89 crore as against 40.73 crore in 2004-05.

Rural poverty has declined faster than urban poverty during this period. In urban areas, the poverty rate fell 9.8 percentage points to 13.7 per cent from 37.2 per cent, while in rural areas 16.3 percentage points to 25.7 per cent

from 42 per cent. The number of people living below poverty line is estimated at 21.72 crore in rural areas and 5.2 crore in urban areas in 2011-12 against 32.58 crore and 8.1 crore respectively in 2004-05.

The figures are based on the poverty line of 2011-12 that assumes only those people who spent less than Rs 27.2 per day in villages and Rs 33.33 in urban areas were poor. The Planning Commission selected households' monthly expenditure as the parameter to assess poverty. Rs 4,080 was taken as the poverty line in rural areas and Rs 5,000 in urban areas in 2011-12 — against Rs 3,364 and Rs 4,298 in 2009-10 and Rs 2,233.4 and Rs 2,899 in 2004-05, respectively (assuming a household has five members).

The poverty estimation was done according to the experts group headed by late Suresh Tendulkar submitted in November 2009. The Planning Commission had constituted a committee in June 2012 under the chairmanship of C. Rangarajan to review the methodology of poverty measurement. The Rangarajan committee is expected to submit its report by the middle of 2014 (E)

Poverty Ratio (%)			
	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2011-12	25.7	13.7	21.9
Number of Poor (million)			
	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	328.6	74.5	403.7
2004-05	326.3	80.8	407.1
2011-12	216.5	52.8	269.3

- 191) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released religion-wise unemployment rates for 2009-10 in July 2013. Which of the following had the lowest unemployment rate in rural areas?
- Hindus
 - Sikhs
 - Christians
 - Muslims

Unemployment among Muslims in both rural and urban areas is falling, says the data released by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) on July 19, 2013. The data are estimated on the basis of a person's main activity as well as his subsidiary engagements. The data, calculated on the 66th Round of Survey conducted by the NSSO, is the seventh such data released in the series. Following is a comparison of unemployment rates in 2009-10 with the previous such estimate for 2004-05.

RURAL: **Hindus** had a stable unemployment rate at 1.5 per cent during the five-year period. All others in rural areas saw a decline. The unemployment rate declined from 2.3 per cent in 2004-05 to 1.9 per cent in 2009-10 among rural **Muslims**. The unemployment rate in rural areas was the highest among **Christians**. However, here too, the rate fell from 4.4 per cent in 2004-05 to 3.9 per cent in 2009-10. Among rural **Sikhs**, the rate declined sharply from 3.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent during this period.

URBAN: The unemployment rate among urban **Muslims** fell from 4.1 per cent to 3.2 per cent during the five-year period. The only increase in the unemployment rate was witnessed among urban **Sikhs**. The community saw the rate rise from 4.6 per cent in 2004-05 to 6.1 per cent in 2009-10. This is also the highest unemployment rate among various religious communities in India. The steepest decline in urban areas was witnessed among **Christians**, with the unemployment rate falling by 5.7 percentage points from 8.6 per cent in 2004-05 to 2.9 per cent in 2009-10. In this period, the rate fell from 4.4 per cent to 3.4 per cent among urban **Hindus**. (C)

- 192) Which of the following will use the data and images sent by the INSAT-3D satellite put into space on July 26, 2013?
- Weather monitoring
 - Minerals exploration
 - Mobile telephony
 - Television broadcasting
 - Both (c) & (d)

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) weather satellite INSAT-3D, carrying advanced weather monitoring payloads, was on July 26, 2013 launched successfully by Ariane-5 (VA214) launch vehicle from Kourou, French Guiana. The Ariane-5 launch vehicle lifted off right on schedule at 01:24 hours IST on July 26. After a flight of 32

minutes and 48 seconds, INSAT-3D was placed in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), very close to the intended one.

Soon after the separation of INSAT-3D from the Ariane-5's upper cryogenic stage, the satellite's solar panel automatically got deployed. ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took over the control of INSAT-3D immediately. In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be performed on INSAT-3D using the satellite's own propulsion system to place it in the 36,000 km high Geostationary Orbit.

Payloads: With a lift-off mass of 2060 kg, INSAT-3D carries four payloads – Imager, Sounder, Data Relay Transponder and Satellite Aided Search & Rescue payload.

Locations: Space Applications Centre – Ahmedabad; National Remote Sensing Centre – Hyderabad; Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre – Mahendragiri, Bangalore; ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network – Bangalore (A)

- 193) The government on July 20, 2013 set in motion the process of setting up model schools under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode by agreeing to bear the expense of educating poor students. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- These schools will be run by the private sector
 - These schools will have CBSE syllabus
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I & II
 - Neither I nor II

The government on July 20, 2013 set in motion the process of setting up model schools under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode by agreeing to bear the expense of educating poor students, drawing interests from around 65 private players including ITC Ltd, Jindal Education & Welfare Society, Zee Learn Ltd and Educomp Solutions.

At least 40% of total students in these schools will have to be from economically weaker sections of society for whom education will be free, but only from class 6th onwards. However, the schools under this model will come up only in the areas which are not educationally backward as classified by the ministry of human resource development since private players are interested in these areas only. The minimum number of total student strength in such schools will have to be 1,000 and maximum 2,500. However, the model concession agreement will be approved by an inter-ministerial committee by July 31.

The government will reimburse the cost of education of such students, while the private sector will provide land and capital for construction of school buildings. The remaining students in the schools who are not reimbursed by the government will pay fees as per the norms set by the schools.

The government will reimburse the private sector at the rate of around Rs 2,000-2,500 per month for each student from economically poor background, which will also include a part of the capital expenditure incurred by the private sector. The reimbursement will be for 10 years, with a clause to escalate the reimbursement by 5% every year. The concession agreement provides that after class VII, the school can charge a nominal Rs 50 fee from the poor students as well.

Human Resource Development minister Pallam Raju said in the first stage 41 blocks have been identified in 9 states where the schools will start. The schools will also have necessary component of vocational training.

The schools will be run and constructed as per CBSE guidelines. Private sector will also arrange for training of teachers. (C)

- 194) The government in July 2013 decided to allow corporates to set up Electoral Trusts which can receive contributions to fund political parties. Which of the following statements regarding these Electoral Trusts is/are correct?
- They are not allowed to accept contributions from non-resident Indian citizens
 - They are not allowed to accept contributions from foreign citizens or companies
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I & II
 - Neither I nor II

To bring in greater transparency in corporate funding of political parties' poll expenses, the government has paved way for setting up of 'Electoral Trust' companies that would get tax benefits for funds given to various political outfits.

The latest move would allow the entities to register non-profit companies having 'Electoral Trust' as part of their names, thus differentiating them from the companies having other business interests.

The Corporate Affairs Ministry on July 21, 2013 amended its 'Name Availability Guidelines' for the companies to enable registration of such entities.

As per the scheme, such companies can get tax benefits only if they distribute 95 per cent of total contributions received by them in any financial year to the registered political parties within that year itself. Besides, they cannot receive any contribution in cash and they are required to take the Permanent Account Number of all contributors who are resident Indians and passport number of non-resident Indian citizens at the time of receiving the contribution. These Electoral Trust companies are not allowed to accept contributions from foreign citizens or companies.

Many business conglomerates, including Tatas, Aditya Birla group and Bharti Groups, have in the past disclosed having made contributions to different political parties through their trusts. However, there have been concerns that a lack of transparency in such funding procedures, prompting the government to come out with a clear set of regulations in this regard (B)

- 195) Which was the first monument to be adopted by a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the 'Clean India Campaign' of the Union Tourism Ministry in June 2012?
- Humayun's Tomb, Delhi
 - Khajuraho Group of Monuments
 - Qutb Minar and its Monuments
 - Red Fort Complex
 - Sun Temple, Konârak

With an aim of attracting more tourists in the country by improving cleanliness and hygiene conditions at tourist destinations, Tourism Minister K. Chiranjeevi on August 28, 2013 launched the 'Clean India Campaign' at world heritage site, Taj Mahal, Agra. The 17th Century marble mausoleum, which has been adopted by Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) ONGC, is the second site to be covered under this project. The first— Qutub Minar in New Delhi—was adopted by the India Tourism Development Corporation in June 2012. The Clean India Campaign has been initiated by the Ministry of Tourism with the objective of increasing tourist arrivals in the country, improving quality of services, and providing a hygienic environment in and around tourist destinations across the country. "Tourism is the most understated and under-utilised industry in the country. We at ONGC spend about Rs. 400-500 crore on CSR activities, which is about 2 per cent of our profit," ONGC CMD Sudhir Vasudeva said. (C)

- 196) Which of the following became the first High Court in the country to introduce online payment of court fee in July 2013?
- Delhi High Court
 - Madras High Court
 - Mumbai High Court
 - Guwahati High Court
 - Madhya Pradesh High Court

The Delhi High Court on July 22, 2013 introduced online payment of court fee, the first such facility in the country which will save litigants from standing in long queues at the counter. "A user will be able to purchase court fee to any extent and hold it in credit in his/her own account from which the user will be able to utilise the exact amount of court fee needed per transaction," a release said. The 'e-court fee' facility, which can be availed either through debit card or net banking, is a joint effort of the Delhi High Court and the Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd. "Court fee to the extent of Rs 20,000 could be purchased at one time for which the charges will be Rs six for payment by net banking or Rs 20 plus tax for payment by debit card..." the release said. The print out of the e-court fee receipts containing a bar code for precise amount required for a transaction will be produced at the time of filing of any petition or application. According to the release, the advantage of the system is that court fee is available easily as and when the user desires. (A)

- 197) Dongria Kondh tribals are opposing the mining of the ore used for extracting which of the following metals in Odisha?
- Iron
 - Mica
 - Zinc
 - Copper
 - Aluminium

The Dongria Kondhs of Kunakeda in Kalahandi district on July 24, 2013 declared that worshipping their presiding deity, Niyamraja, was their birthright and no force on earth could snatch away their religious right. Repeating the trend witnessed in other palli (gram) sabhas held as per the Supreme Court directive to find out whether mining in Niyamgiri hills was against their religious beliefs, the fourth gram sabha held at Kunakeda near Lanjigarh on July 24, 2013 adopted a unanimous resolution opposing bauxite (ore of aluminium) mining in Niyamgiri hills by the Orissa Mining Corporation and Vedanta. This was the fourth gram sabha among 12 notified by the Odisha Government in Kalahandi and Rayagada district. All the areas are hit by Maoist activity. (E)

- 198) Who among the following has co-authored the recently released book 'The New Bihar – Rekindling Governance Development' with US economist Nicholas Stern?
- Yogendra Yadav
 - Ravi Venkatesan
 - Jean Dreze
 - NK Singh
 - UN Jha

Public Money, Private Agenda — The Use and Abuse of MPLADS by A. Surya Prakash; Conquering The Chaos: Win in India, Win Everywhere Else by Ravi Venkatesan; "The New Bihar - Rekindling Governance Development" edited by NK Singh and US economist Nicholas Stern (D)

- 199) Obaid Siddiqi, who passed away at the age of 81 in July 2013, was an acclaimed:
- Physicist
 - Biologist
 - Geologist
 - Historian
 - Anthropologist

Obaid Siddiqi, a biologist whose pioneering work shed light on how taste and smell are detected and coded in brain, passed away on July 24 at the age of 81. Prof. Siddiqi (81) was a National Research Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore. He has been honoured with the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Bhatnagar Prize and many other awards. Meanwhile M. Ramakrishnayya (93), founder chairman of NABARD and former RBI deputy governor, passed away in Hyderabad on July 22. (B)

- 200) C.P. Srivastava, who passed away at the age of 93 in July 2013, served as Secretary General of which of the following for more than 15 years?
- World Tourism Organization
 - International Labour Organisation
 - World Meteorological Organization
 - International Maritime Organisation
 - United Nations Conference on Trade & Development

The maritime world lost a pioneering leader and visionary with the passing of C.P. Srivastava (93), Padma Vibhushan and Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in Genoa in Italy on July 22, 2013. IMO Secretary-General from 1974 to 1989, Srivastava was the force behind key maritime conventions and codes that greatly contributed to enhanced crew safety, high training standards and security on the high seas. Srivastava also authored the biography, 'Lal Bahadur Shastri: A Life of Truth in Politics' and the book 'Corruption: India's Enemy Within'. (D)

- 201) Arun Nehru, who passed away at the age of 69 in July 2013, served as the Minister of State for Internal Security under which of the following Prime Ministers?
- Indira Gandhi
 - Rajiv Gandhi
 - Inder Kumar Gujral
 - P. V. Narasimha Rao
 - Atal Behari Vajpayee

Arun Nehru (69), former union minister who was an influential figure during the prime ministership of Rajiv Gandhi, passed away on July 25. A cousin of Rajiv Gandhi, Nehru had a successful career in the corporate world before joining politics in the early 1980s. When Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister in 1984, he was his close adviser and minister of state for internal security. However, he fell out with Rajiv later and was accused by the CBI of causing a loss to the exchequer in a pistol deal with Czechoslovakia in 1988 during his tenure as minister of state. The Supreme Court had recently stayed the proceedings in the case. (B)

202) Khurshheed Alam Khan, who passed away at the age 95 in July 2013, was associated with the foundation of:

- Jamia Millia Islamia University
- Aligarh Muslim University
- Barkatullah University
- Osmania University
- Aliah University

Khurshheed Alam Khan, a former Union Minister and father of External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, passed away on July 20 at the age of 95. Khan had served as Minister of State under the late Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. Khan, who was in a major way responsible for creation of the Jamia Millia Islamia as an independent university through a Parliamentary law, had served as Chancellor of the university. **(A)**

203) Former RBI Deputy Governor M. Ramakrishnayya passed away at the age 93 in July 2013. He was the founder Chairman of which of the following organisations?

- National Housing Bank (NHB)
- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

M. Ramakrishnayya (93), founder chairman of NABARD and former RBI deputy governor, passed away in Hyderabad on July 22, 2013. Ramakrishnayya, a former Chief Secretary of Orissa, was called to join the RBI where he was later appointed as the chairman of the newly constituted NABARD which he served between 1982 and 1984. After retirement, he founded Hum Sab Hindustani Trust after the Babri Masjid demolition which focussed on overcoming past memories for co-existing peacefully. **(E)**

204) Minister Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao, who passed away at the age of 66 in July 2013, was the spokesman of which of the following political parties in Andhra Pradesh?

- TRS
- TDP
- BJP
- Congress (I)
- YSR Congress

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) spokesman and former Minister Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao (66) passed away on July 20, 2013. A key aide of Union Minister K Chiranjeevi, Rao began his political career in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and was elected to the Assembly from Chintalapudi constituency five times in a row from 1983. He was a Minister in the cabinets of N T Rama Rao and Nara Chandrababu Naidu and held important portfolios like Agriculture and Major Industries. In 2008, Rao quit TDP and joined Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) floated by Chiranjeevi and remained the actor-turned- politician's key aide. Upon the PRP's merger with the Congress, Rao was appointed the APCC spokesman. **(D)**

205) Which of the following is India's most admired company according to Fortune magazine in July 2013?

- TCS
- Titan
- Tata Steel
- Tata Motors
- Tata Chemicals

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) replaced its group firm Tata Steel as India's most admired company, according to a Fortune list released on July 9, 2013. TCS is followed by Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys and SBI in the top-five. Tata Steel has slipped to seventh position in the list of India's 50 most admired companies. Both ITC and Infosys are ranked at the third position. The rankings have taken into account various factors such as corporate governance, innovativeness, CSR and leadership. L&T (6th rank), Maruti Suzuki (9th) and ICICI Bank (10th) also feature in the top ten. Among state-run enterprises, SBI and ONGC are in the top ten, ranked at fifth and eighth positions, respectively. **(A)**

206) Who among the following was appointed as the new Director at the New Delhi-based National School of Drama in July 2013?

- Vijaya Mehta
- Girish Karnad
- Ebrahim Alkazi
- Waman Kendre

e) Arundhati Nag

Marathi theatre veteran Waman Kendre was appointed as the new director of the New Delhi-based National School of Drama (NSD) on July 30, 2013. Kendre, a student of NSD has done his post-graduation and research in Kerala's folklore. He was one of the frontrunners of the Dalit theatre movement in Maharashtra in the late 70s and currently heads the Academy of Theatre Arts, Mumbai University. The appointment was announced by Union Culture Minister Chandresh Kumari Katoch. **(D)**

207) Rajan Gupta was appointed as the new Director of which of the following organisations in July 2013?

- National Security Guard (NSG)
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D)
- National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence (NDRF&CD)

Rajan Gupta on July 24, 2013 took charge as Director General (DG) in Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D). This information was given in a press note issued by Ministry of Home. **(D)**

208) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of French Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian who visited India in July 2013?

- Kapil Sibal
- AK Antony
- Salman Khurshid
- M. Veerappa Moily
- M. M. Pallam Raju

According top priority to the Rafale medium multirole combat aircraft (MMRCA) deal with India, visiting French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on July 26 said the negotiations were "going on well." Le Drian said this while delivering a lecture on "Indo-French Defence Partnership: The Choice of Strategic Autonomy" at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi. French firm Dassault Aviation had won the \$15 billion contract to sell 126 French Rafale MMRCA to the Indian Air Force in 2012. France has emerged as a key player in defence cooperation with India, bagging several big contracts including the deal for building six Scorpene submarines for the Navy, though it has been further delayed. **(B)**

209) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of USA's Raymond T. Odierno who visited India in July 2013?

- K. Antony
- M. Hamid Ansari
- General Bikram Singh
- Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne

The US Army Chief, General Raymond T. Odierno met Chief of Army Staff, General Bikram Singh during his visit to New Delhi on July 24, 2013. General Odierno also met Defence Minister, A. K. Antony, on July 24. **(C)**

210) Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's coalition won the majority in the elections to the Upper House of Parliament in July 2013. What is it called?

- Senate
- National Council
- Federation Council
- House of Councillors
- House of Representatives

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its ally New Komeito (NK) won 71 of the 121 seats contested in the election to the House of Councillors, the upper house of the National Diet (Japan's Parliament) held on July 21, 2013. The LDP now has 115 seats while its ally NK has 20. This gives the ruling coalition a comfortable majority in the 242-seat Upper House. The victory gives Abe control of both houses of Parliament for the first time in six years. Abe, 58, returned to power after a big win in the December 2012 election for the Lower House (House of Representatives). **(D)**

211) India seeking gas supply deals from the South Yolotan Osman and Galkynysh gasfields from which of the following?

- Iran
- Qatar

- c) Tajikistan
- d) Uzbekistan
- e) Turkmenistan

To tap new gas supplies, the government has asked all major oil and gas companies to kickstart a feasibility study on exploring the giant Galkynsh gas field located in Turkmenistan. Though India is pursuing the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline project, a stake in the gas field could further strengthen gas supply from the central Asian country. In July 2013, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, M Veerappa Moily said Turkmenistan has agreed to consider offering a stake in the giant field and it would be built by an international consortium in which, India would also have equity participation. The proposed 1,735 km TAPI pipeline would run from the South Yolotan Osman fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, where it would follow the highway running from Herat to Kandahar, and then via Quetta and Multan in Pakistan, with the final destination being Fazilka in Punjab, India. (E)

- 212)** Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of USA's Joseph Biden who visited India in July 2013?
- a) K. Antony
 - b) M. Hamid Ansari
 - c) P. Chidambaram
 - d) Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
 - e) Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne

The US on July 23, 2013 stressed the need for removal of bottlenecks to enhance trade ties with India and emphasised on the reforms process to encourage business as Vice President Joseph Biden held meetings with top Indian leadership, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Biden was in India on a four-day maiden visit. The Cumulative FDI Equity Inflows from the US during the period April 2000 to January 2012 amounted to about USD 10.36 billion, constituting 6 per cent of the total FDI into India. The two leaders also discussed the situation in the region with Biden describing US withdrawal plans from Afghanistan and future strategy for the peace and stability there. The US Vice President also met his Indian counterpart Hamid Ansari during which they had a wide ranging discussion on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as regional issues including Afghanistan. The Vice President also called on President Pranab Mukherjee and held meetings with Leader of Opposition Sushma Swaraj. (B)

- 213)** India has signed MoU with which of the following for a joint Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) to promote energy efficient designs for new buildings in July 2013?
- a) Singapore
 - b) Switzerland
 - c) UK
 - d) The Netherlands
 - e) USA

Indian and Swiss governments have entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding to utilise Swiss expertise for designing energy efficient buildings in the country. "After extensive consultations and pilot projects, our two governments have signed a five-year MoU to facilitate the adoption of Swiss expertise to the Indian context," Swiss Ambassador Linus Von Castelmuur said on July 23, 2013. The Indo-Swiss project on Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) brings together builders, developers and state agencies, among others, to promote energy efficient designs for new buildings. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). (B)

- 214)** Which neighbouring country was offered a stake in the Tipaimukh hydel project by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in July 2013?
- a) Nepal
 - b) China
 - c) Bhutan
 - d) Myanmar
 - e) Bangladesh

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on July 26, 2013 offered Bangladesh a stake in the Tipaimukh hydel project, which has been a bone of contention ever since it was conceived in the mid-1980s. Singh suggested to visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni that Dhaka could join the yet-to-take-off project in Manipur as a stakeholder. Opposition to the project ebbed in Bangladesh after India took Dhaka into confidence on all aspects of the dam, including providing it with techno-economic feasibility reports, holding more surveys and lowering the height of the dam. It still remains an emotive issue. Partnership in Tipaimukh could also lead to a partnership between the two countries in Bangladesh, for nine hydel projects under construction, or being planned in the north-east, including Teesta III and IV, and Subansiri. Though both countries have resolved a large number of bilateral issues, India has been unable to resolve outstanding issues relating to the land boundary agreement (LBA) and the Teesta river. The Prime Minister acknowledged that

India is to ratify the LBA agreement and assured Moni that his government intended to take it to Parliament. The Prime Minister said the government was seeking national consensus on the issue of Teesta waters. (E)

- 215)** The Regional Meeting of WHO-FCTC was organised in New Delhi in July 2013. WHO-FCTC stands for WHO-Framework Convention on _____ Control.
- a) Tumour
 - b) Typhoid
 - c) Tetanus
 - d) Tobacco
 - e) Tuberculosis

India has proposed a total ban on e-cigarettes and regulating proliferation of hookah (water pipes) use to prevent adverse impact on human health. The recommendation made at the regional meeting of WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) that concluded in New Delhi on July 26, 2013, was backed by all 11 members of South-East Asian region countries with the nations committing themselves to take measures to their use, including imposing a ban. E-cigarettes and hookahs are much in fashion and received promotion following the implementation of stringent anti-smoking laws. Both are unlicensed products and e-cigarettes are being illegally smuggled into India. (D)

- 216)** The G20 _____ was organised in Russia on September 5-6, 2013.
- a) Leaders' Summit 2013
 - b) Trade Ministers' Meeting
 - c) Labour Ministers' Meeting
 - d) Foreign Ministers' Meeting
 - e) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

Moscow hosted the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting on July 19-20, 2013. The meeting agenda included the issues: the G20 Framework agreement for strong, sustainable and balanced growth; the financial regulation reforms and financial inclusion, and also financing for investment, counteracting tax base erosion and profit shifting, as well as energy sustainability, commodity markets transparency and climate finance. The G20 Leaders' Summit was organised on September 5-6, 2013 at St. Petersburg, Russia. (A)

- 217)** MERS-CoV was an infectious disease notified by the WHO in July 2013. Countries in which continent have been affected by its outbreak?
- a) Asia
 - b) Africa
 - c) Europe
 - d) Australia
 - e) South America

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on July 26, 2013 issued an interim travel advice on the Middle East respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) which has affected nine countries so far. It provides guidance to national authorities of countries from which pilgrims will be travelling in the coming months for Umra and Haj, for the prevention, detection and management of imported cases of MERS-CoV. Since at this time the risk to an individual pilgrim of contracting is considered very low, it does not recommend any travel or travel restrictions or entry screening. (A)

- 218)** Which ASEAN capital has been named the "World Book Capital" for the year 2013 by UNESCO?
- a) Manila
 - b) Bangkok
 - c) Jakarta
 - d) Vientiane
 - e) Bandar Seri Begawan

The committee in charge of international book industry has named South Korean city of Incheon the "World Book Capital" for the year 2015, the UNESCO announced in Paris on July 20, 2013. The nomination was made by an international committee of experts representing the book industry and UNESCO, who met July 16 at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova endorsed the committee's decision and welcomed the number and quality of applications received by UNESCO for the title of World Book Capital 2015. The nomination does not imply any financial prize, but an exclusively symbolic acknowledgement of the best programme dedicated to books and reading. Incheon comes as the 15th city to be crowned with "World Book Capital", after Bangkok in 2013 and Port Harcourt in 2014. (B)

- 219)** Santiago de Compostela in Spain was in news for a major _____ in July 2013.

- Flood
- Earthquake
- Train accident
- Terrorist attack
- Volcanic eruption

A train hurtled off the tracks in northwest Spain killing at least 78 passengers and injuring more than 140 on July 25, 2013, the country's deadliest rail disaster in more than 40 years. The accident happened at 8:42 pm on July 24 as the train carrying 218 passengers and four staff was about to enter Santiago de Compostela station in the northwestern region of Galicia. The train had left Madrid and was heading for the ship-building coastal town of Ferrol as the Galicia region was preparing celebrations in honour of its patron saint James. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, a native of Santiago de Compostela, visited the scene of the accident and declared three days of mourning. King Juan Carlos and Crown Prince Felipe called off their public engagements out of respect for the victims. (C)

- 220)** Julian Assange's WikiLeaks Party was in news for contesting general elections in which country in September 2013?
- Norway
 - Spain
 - Sweden
 - Australia
 - United Kingdom

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on July 25, 2013 officially launched his political party to contest Australian elections in 2013. Assange, the Australian founder of the whistleblowing website, said the WikiLeaks Party would contest general elections organised on September 7, 2013 for both House of Representatives and the Senate. (D)

- 221)** Rangaswami Krishnamurti, who passed away at the age of 96 in July 2013, was associated with which of the following for a long time?
- World Tourism Organization
 - International Labour Organisation
 - World Meteorological Organization
 - International Maritime Organisation
 - United Nations Conference on Trade & Development

Rangaswami Krishnamurti, a former high-ranking staff member of UNCTAD, who was instrumental in the organization's founding, passed away on July 18, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio, United States. He was born in 1917 in Tamil Nadu. During a long international career in economics, much of it spent at UNCTAD, he rose to become the Director of the organization's then Manufactures Division, and served as Chief of the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. He helped to bring about the establishment of the Asian Development Bank during an early and successful career with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. As an UNCTAD staff member, Krishnamurti was instrumental in one of the organization's major achievements, the Generalized System of Preferences, through which developing countries are given special access to developed-country markets for various categories of exports. (E)

- 222)** How much cash prize was given to each winner of the 2013 Ramon Magsaysay Award on August 31, 2013?
- \$ 10,000
 - \$ 25,000
 - \$ 50,000
 - \$ 75,000
 - \$ 100,000

The Board of Trustees of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) on July 25, 2013 announced that this year three individuals and two organizations from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and the Philippines will receive Asia's premier prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award. The Awardees are:

Ernesto Domingo, from the Philippines: He is being recognized for "his exemplary embrace of the social mission of medical science and his profession, his steadfast leadership in pursuing 'health for all' as a shared moral responsibility of all sectors, and his groundbreaking and successful advocacy for neonatal hepatitis vaccination, thereby saving millions of lives in the Philippines."

Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (Corruption Eradication Commission), from Indonesia: The organization is being recognized for "its fiercely independent and successful campaign against corruption in Indonesia, combining the uncompromising prosecution of erring powerful officials with farsighted reforms in governance systems and the educative promotion of vigilance, honesty, and active citizenship among all Indonesians."

Lahpai Seng Raw, from Myanmar: A humanitarian worker from Myanmar's Kachin minority, Raw is being recognized for "her quietly inspiring and inclusive leadership—in the midst of deep ethnic divides and prolonged armed conflict—to regenerate and empower damaged communities and to strengthen local NGOs in promoting a non-violent culture of participation and dialogue as the foundation for Myanmar's peaceful future."

Habiba Sarabi, from Afghanistan: Afghanistan's first and only female governor, Sarabi is being recognized for "her bold exercise of leadership to build up a functioning provincial government against great odds—intractable political adversities, a harsh and impoverished environment, and pervasive cultural discrimination—serving her people with a hopeful persistence grounded in her abiding commitment to peace and development in Afghanistan"

Shakti Samuha "Power Group", from Nepal: The organization's founders and members are being recognized for "transforming their lives in service to other human trafficking survivors, their passionate dedication towards rooting out a pernicious social evil in Nepal, and the radiant example they have shown the world in reclaiming the human dignity that is the birthright of all abused women and children everywhere."

About the award: Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honour and is widely regarded as the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine president, and is given every year to individuals or organizations. This year's Magsaysay Award winners received a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize of \$ 50,000 in Manila on August 31, 2013. (C)

- 223)** Who among the following was awarded this year's German "Whistleblower Prize" in July 2013?
- Julian Assange
 - Bradley Manning
 - Edward Snowden
 - All the above
 - None of the above

Former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who exposed the most extensive US global surveillance operations, was on July 25, 2013 awarded this year's German "Whistleblower Prize" worth \$3,900 in absentia. "Snowden has done a great public service by exposing the massive and unsuspecting monitoring and storage of communication data by US and other western intelligence agencies, which cannot be accepted in democratic societies," Berlin-based whistleblower prize jury said in a statement. The whistleblower prize is awarded once in two years to honour persons, who "expose in public interest grave social injustices and dangerous developments for individuals and the society, democracy, peace and environment". The prize was instituted in 1999 by the German section of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) and the Association of German Scientists. (C)

- 224)** The Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards for 2010 were conferred on July 23, 2013. Which newspaper group gives these annual awards?
- The Times of India
 - Hindustan Times
 - Indian Express
 - Deccan Herald
 - The Hindu

The finest in Indian journalism were honoured at the Sixth Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards in New Delhi on July 23, 2013. Twenty-nine journalists in 17 categories, picked by a 10-member jury, were awarded with the benchmark for excellence award in Indian journalism. In this edition Awards were given for work done in 2010. Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam presided over the ceremony.

BROADCAST WINNERS

Journalist of the year (Broadcast): Ravish Kumar (NDTV India); Reporting from J&K and the Northeast (Broadcast): Mufti Islah (CNN-IBN); Hindi (Broadcast): Umashankar Singh (NDTV India); Regional Languages (Broadcast): Kamlesh Bholanath Deorukhkar (IBN Lokmat); Environmental Reporting (Broadcast): Divya Srinivasan (NEWSX); Uncovering India Invisible (Broadcast): Rupashree Nanda (CNN-IBN); Business and Economic Journalism (Broadcast): Latha Venkatesh (CNBC TV18); Reporting on Politics and Government (Broadcast): Smita Sharma (IBN7); Sports Journalism (Broadcast): Smriti Advani (CNN-IBN); Sports Journalism (Broadcast): Priyanka Dube (CNN-IBN); Film and Television Journalism (Broadcast): Geeta Datta (NEWSX); On-the-Spot Reporting (Broadcast): Hridayesh Joshi (NDTV India); Investigative Reporting (Broadcast): Harinder Baweja (Headlines Today);

PRINT WINNERS

Journalist of the year (Print): Josy Joseph (The Times of India); Reporting from J&K and the Northeast (Print): Mehboob Jeelani (The Caravan); Hindi (Print): Atul Chaurasia (Tehelka); Regional Languages (Print): Prajeshsen G

(Madhyamam Daily); Environmental Reporting (Print): Shalini Singh (The Hindustan Times); Uncovering India Invisible (Print): Supriya Sharma (The Times of India); Reporting on Politics and Government (Print): Vandita Mishra (The Indian Express); **Lifetime contribution to Indian journalism:** Inder Malhotra; Foreign correspondent reporting on India: Amy Kazmin (Financial Times); Best Commentary and Interpretative Writing: Vidya Subrahmaniam (The Hindu). (C)

- 225) Which book by Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri was released in July 2013?
- Harvest
 - Unexploded
 - The Lowland
 - The Luminaries
 - The Spinning Heart

Pulitzer-winner Jhumpa Lahiri is among the 13 writers longlisted for this year's £50,000 Man Booker Prize described by judges in July 2013 as "the most diverse" selection in many years. Lahiri, whose debut novel The Namesake was made into a critically acclaimed film, has been chosen for her much-anticipated new novel 'The Lowland'. Set in India and America, it is said to be a "poignant" and "deeply-felt" novel about family ties, grief and dislocation. Others in the list include: NoViolet Bulawayo (We Need New Names); Eve Harris (The Marrying of Chani Kaufman); Donal Ryan (The Spinning Heart); Tash Aw, (Five Star Billionaire); Eleanor Catton (The Luminaries); Jim Crace (Harvest); Alison MacLeod (Unexploded); Colum McCann (TransAtlantic); Charlotte Mendelson (Almost English); and Ruth Ozeki (A Tale for the Time Being). (C)

- 226) Who among the following was conferred with the Asian Business Leaders Award 2013 for his 'impressive business credentials' and service to society by London-based Asia House in July 2013?
- Ratan Tata
 - Azim Premji
 - Mukesh Ambani
 - Sunil Bharti Mittal
 - Kumar Mangalam Birla

Wipro chairman Azim Premji has been awarded the Asian Business Leaders Award 2013 for his 'impressive business credentials' and service to society by London-based Asia House. Azim Premji was selected to receive this year's award because of his impressive business credentials and his significant efforts to inspire a commitment in others to improving society,' Asia House said in a statement in London on July 24, 2013. Premji, 68, founder and chairman of Wipro- India's leading global information technology consulting and outsourcing company - is known for his business acumen as well as philanthropy. Earlier this year, he became the first Indian to sign up to the Giving Pledge, an undertaking led by the likes of Bill Gates and Warren Buffet for the world's billionaires to dedicate a majority of their wealth to philanthropy. (B)

- 227) Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) accords the same rights and remedies to the payee against dishonour of electronic funds transfer instructions because of insufficiency of funds as are available under Section 138 of the _____.
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
 - Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
 - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
 - Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 2006
 - None of the above

Auto and home loan borrowers need not give post-dated cheques towards EMIs as the Reserve Bank of India has directed banks to collect monthly instalments through electronic mode, wherever the facility for such fund transfer is available. Banks are advised that no fresh or additional post-dated cheques (PDC) or EMI cheques shall be accepted at locations where Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) is available, the RBI said in a notification on July 24, 2013. The notification said that ECS accords the same rights and remedies to the payee against dishonour of electronic funds transfer instructions because of insufficiency of funds as are available under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. Cheques complying with CTS-2010 standard formats shall alone be obtained in locations where the facility of ECS is not available, it added. (B)

- 228) The Reserve Bank of India on July 22, 2013 said banks need to retain _____ of the imported gold in customs bonded warehouses, and will only be able to further import gold after exporting at least 75% of the gold from those warehouses.
- 10%
 - 20%
 - 30%

- 40%
- 50%

The Reserve Bank of India on July 22, 2013 moved to tighten gold imports again in an attempt to rein-in a record high current account deficit by taming demand for the yellow metal. The RBI asked all nominated banks and agencies to export at least one-fifth of every lot of imported gold in all forms, and locally make it available only for jewellers. The central bank said banks need to retain 20% of the imported gold in customs bonded warehouses, and will only be able to further import gold after exporting at least 75% of the gold from those warehouses. In June 2013, the RBI had ruled out any transactions for imports unless they were intended to make jewellery for export, as it looks to rein in a record current account deficit. India's current account deficit hit a record high 4.8% of gross domestic product in the fiscal year that ended in March, fuelled by rising imports of oil and gold. (B)

- 229) Banks will now be required to conduct full KYC data updation at least once every _____ for low risk individuals and entities, according to the new know-your-customer (KYC) updation norms announced by the RBI on July 23, 2013.
- Two years
 - Three years
 - Five years
 - Eight years
 - Ten years

Banks would now be required to update know-your-customer (KYC) data only once in two years for high risk entities, and just once in 10 years for low-risk clients, RBI said on July 23, 2013. "The issue has been reviewed in the light of practical difficulties/constraints expressed by bankers/customers in obtaining/submitted fresh KYC documents at frequent intervals as the relative documents submitted earlier specially by low- risk customers have remained unchanged in most of the accounts," RBI said.

RBI has asked banks to exercise full KYC procedure at least once every two years for high risk individuals and entities, from the earlier directive of not less than once in two years.

For low risk individuals and entities, the KYC data updation has been relaxed to at least once every 10 years from the requirement of not less than once in five years earlier.

For medium risk individuals and entities it has been relaxed to at least once every eight years, from not less than once in two years.

The RBI said banks might continue carrying out on-going due diligence with respect to business relationship with every client. Also, banks should closely examine transactions to ensure its consistency with their knowledge of the client, about their business and risk profile and, wherever necessary, the source of funds.

RBI further asked banks positive confirmation regarding KYC norms through e-mail, letter, telephonic conversation and so on would be required to be completed at least every two years for medium risk and at least every three years for low risk individuals and entities.

Besides, it said banks would be required to get fresh photographs from minor customer on becoming major. "Banks may revise their KYC policy in the light of the above instructions and ensure strict adherence to the same," it said. (E)

- 230) The Reserve Bank has increased the minimum daily Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) balance maintenance requirement for banks to _____ from July 27, 2013.
- 70%
 - 75%
 - 76%
 - 99%
 - 100%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 23, 2013 announced further measures to soak up excess cash with banks as it struggled to find ways to restrict the volatility in the exchange rate of the rupee.

Availability of LAF for a bank capped at 0.5% of NDTL: The Reserve Bank of India on July 23, 2013 notified that the total quantum of funds available to a bank under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) will be capped at 0.50 percent of the individual bank's Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL). The above changes in LAF will come into effect from July 24. For the purpose of arriving at an individual bank's limit, the NDTL would be the same as being reckoned for the purpose of maintenance of CRR during a reporting fortnight. Accordingly, the earlier notification dated July 16,

2013 regarding cap on overall allocation of funds at Rs. 75,000 crore under LAF stands withdrawn. LAF is a facility through which banks draw money when they are short or where they park excess funds with the apex bank (in case of excess liquidity) on an overnight basis against the collateral of government securities, including state government bonds.

Availability of LAF for a Primary Dealer capped at 100% of NDTL: The Reserve Bank of India on July 23, 2013 notified that the total amount of funds available to a standalone Primary Dealer (PD) under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) will be capped at 100 per cent of the individual PD's net owned funds as per the latest audited balance sheet. The above changes in LAF will come into effect from July 24, 2013. Presently, additional LAF repo is conducted on reporting Fridays. Under the new arrangement, the cap for the individual PD will apply to the combined allocation of funds in the morning and additional LAF repo.

Change in daily minimum Cash Reserve maintenance requirement: Currently, banks are allowed to maintain a minimum of 70 per cent of the required Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) during a fortnight, which is applicable on all days of the reporting fortnight. The Reserve Bank on July 23, 2013 decided to increase the requirement of minimum daily CRR balance maintenance to 99 per cent effective from the first day of the fortnight beginning July 27, 2013. CRR is that portion of deposits that banks must maintain with the RBI. It now stands at 4 per cent. All banks have to compulsorily maintain a cash balance with the RBI on a fortnightly basis to comply with this requirement.

The objective of the RBI behind these steps is to cut rupee liquidity so that it does not flow into the forex market (buying of dollars), thereby hurting the rupee. The rupee has fallen by 8.6 per cent against the US dollar in the first quarter (April to June). (D)

- 231)** Connaught Place in Delhi has been named as the _____ most expensive office location in the world by property consultant C B Richard Ellis (CBRE) in June 2013.
- Second
 - Third
 - Fourth
 - Fifth
 - Sixth

Strong demand coupled with Connaught Place's central location, excellent access to key regional markets and limited availability of prime office space, has fuelled the area's rising occupancy costs. Connaught Place, located in the heart of the national capital, has been ranked fifth in the list of world's most expensive office market owing to strong demand amid limited supply, property consultant C B Richard Ellis (CBRE) said on June 24. Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and Nariman Point is at 11th and 26th positions, respectively. The most expensive office markets often attract the regional headquarters of large multinational firms that require a prime location in a prestigious building with access to major global and regional transit routes. (A)

- 232)** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was in June 2013 selected to host the World Twenty20 in _____ and 50-over World Cup in _____.
- 2017, 2020
 - 2023, 2016
 - 2016, 2023
 - 2023, 2021
 - 2015, 2019

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been selected to host the World Twenty20 for the first time in 2016 and its fourth 50-over World Cup in 2023. The BCCI was awarded the two events during the International Cricket Council (ICC) Annual Conference that ended in London on June 29, 2013. India was represented by interim chief Jagmohan Dalmiya. During the conference, the ICC finalised its global events from 2015 to 2023 and decided that full members have to play a minimum of 16 Tests over a four-year period to retain their Test status. The inaugural ICC World Test Championship will be staged in 2017 and will be hosted by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) June-July. The second edition, slated for 2021, will be held in India in February-March. The ECB will also host the 2019 World Cup and Cricket Australia (CA) got the hosting rights of the 2020 World Twenty20. All ODIs played over the four-year cycle between ICC Cricket World Cups count towards a team's ranking. Also, the ODI rankings and T20 rankings period will be changed from three years to four years. (C)

- 233)** The Reserve Bank of India on July 22, 2013 brought down the period of realisation and repatriation for exporters of goods and software to _____.
- 1 month
 - 3 months
 - 5 months

- 7 months
- 9 months

The Reserve Bank of India on July 22, 2013 brought down the period of realisation and repatriation for exporters of goods and software to nine months from earlier 12 months, a move which could shore up foreign exchange inflows. In November 2012, the RBI had increased the time limit to bring in export earnings to 12 months, from six months at that time, in view of global slowdown. Because of the country's worsening current account deficit (CAD) and the weakening of the rupee against the U.S. dollar, it has now shortened the timeframe to bring in the money. "It was decided, in consultation with the government to bring down the above stated realisation period from 12 months to nine months from the date of export valid till September 30," the RBI said in a notification. It further said the provisions in regard to period of realisation and repatriation to India of the full export value of goods or software exported by a unit situated in a special economic zone (SEZ) as well as exports made to warehouses established outside India remain unchanged. (E)

- 234)** The Government on July 24, 2013 approved the launch of _____ Scheme for selling 5 kg LPG cylinders through Company Owned Retail Outlets (COCO) of PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for customers who do not want a permanent LPG connection.
- Instant Refill LPG
 - Quick Refill LPG
 - Easy Trade LPG
 - Free Trade LPG
 - Home Trade LPG

The Government on July 24, 2013 approved Free Trade LPG (FTL) Scheme for selling 5 kg LPG cylinders through Company Owned Retail Outlets (COCO) of PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dr. M. Veerappa Moily approved a proposal to launch the scheme on pilot basis in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Bangalore for selling 5 kg LPG cylinders with/without Domestic Pressure Regulator (DPR) at COCO retail outlets. The OMCs have COCO retail outlets which are accessible to all and are open for longer hours. The FTL Scheme is for consumers who do not want a permanent LPG connection but still require LPG for their needs. Such customers need flexibility for getting the LPG cylinders as per their convenience and their needs can also be fulfilled by smaller quantities of LPG. The prospective customer at the time of first sale would only be required to give a copy of Voter I-Card, Driving license, Pan Card, Aadhaar Card, Bank Pass book, Employees ID, Passport, Student ID or any other such document that can act as a proof of identity. (D)

- 235)** Which of the following was commissioned by the government in July 2013 to conduct a study on the impact of free trade agreements on growth of special economic zones (SEZs)?
- CMIE
 - NCAER
 - ICRIER
 - CRISIL
 - Planning Commission

Concerned over waning interest of investors in SEZs, the government on July 26, 2013 said it has commissioned a study to economic think tank ICRIER, which will look into issues affect of free trade agreements on these zones. The ICRIER will look into issues such as the impact of free trade agreements on growth of special economic zones (SEZs). The study will also look at the various schemes available for exporters outside the SEZs. The SEZ developers and units have demanded from the government that the export promotion schemes should be extended to the units in these enclaves as well.

SEZs have become less attractive for investors and developers because of global economic slowdown and imposition of minimum alternate tax (MAT) and dividend distribution tax (DDT). Many developers have sought more time to execute their projects while several of them have surrendered their zones.

Exports from special economic zones (SEZs) grew by about 31% year-on-year to Rs 4.76 lakh crore during 2012-13. Shipments from these zones stood at Rs 3.65 lakh crore in 2011-12. (C)

- 236)** Which of the following crops has shown a higher output in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 according to the fourth advance estimates released by Agriculture Ministry on July 22, 2013?
- Jute
 - Cotton
 - Sugarcane
 - All the above
 - None of the above

Foodgrains output this year (2012-13) has declined by 3.64 million tonnes over the previous year. Drought in parts of some States last year adversely impacted rice, wheat and coarse cereals harvest.

As per the fourth advance estimates released by Agriculture Ministry on July 22, 2013, the total food grains output is 255.36 million tonnes as against 259.29 million tonnes last year. Rice output is 104.40 million tonnes compared to 105.30 million tonnes last year.

Rabi (wheat) production is 92.46 million tonnes as against 105.30 million tonnes last year. The wheat output estimates have been revised downwards from 93.2 million tonnes in the third estimates of the Ministry released in May. Procurement of wheat this season has been around 26 million tonnes against a target of 44 million tonnes as private trade had entered the market and purchased the grain.

Pulses production on the other hand, has shown a remarkable improvement at 18.45 million tonnes as against 17.09 million tonnes, the previous year. The higher output is attributed to handsome enhancement in the minimum support price and a special thrust under the National Food Security Mission. India traditionally imports about 3 to 3.5 million tonnes of pulses to fill up the gap in demand and supply.

Coarse cereals at 40.06 million tonnes are lower than 42.01 million tonnes produced in the 2011-12 crop year (July to June).

In oilseeds and commercial crops, the output of oilseeds is higher at 310.06 million tonnes over 297 the previous year. While cotton output is lower, jute has done better than the previous year. Sugarcane output in 2012-13 is lower at 3389.63 lakh tonnes over 3610.37 lakh tonnes in the previous year. This is due to severe drought last year in parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. (A)

237) Which of the following statements is/are correct, according to the data released by Ministry of Tourism on July 23, 2013?

- I. The number of domestic tourist visits (DTVs) to States/UTs registered an increase during the year 2012 over 2011
 - II. The number of foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to States/UTs registered an increase during the year 2012 over 2011
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I & II
 - d) Neither I nor II

The number of domestic tourist visits (DTVs) to States/UTs registered an increase of 19.87% during the year 2012 over 2011 as compared to an increase of 15.6% in 2011 over 2010. According to the latest statistics on tourism in India released by Ministry of Tourism on July 23, 2013, during the year 2012, the number of domestic tourist visits to the States/ UTs was 1036 million as compared to 865 million in 2011 and 748 million in 2010.

The top ten States in terms of number of domestic tourist visits (in millions), during 2012, were Andhra Pradesh (206.8), Tamil Nadu (184.1), Uttar Pradesh (168.4), Karnataka (94.1), Maharashtra (66.3), Madhya Pradesh (53.2), Rajasthan (28.6), Uttarakhand (26.8), Gujarat (24.4) and West Bengal (22.7). The contribution of these States was about 84.5% to the total number of domestic tourist visits during 2012.

The number of foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to States/UTs registered a growth of 6.33% during the year 2012 over 2011 as compared to a growth of 8.9% in 2011 over 2010. The number of foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to the States/ UTs was 20.7 million in 2012 as compared to 19.5 million in 2011 and 17.9 million in 2010.

The top ten States in terms of number of FTVs (in millions) during 2012 were Maharashtra (5.1), Tamil Nadu (3.6), Delhi (2.3), Uttar Pradesh (2.0), Rajasthan (1.5), West Bengal (1.2), Bihar (1.1), Kerala (0.8), Karnataka (0.6) and Himachal Pradesh (0.5). The contribution of these States was about 90.1% to the total number of FTVs in the country during 2012. The top ten States in terms of FTVs in 2012 remained the same as those in 2011. (C)

238) The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has made e-filing income tax return compulsory for those earning a total assessable income of more than _____ for assessment year 2013-14.

- a) Rs 3 lakh
- b) Rs 5 lakh
- c) Rs 8 lakh
- d) Rs 10 lakh
- e) Rs 12 lakh

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has made it mandatory for salaried individuals earning up to Rs 5 lakh annually to file income tax returns. In the last two assessment years (2011-12 and 2012-13), CBDT had exempted salaried employees earning a salary of up to Rs 5 lakh annually and interest income on savings account of up to Rs 10,000 from filing tax return. "The exemption was available only for the assessment years 2011-12 and 2012-13 the exemption provided during the last two years is not being extended for assessment year 2013-14," the CBDT said in a statement on July 23, 2013. For the assessment year 2013-14, the CBDT, this year, had made e-filing tax return compulsory for those earning a total assessable income of more than Rs 5 lakh. (B)

239) Which of the following was conferred the 'Major Port of the Year' award in July 2013 recognition of its excellent performance in 2012-13?

- a) Paradip
- b) V O Chidambaranar
- c) Mormugao
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru (JNPT)
- e) Kandla

Paradip port has been conferred the 'Major Port of the Year' award in recognition of its excellent performance in 2012-13. S.S. Mishra, Chairman, Paradip Port Trust, received the award at the SCOPE International Conference & Exhibition 2013 held in Chennai in July 2013. In 2012-13, PPT handled a total of 56.55 million tonnes of traffic, up from 54.25 mt in 2011-12. Also, during the year, the port added 22 mt of capacity bringing the total to 102 mt. (A)

240) Which state's Finance Minister was elected as the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on the Proposed Goods & Services Tax (GST) on July 22, 2013?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Punjab
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Jammu & Kashmir

The empowered committee of state finance ministers on the proposed Goods & Services Tax (GST) elected Jammu & Kashmir Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather as its chairman on July 22, 2013. Rather, who succeeds Sushil Modi, credited for taking forward the talks on GST, faces the tough task of taking on board all states and ironing out differences with the Centre. His name was proposed by Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit (who also holds the finance portfolio for Delhi). Dikshit's choice was unanimously backed by other state finance ministers, as well as Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram. The post had fallen vacant last month, after Sushil Modi resigned as Bihar deputy chief minister, following a split in the Bharatiya Janata Party-Janata Dal (United) alliance in the state. Conventionally, the post has always been held by members of political parties other than the Congress. (E)

241) Which of the following elected Suresh Chandra Mohanty as its new President on July 22, 2013?

- a) Indian Banks Association
- b) Microfinance Institutions Network
- c) Institute of Cost Accountants of India
- d) Institute of Company Secretaries of India
- e) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India on July 22, 2013 said Suresh Chandra Mohanty had been elected as the new President. Mohanty, who replaces Rakesh Singh, has been elected for 2013-14. A. S. Durga Prasad would be the new Vice-President. (C)

242) Devi Prasad Pande was appointed as Member of which of the following in July 2013?

- a) UPSC
- b) Railway Board
- c) Planning Commission
- d) Central Information Commission
- e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Devi Prasad Pande took over as new Member Traffic, Railway Board and ex-officio Secretary to Government of India on July 23, 2013. Prior to this new posting, he served as General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) at Secunderabad. (B)

243) The Union Sports Ministry on July 25, 2013 finalised the selection committee for the Arjuna Awards for 2012 comprising eminent former sportspersons. Which of the following pairs of committee members and the sports in which they represented India matched correctly?

- Michael Ferreira – Wrestling
- Limba Ram – Archery
- Helen Mary Soy – Athletics
- Indu Puri – Hockey
- Shakti Singh – Table tennis

The Union Sports Ministry has finalised the selection committee for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award and the Arjuna Awards for sporting excellence for 2012. The committee will be headed by former world billiards champion Michael Ferreira. The legendary cueist is an Arjuna awardee (1973) himself; he is also a Padma Bhushan (1983). The other eminent sportspersons on the committee are archer Limba Ram, former India hockey captains Zafar Iqbal and Helen Mary Soy, former national table tennis champion Indu Puri and shot putter Shakti Singh. The list was approved by Sports Minister Jitendra Singh on July 25, 2013. Officials from the Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India will also be part of the committee. Meanwhile, Ashok Kumar, member of the 1975 hockey World Cup winning side, is likely to head the committee to decide the Dronacharya Award winners for coaching excellence. (B)

244) Which corporate group launched the Bengaluru Football Club in July 2013?

- Tata
- Godrej
- Jindal
- Mittal
- Wadia

One of India's largest business conglomerates, the JSW Group, launched its football team, Bengaluru Football Club, on July 21, 2013. Along with the name, the club unveiled the squad, the crest and the team colours at the event which had JSW Group's Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal and the President of the All India Football Federation Pratul Patel. Bengaluru FC will be making its I-League debut this season and will be playing all their home matches out of the Bangalore Football Stadium. (C)

245) Which of the following pairs of leading players in the Indian Badminton League and their teams is matched correctly?

- Saina Nehwal – Delhi Smashers
- Lee Chong Wei – Mumbai Masters
- P V Sindhu – Hyderabad Hotshots
- All the above
- None of the above

Saina Nehwal was picked up by Hyderabad Hotshots for \$120,000 while world number one Men's player Lee Chong Wei proved to be the costliest, going to Mumbai Masters for \$135,000 in the inaugural Indian Badminton League's players' auction organised in New Delhi on July 22, 2013. Saina had a base price of \$50,000. Mumbai has cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar among its consortium of owners. Commonwealth Games Men's bronze-medallist Parupalli Kashyap was picked up by Banga Beats for \$75,000. Women's badminton player P V Sindhu was acquired by Lucknow Warriors for \$80,000, while women's doubles player Jwala Gutta went to Delhi Smashers at \$31,000. (B)

246) How many gold medals did India win at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Medellin, Colombia in July 2013?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

India finished fourth in the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Medellin, Colombia on July 21, 2013. The world number three recurve archer Deepika shot four perfect 10s in windy conditions to lead India to a 201-186 thrashing of China for the team gold medal. Deepika also paired up with Atanu Das to win the mixed team bronze with an 18-point margin (150-132) against the Mexicans. India thus finished fourth with one gold and two bronze as the US topped the standings with nine medals (2-5-2), while China (2-1-2) and Colombia (1-1-0) were second and third respectively. (B)

247) The 15th World _____ Games 2013 were organised in Belfast, Northern Ireland from August 1 to 10, 2013.

- Navy and Coast Guards

- Police and Fire
- Manufacturing and Marketing
- Army and Air Force
- Architects and Engineers

A 39-member Indian team participated in the 15th World Police and Fire Games 2013 organised in Belfast, Northern Ireland from August 1 to 10. (B)

248) What is the joint Air Force Exercise between India and France scheduled for the first half of 2014 named?

- Tropex
- Indra
- Seaspark
- Varuna
- Malabar

India and France, during the visit of Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian to New Delhi on July 26, 2013, welcomed the upcoming bilateral exercise 'Shakti' in September 2013 in France. Navies of both countries are working towards finalising the schedule for the conduct of Exercise 'Varuna' off the coast of India. Also the next air force exercise 'Garuda' would be held during the first half of 2014. (D)

249) Which of the following is not a member of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) established in August 2013?

- Delhi
- Punjab
- Haryana
- Rajasthan
- Uttar Pradesh

The four States of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and the Ministries of Railways, Urban Development and the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) on August 1, 2013 inked an agreement to set up a new shell company, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC). The Corporation will design, develop, implement, finance, operate and maintain the Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) in the National Capital Region to provide comfortable and fast transit to NCR towns, and meet the high growth in transport demand. The company will have a share capital of Rs.100 crore on a 50:50 ownership pattern with 50 per cent owned by the Centre and 50 per cent by the State governments. The company will implement individual RTTS corridors either through separate Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) or on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. (B)

250) National Teeka Express was launched by the Union Health & Family Welfare Ministry in August 2013 to promote which of the following?

- Blood donation
- Vaccination
- Nutrition
- Sanitation
- Organ donation

The National Teeka Express was launched by Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare in the presence of Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs & Sports at Alwar, Rajasthan on August 1, 2013. It has been launched to protect children from life-threatening childhood diseases. Designated vehicles under the brand name of 'National Teeka Express' will help not only in distribution of the vaccines and complementary logistics from last cold chain point to immunization session sites but will also ensure holding of sessions at the mobile vaccination centre now. In order to reduce vaccine wastage and ensure better utilization of vaccines, including costly vaccines like Pentavalent vaccine 'Teeka Express' will be used with reverse cold chain to bring back the open and un-used vaccines for use in subsequent sessions. The Teeka Express will also serve as a mobile healthcare delivery unit for the areas where there is no healthcare facility or health worker. (B)

251) The government decided to continue the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), aimed at providing electricity to rural households in August 2013. Which of the following statements about RGGVY is/are correct?

- RGGVY was launched in 2005
 - 90% grant is provided by Govt. of India and 10% as loan to the State Governments
 - Power Finance Corporation is the nodal agency for the programme
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

The government has decided to continue the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), aimed at providing electricity to all rural households. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the continuation of RGGVY in the current Plan period, according to an official release issued on August 2, 2013. The RGGVY programme seeks to provide free electricity connections to BPL (Below Poverty Line) households at the rate of Rs 3,000 per connection in villages and habitations with population of above 100. RGGVY was launched in April 2005 with the objective of providing electricity to all rural households. Under the programme 90% grant is provided by Govt. of India and 10% as loan by REC to the State Governments. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the programme. (B)

- 252)** The Indian School for Entrepreneurs and _____ Development iSEED was inaugurated in New Delhi on August 1, 2013.
- Experts
 - Enterprise
 - Engineering
 - Empowerment
 - Entrepreneurship

The Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, K. H. Muniappa inaugurated the Indian School for Entrepreneurs and Enterprise Development iSEED in New Delhi on August 1, 2013. Speaking at the inauguration the Minister stated that in the present competitive world, Innovation driven Entrepreneurship is critical for the growth of the Indian economy". Worldwide, the micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) primarily driven by first generation entrepreneurs have been accepted as the engine of economic growth and for promoting equitable development. (B)

- 253)** Who among the following is the author of 'An Agenda for India's Growth: Essays in Honour of P. Chidambaram' released in August 2013?
- Ian Jack
 - Ankur Chawla
 - Sameer Kochhar
 - Amitava Kumar
 - Avtar Singh Bhasin

Recent Books: Mofussil Junction by Ian Jack; '14 Hours - An Insider's Account of the 26/11 Taj Attack' by Ankur Chawla; 'An Agenda for India's Growth: Essays in Honour of P. Chidambaram' by Sameer Kochhar; A Matter Of Rats: A Short Biography of Patna by Amitava Kumar; Street Smarts: Adventures On The Road And In The Markets by Jim Rogers; India-Pakistan Relations 1947-2007: A Documentary Study by Avtar Singh Bhasin (C)

- 254)** Who among the following was appointed as the new Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) in July 2013?
- Lalit K. Panwar
 - Sutanu Behuria
 - Sharad Kumar
 - Arjan Sikri
 - Vinay Sirohi

Senior IPS officer Sharad Kumar, a 1979-batch Haryana cadre officer, was on July 30, 2013 appointed the new chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The post of the Director General (DG) of the agency was lying vacant for about last two months following the retirement of incumbent S C Sinha. Sinha was later appointed as a member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Kumar is a 1979-batch Haryana cadre officer and he takes over the top post of the probe agency at a time when it is investigating important cases like Hyderabad blasts and the recent Bodh Gaya blasts in Bihar (C)

- 255)** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) saw the appointment of a new Director General (DG) of in July 2013. Who among the following was the founder and the first DG of NIA?
- D.R. Karthikeyan
 - Gireesh Pradhan
 - Shumsher Sheriff
 - Ajay Bhattacharya
 - Radha Vinod Raju

Radha Vinod Raju (1949-2012) was the founding Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and a key member of the special investigation team which probed the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Raju worked as officer in the Bank of India before being selected to the Indian Police Service in 1975. The high point of Raju's career was his central role in investigating the assassination of the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Later, he co-authored a book, 'Triumph of Justice', with SIT chief and former CBI director D.R. Karthikeyan. Raju became the first Director-

General of the NIA, founded to handle transnational terrorism-related investigations in the wake of the 26/11 attacks. (E)

- 256)** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is headquartered at Delhi and has regional centres at:
- Kolkata and Pune
 - Bhopal and Chennai
 - Jaipur and Bangalore
 - Kochi and Ahmedabad
 - Hyderabad and Guwahati

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is headquartered at Delhi and has regional centres at Hyderabad and Guwahati. The Uttar Pradesh government in April 2012 agreed for the establishment of a third regional centre of NIA at Lucknow. The NIA was established on December 31, 2008. (E)

- 257)** Who among the following resigned as the chief executive of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) in July 2013?
- Prashant Tamang
 - Subhash Ghisingh
 - Bimal Gurung
 - Roshan Giri
 - None of the above

Bimal Gurung, president of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), on July 30, 2013 resigned as chief executive of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). Gurung, who sent in his resignation to Governor M.K. Narayanan, said in a statement in Darjeeling that he had taken the decision to enable himself to better lead the agitation for Gorkhaland. A strike called by GJM hit life in the three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong. Commercial establishments, schools, government offices, banks and post-offices remained closed and there was virtually no traffic on the roads. (C)

- 258)** Consider the following statements on deposits in FCNR (B) accounts.
- Interest rates offered on deposits of various maturities are decided by the Banks' Board within the ceiling prescribed by RBI
 - Rupee loans are not allowed against the security of FCNR(B) deposits
 - Foreign currency loans can be taken at select branches of Indian banks abroad against the security of FCNR(B) deposits
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

Features of Foreign Currency Non Resident Account (Banks), or FCNR(B) accounts include the following:
 Can be opened by NRIs in only designated currencies – Pound Sterling, US Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Australian Dollar, EURO and Japanese Yen
 Repatriation of principal amount and interest is permitted
 These deposits can be opened only in the form of term deposits
 Deposits are in foreign currency and principal amount and interest are repaid in the currency of issue
 Deposits can be made for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years
 A bank should obtain the prior approval of its Board of Directors for the interest rates that it will offer on deposits of various maturities, within the ceiling prescribed by RBI.
 Rupee loans can be taken in India against the security of FCNR(B) deposits
 Foreign currency loans can also be taken at select branches of Indian banks abroad against the security of FCNR(B) deposits (D)

- 259)** Consider the following statements on NRO Accounts.
- Tenure of fixed deposits is the same as applicable to resident accounts
 - Rates of interest determined by the RBI
 - Interest income is exempted from Income Tax
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- I only
 - I and II only
 - I and III only
 - II and III
 - I, II and III

Non-Resident Ordinary Rupee Account Scheme (NRO Account)

These are Rupee accounts and can be opened by any person resident outside India. Typically, when a resident becomes non-resident, his domestic Rupee account gets converted into an NRO account. In other words, it is basically a domestic account of an NRI which help him get credits which accrue in India, such as rent from property or income from other investments. New accounts can be opened by sending fresh remittances from abroad. NRO accounts can be opened only as savings account, current account, recurring deposits and term-deposit accounts. Interest rates on NRO accounts are determined by the banks themselves, for both savings and term deposits.

Regulations on interest rates, tenors etc. are similar to those of domestic accounts. While the principal of NRO deposits is non-repatriable, current income such as interest earnings on NRO deposits are repatriable. Further, NRI/PIO may remit an amount, not exceeding US\$1million per financial year, for permissible transactions (for any bonafide purpose out of the balances in the account / sale proceeds of assets in India acquired by way of inheritance / legacy inclusive of assets acquired out of settlement subject to certain conditions) from these accounts. (A)

Features of Non-Resident Ordinary Rupee Account Scheme (NRO Account)	
Who can open an account?	Any person resident outside India (other than a person resident in Nepal and Bhutan.) (Individuals/entities of Bangladesh Pakistan nationality ownership as well as erstwhile OCBs require prior approval of RBI)
Currency in which account is denominated	Indian Rupees
Repatriability	Not repatriable*
Type of Account	Savings, Current, Recurring, Fixed Deposit
Period for fixed deposits	As applicable to resident accounts
Rate of Interest	Banks free to set their own rates
Interest income	Subject to Income Tax

* Except for the following: (i) current income, (ii) up to USD 1 million per financial year (April-March), for any bonafide purpose out of the balances in the account / sale proceeds of assets in India acquired by way of inheritance / legacy inclusive of assets acquired out of settlement subject to certain conditions.

260) Consider the following statements on NRE Accounts.

- I. Can be opened in Indian Rupees only
- II. Both Interest and Principal from NRE Account are freely repatriable.
- III. Accrued interest income and balances held in NRE Accounts are exempt from income-tax

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only
- d) II and III
- e) I, II and III

Banks cannot give additional interest rate benefit of one per cent per annum to their own staff on deposits under FCNR (B), NRE and NRO accounts, said the Reserve Bank of India in a notification on July 19, 2012. Features of NRE accounts

NRE account may be in the form of savings, current, recurring or fixed deposit accounts. Such accounts can be opened only by the non-resident himself and not through the holder of the power of attorney.

Account will be maintained in Indian Rupees

Banks are free to determine the interest rates of term deposits of maturity of one year and above. Interest rates offered by banks on NRE deposits cannot be higher than those offered by them on comparable domestic rupee deposits.

Balances held in the NRE account are freely repatriable.

Accrued interest income and balances held in NRE accounts are exempt from income-tax and wealth tax, respectively. (E)

Features of Non-Resident (External) Rupee Account Scheme (NRE Account)	
Who can open an account?	NRIs (Any person resident (individuals/entities of Bangladesh/Pakistan nationality/ownership require prior approval of RBI)
Currency in which account is denominated	Indian Rupees
Repatriability	Both Interest and Principal Repatriable
Type of Account	Savings, Current, Recurring, Fixed Deposit
Period for fixed deposits	At the discretion of the bank
Rate of Interest	Banks free to set their own rates
Interest income	Exempt from Income Tax

261) Which of the following is the function of SWIFT?

- a) It provides a secure payment gateway for financial transactions between banks worldwide
- b) It facilitates observation of prudential norms by banks worldwide
- c) It facilitates exchange of information about financial transactions between banks worldwide
- d) It facilitates adoption of uniform auditing norms by banks worldwide
- e) It facilitates training and adoption of best practices in banking worldwide

SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Inter-bank Financial Telecommunications) is a non-profit co-operative-based global service provider handles 15 million messages per day from more than 9,000 banks in over 200 countries. More than 120 Indian banks currently use SWIFT network. SWIFT provides a network that enables banks worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment. (C)

262) Veteran parliamentarian Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil was appointed the new Governor of which of the following states in July 2013?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Assam
- c) Manipur
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Arunachal Pradesh

Veteran parliamentarian Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil has been appointed as the new governor of Sikkim. President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Patil as the new governor of the northeastern state with effect from his taking the new charge, Rashtrapati Bhawan spokesperson Venu Rajamony said on July 3, 2013. (A)

263) _____, 2013 was observed as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

- a) June 22
- b) June 23
- c) June 24
- d) June 25
- e) June 26

June 26, 2013 was observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. **Theme for 2013:** Make health your 'new high' in life, not drugs. The UN General Assembly, in December 1987, decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. This resolution recommended further action with regard to the report and conclusions of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. (E)

264) Which state launched the Mukhyamantri Bijli Bachat Lamp Yojna in June 2013 to provide 2 Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) free of cost to 53 lakh families?

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Uttar Pradesh
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Mukhyamantri Bijli Bachat Lamp Yojna was launched by Rajasthan government on June 27, 2013. The State government will provide 2 CFLs free of cost to all electricity consumers of villages and BPL consumers in urban areas. 53 lakh families in the state will be benefited with this scheme. The Bachat Lamp Yojana is a scheme developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency that replaces incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) to avoid carbon dioxide emissions, overheating and over-consumption of electricity in households. (B)

265) Which of the following IITs will be assisted by Japan for developing an academic and industry interface in a Rs. 1700 crore project approved in August 2013?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) IIT Indore
- c) IIT Kanpur
- d) IIT Delhi
- e) IIT Hyderabad

A joint project which aims at value-addition for the IIT at Hyderabad has been approved by the Union government, along with an academic and industry interface between the institute and Japan. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which met in New Delhi August 2, 2013, approved the 'collaboration of IIT-Hyderabad and Japan', to be executed via an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japanese government and the Union HRD Ministry. The project cost of Rs. 1,776.50 crore will be met through the ODA loan of Rs. 1,501.72 crore, while the balance of Rs. 274.77 crore will be borne by grants from the HRD Ministry over a period of four years between 2013-14 and 2016-17. "The project would add value through collaborative interactions between academics and with the

industry of Japan and (by) exchange of students and faculty. This will enhance cooperation between the two nations in the area of science and technology and human resource development," a government statement said. The project would also help create of a number of basic infrastructure facilities and faster scaling up of the IIT with benefits for the Indian economy, it added. (E)

- 266)** India has joined which of the following's 'Feed the Future' initiative to improve agricultural productivity in African countries in August 2013?
- EU
 - FAO
 - USA
 - China
 - Japan

The United States and India on July 30, 2013 launched the second India-US-Africa triangular agricultural training programme supported by the US Government's global hunger and food security initiative -- Feed the Future. This partnership aims to improve agricultural productivity and support market institutions in Kenya, Liberia, and Malawi. The initiative, led by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), is part of a three-year training programme and one of several activities resulting from the global strategic partnership announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama in 2010. Under the programme, 180 agricultural professionals from these three African countries will be trained. They will be provided marketing and extension management training at the Chaudhury Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing in Jaipur and at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management in Hyderabad. (C)

- 267)** India has signed a contract with France for supply of Rafale fighter jets. How many countries other than France are using Rafale?
- 0
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

The French state has decided to cut back its orders for Rafale fighter jets from the current 11 per year to just 26 over the next six years. This could jeopardise the entire Rafale programme unless Dassault Aviation is able to sign the India contract for the sale of 126 fighters for over €10 billion. At a press conference in Paris on August 2, 2013, France's Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who returned from a visit to India, said Dassault Aviation should count only on exports to support the production of the multirole combat aircraft. He announced the government's new Defence Review, known in French as the Draft Military Programme (LPM), for French forces from 2014 to 2019. At a recent press conference, Eric Trappier, CEO of Dassault Aviation, the company that makes the aircraft, warned that anything below 11 per year would be commercially unviable for the company. Dassault has been unable to sell a single Rafale abroad, and the company is pinning all its hopes on the Indian contract. (A)

- 268)** Which of the following built the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) christened CGS Barracuda that was exported by India in August 2013?
- L&T Shipbuilding
 - Bharati Shipyard
 - Pipavav Shipyard
 - Mazagaon Docks
 - Garden Reach Shipbuilders

Senior officials of the Mauritian government launched an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for the Mauritius Coast Guard in Kolkata on August 2, 2013. The OPV christened CGS Barracuda is the first defence export order for a warship being built in India. "This is a very significant development and puts India in the league of countries exporting warship. We are confident that more countries will approach us with orders for building warships," said Rear Admiral (Retd) A.K. Verma, Chairman & Managing Director of GRSE. Since 1961, GRSE had built 84 warships for the Indian Navy and the Coast. (E)

- 269)** Which two countries are world's largest producers of potash, a crucial crop nutrient for Indian agriculture?
- Indonesia and Malaysia
 - China and South Korea
 - Russia and Belarus
 - Argentina and Chile
 - Spain and Portugal

India and China played a key part in bringing down a giant Russia-Belarus potash cartel, and will reap the fruits of the coming crash in prices for the key crop nutrient, media reports said. The Belarusian Potash Company (BPC) venture, owned by Russia's Uralkali and Belaruskali, collapsed on July 30, 2013 after the Russian partner walked out of the

marketing venture. The downfall of the cartel, which accounted for 40 per cent of global potash sales, was triggered by a decree signed by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenka in December that cancelled BPC's exclusive right to export Belarusian potash. The Indian and Chinese importers convinced Lukashenka that Belarus could earn more if it marketed its potash on its own. Along with Canada's Canpotex, BPC controlled 70 per cent of global potash trade, and the duopoly was able to keep prices high by cutting supplies when demand weakened. Meanwhile, India and China, the two world's largest importers of potash, stand to win big from the price fall. (C)

- 270)** Which of the following restored supply of subsidised cooking gas (LPG) and kerosene to Bhutan on August 1, 2013 after a month long gap?
- OIL
 - IOC
 - HPCL
 - BPCL
 - ONGC

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) on August 1, 2013 restored supply of subsidised cooking gas (LPG) and kerosene to Bhutan after a month long hiatus. India sells LPG, kerosene and diesel to Bhutan at subsidised rates. While the difference between the selling price and actual cost on diesel is made good from the Budget, the subsidy on LPG and kerosene is paid by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). IOC, which is the sole supplier of LPG and kerosene to Bhutan, had stopped selling the two fuels at concessional rates from July 1 after it was told that the MEA subsidy will no longer be available. The company got a communication from the Oil Ministry asking it to restore the subsidy on July 31. (B)

- 271)** Which of the following will host the first World Rameleela Council in October 2013?
- Maldives
 - Mauritius
 - Sri Lanka
 - Jamaica
 - Trinidad & Tobago

Rameleela, the enduring saga of Hindu god Rama, his trials and tribulations and his final triumph that provides the climax for the annual Dussehra festival, is set for a major revival among the Indian diaspora with Trinidad & Tobago being selected as the first chair of the newly-created World Rameleela Council. This follows the first International Rameleela Conference held earlier this month at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. This was announced at Port-of-Spain on July 31, 2013. (E)

- 272)** The government on July 30, 2013 agreed to the creation of Telangana state. Which of the following statements on Andhra Pradesh is/are correct?
- It is India's largest producer of tobacco
 - Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in the state is the largest tiger reserve in India.
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I & II
 - Neither I nor II

The Congress and the United Progressive Alliance coalition on July 30, 2013 unanimously endorsed creation of a separate Telangana state from out of Andhra Pradesh. Details are as follows:

Hyderabad is to be made the joint capital of the newly-proposed state and the other regions -- Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra -- for a period of 10 years.

Telangana will be 29th state of the country that will have a geographical area of 10 of the 23 districts of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

The **districts** that will be part of **Telangana** are: Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Rangareddy and Warangal besides Hyderabad. At

Rayalaseema includes the districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool, parts of Prakasam districts.

Coastal Andhra includes the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore.

Out of 42 Lok Sabha seats and 294 assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana is likely to have 17 Lok Sabha seats and 119 assembly seats.

Legislature: Bicameral (Assembly and Council); **Legislative Assembly** seats: 294; **Legislative Council** seats: 90
Parliament:

Lok Sabha seats: 42; Rajya Sabha seats: 18

Andhra Pradesh has a population of over 8.5 crore and is India's **fifth most populous** state. It is also **fifth largest** state in terms of land area.

B N Srikrishna Committee report: The Union government had appointed a committee headed by Justice (ret'd) B N Srikrishna to examine both the demands for a separate state of Telangana as well as a united Andhra Pradesh. The Srikrishna Committee in its report submitted in January 2011 favoured maintaining the status quo of a united Andhra Pradesh and described the demand for a Telangana State as the "second best option."

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) was founded by K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). TRS has led the agitation for a separate state.

State Day: November 1

Governor: E.S.L. Narasimhan

Chief Minister: N. Kiran Kumar Reddy

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India that has been formed on a purely linguistic basis in 1953 and enlarged in 1956. Kurnool was the first capital of the Andhra state with the high court established at Guntur.

AP leads all other states in the production of **tobacco** with a virtual monopoly of Virginia tobacco.

Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve is the largest Tiger reserve in India and the only Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh state. The reserve spreads over five districts, Nalgonda District, Mahbubnagar district, Kurnool District, Prakasam District and Guntur District. The total area of the tiger reserve is 3,568 acres (14.44 km²). [1] The core area of this reserve is 1,200 km² (460 sq mi). The reservoirs and temples of Srisailem are major attraction for many tourists and pilgrims. [2] (C)

273) Runa Laila of Bangladesh, Ajay Devgan of India and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy of Pakistan are _____ Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS.

- f) WHO
- g) UNICEF
- h) SAARC
- i) Medicines sans Frontiers
- j) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Runa Laila, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS made official visit to India from 31st July to 2nd August 2013, with the objective to extend support to the cause of HIV/AIDS especially on the issues of Stigma and Discrimination related to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). Runa Laila from Bangladesh has been conferred the honorary title of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador by SAARC Secretariat for the next two years along with Ajay Devgan from India and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy from Pakistan. (C)

274) International Tiger Day was celebrated in July 2013. Which of the following tiger species is extinct?

- a) Malayan
- b) Amur
- c) Caspian
- d) Sumatran
- e) South China

The International Tiger Day was celebrated on July 29, 2013. International Tiger Day, also known as Global Tiger Day, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July. It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit. The day draws attention to the plight of the tiger. From an estimated population of 100,000 early last century, there are now only an estimated 3,200 tigers left in the wild. There were nine subspecies of tiger on the planet until the 1900s. Endangered species are: Indo-Chinese, Malayan, Bengal and Amur tigers. Critically endangered species are: Sumatran and South China tigers. Extinct species: Bali, Javan and Caspian tigers. (B)

275) Which SAARC country declared illegal Jamaat-e-Islami's registration as a political party with the Election Commission (EC), thus forbidding it from taking part in any national election in August 2013?

- a) India
- b) Pakistan
- c) Maldives
- d) Bangladesh
- e) Sri Lanka

Bangladesh High Court on August 1, 2013 declared illegal Jamaat-e-Islami's registration as a political party with the Election Commission (EC), thus forbidding it from taking part in any national election. The judgement came following a writ petition filed in 2009 by NGOs challenging the legality of Jamaat's registration. The petition claimed the listing of Jamaat as a political party was in violation of the Constitution and the Representation of People Order (RPO) Ordinance, 2008, conducted before 2009 parliamentary elections. Six leaders of Jamaat, including the party's founder Ghulam Azam, were recently convicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. (D)

276) Which island nation named its two major islands as North and South Islands in August 2013?

- a) Japan
- b) Italy
- c) Indonesia
- d) New Zealand
- e) United Kingdom

New Zealand's two main islands have never been formally named due to a clerical oversight lasting 200 years despite being universally known as the North and South Islands. The New Zealand Geographic Board said the names had appeared on maps since European settlement began in the early 1800s but had never been formally recognised. After public consultations, the board on August 1, 2013 proposed two names each for the islands, one in English and one in the indigenous Maori language. The English version will be the widely used as North and South Islands. The Maori names put forward by the board are Te Waipounamu -- meaning rivers of green stone -- for the South Island and Te Ika-a-Maui -- the fish of Maui (a Maori god) -- for the North. The board said both the English and Maori names will be able to be used on official documents and maps. The change is expected to be formally adopted later this year. (D)

277) Which EU country enacted the 'Government's Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill' in July 2013 to allow abortion in cases of threat to the mother's life?

- a) Italy
- b) Spain
- c) Ireland
- d) Portugal
- e) Germany

Irish President Michael D Higgins on July 30, 2013 signed a landmark bill on abortion into law, allowing women in the predominantly Catholic country to have an abortion in case of fatal foetal abnormality. The law was drafted after the tragic death of Savita Hallappanavar, 31, on October 28 last year, of blood poisoning as a result of a miscarriage. President Michael D Higgins signed into law the Government's Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill. (C)

278) Who among the following was elected as the 12th President of Pakistan on July 30, 2013?

- a) Raza Rabbani
- b) Mamnoon Hussain
- c) Raja Parvez Ashraf
- d) Wajihuddin Ahmed
- e) Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani

India-born Pakistani businessman Mamnoon Hussain, a close aide of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was on July 30, 2013 elected as the 12th President of Pakistan after he trounced his lone opponent in a one-sided contest. Hussain will replace Asif Ali Zardari, who is stepping down at the end of his five-year term. Hussain emerged as a clear winner in the contest with ex-judge Wajihuddin Ahmed of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party. Earlier Pakistan Peoples' Party had withdrawn its candidate Raza Rabbani and boycotted the election protesting change of poll dates from August 6 to July 30 on the Supreme Court's directions. Lawmakers from both Houses of the national parliament and four provincial assemblies voted in the two-man race for the top post. While Hussain got 432 votes, Ahmed got 77 of the total 887 polled votes. The office of the President is ceremonial in Pakistan but he is still the constitutional chief of the armed forces but cannot order deployments. He also appoints the services chiefs at the recommendation of the prime minister. Pakistan so far had 11 Presidents, out of which five were military generals. Four of them seized powers through coups, whereas first President Major Sikandar Mirza was elected in 1956 after the first constitution was adopted. (B)

279) Who among the following was given a second two-year term as the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff in the US in August 2013?

- a) Admiral Mike Mullen
- b) General Martin Dempsey
- c) Admiral James A. Winnefeld Jr.
- d) General Ray Odierno
- e) Admiral Sandy Winnefeld

The US Senate on August 1, 2013 approved the nomination of General Martin Dempsey for a second two-year term as the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff. (B)

280) Who among the following was conferred the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award in August 2013?

- Ilayaraja
- Yesudas
- Pandit Jasraj
- Amjad Ali Khan
- Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan was honoured with the 21st Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award for his contribution towards promotion of communal harmony and peace on August 20, 2013, the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. The award carries a citation and a cash award of Rs 5 lakh. The award ceremony is held every year on the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister and was instituted to commemorate his lasting contribution to promoting peace, communal harmony and fighting against violence. (D)

281) Renowned Malayalam poetess and social activist Sugathakumari was on August 2, 2013 conferred with the 22nd Saraswati Samman award for 2012. The award is given by the _____ Foundation.

- M. P. Birla
- G. D. Birla
- K. K. Birla
- C. K. Birla
- A. V. Birla

Renowned Malayalam poetess and social activist Sugathakumari was on August 2, 2013 conferred with the 22nd Saraswati Samman award for 2012, instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in New Delhi. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10 lakh, a citation and a plaque. Sugathakumari was honoured for her collection of poems in Malayalam entitled 'Manalezhuthu' (the writings on the sand) published in 2006. President of the foundation Shobhana Bhartia said the author's collection of the poems was rated one of the most unique and outstanding work in contemporary Malayalam poetry. (C)

282) The RBI announced the first quarter review of monetary policy for 2013-14 on July 30, 2013. Which of the following is/are matched correctly?

- Repo Rate – 7.25 per cent
 - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) – 4 per cent
 - GDP growth forecast for 2013-14 – 6 per cent
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the Repo Rate unchanged at 7.25 per cent and the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 4 per cent. D. Subbarao, Governor, RBI, announced the first quarter review of monetary policy for 2013-14, on July 30, 2013. Repo rate is the rate at which banks borrow funds from the central bank, and CRR is the portion of the total deposits banks are mandated to keep with the central bank. The RBI revised its growth projection for the current financial year from 5.7 per cent to 5.5 per cent. (B)

283) The Government on August 2, 2013 decided to provide interest subvention at _____ to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card loans against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts for post harvest, on the same rates as those available for crop loan, for another six months.

- 5 percent
- 6 percent
- 7 percent
- 8 percent
- 9 percent

The Union Cabinet on August 2, 2013 approved continuation of the interest subvention scheme to provide short-term crop loans to farmers in order to ensure the availability of crop loans at affordable rates to farmers for loans upto Rs. 3 lakh at the rate of 7 percent per annum.

This scheme has already been extended to crop loans borrowed from private sector scheduled commercial banks in respect of loans given within the service area of the branch concerned.

An additional subvention of 3 percent is being provided to those farmers who repay their loans on time. Thus, the effective rate of interest for such farmers will be 4 percent per annum. The estimated budgetary implication of this scheme for 2013-14 is Rs. 15,385 crore.

The Government will also provide interest subvention at 7 percent to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card loans against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts for post harvest, on the same rates as those available for crop loan, for another six months. The estimated additional budgetary implication of this feature would be Rs. 264 crore.

Banks have been consistently meeting the target set for agricultural credit flow in the past years. For the year 2013-14, the target for agricultural credit flow has been raised to Rs. 7 lakh crore from Rs. 5.75 lakh crore in the year 2012-13. (C)

284) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) said on August 1, 2013 that banks can apply for a license to act as an insurance broker. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- There is no requirement of capital for entities licensed under this particular regulation.
 - Banks acting as Insurance Brokers cannot have more than 50 per cent of the premium from one client
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I & II
 - Neither I nor II

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) said on August 1, 2013 that banks should obtain prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) before applying for a licence to act as an insurance broker.

In its notification on licensing banks as insurance brokers, IRDA said banks should apply under the direct broker category. The license, once granted, will be valid for three years. There is no requirement of capital for entities licensed under this particular regulation.

Such banks cannot have more than 50 per cent of the premium from one client. The notification adds: "Not more than 25 per cent of insurance handled by the insurance broker in any financial year is placed with the insurance company within the promoter group, separately for life and general insurance business."

As an eligibility criterion, the applicant should have two persons who have 100 hours of theoretical and practical training from an institute recognised by it and have passed the examination at the end of the training period from recognised bodies. Such licensed brokers will have to mandatorily take professional indemnity insurance.

Such insurance brokers (banks) have to maintain separate accounts for insurance broking business and Irda can appoint appropriate officials to investigate into the books of accounts of such brokers.

In his Budget speech this year, Finance Minister P Chidambaram had said banks will be permitted to act as insurance brokers. However, this statement came at a time when Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had expressed concerns against these draft rules. (C)

285) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) paid _____ to the government as surplus profit for the year ended June 2013.

- Rs 11,000 core
- Rs 22,000 core
- Rs 33,000 core
- Rs 43,000 core
- Rs 53,000 core

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) paid Rs 33,000 crore to the government as surplus profit for the year ended June. This amount is more than double the amount paid in 2011-12 and the highest ever so far. Analysts said earnings from higher interest on government bonds and slide in rupee helped RBI to be generous in giving dividend to the government. The weak Indian currency meant a sharp rise in earnings on foreign investments when brought to India. The significant benefit of a weak currency came only in the closing months (May and June). RBI's Central Board, at its meeting held on August 1, 2013, approved the transfer of surplus profit to the government. In 2006-07, the central bank had transferred Rs 45,719 crore as surplus to the Government of India, which included Rs 34,308.60 crore after it sold State Bank of India shares to the government. Excluding this amount, the transfer of surplus for the year ended June 30, 2007 was Rs 11,411 crore. (C)

286) What is the minimum public shareholding listed companies are required to maintain as per SEBI norms?

- 15% for private sector companies, 5% for CPSEs
- 20% for private sector companies, 5% for CPSEs
- 25% for private sector companies, 10% for CPSEs
- 30% for private sector companies, 10% for CPSEs

e) 35% for private sector companies, 15% for CPSEs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on August 2, 2013 approved creation of the Special National Investment Fund for the specific objective of meeting the minimum public shareholding of 10 percent requirement in six Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) – Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.; Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.; Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd; HMT Ltd; ITI Ltd; Scooters India Ltd. Since these Companies were not financially sound, it was found difficult to meet the minimum public shareholding by following SEBI approved methods.

The number of shares that is required to make the six Companies compliant with the minimum public shareholding will be transferred to the Special National Investment Fund out of Government of India shareholding on irrevocable basis without any consideration. The Fund will be managed by independent professional Fund Managers. The Fund will sell the shares within a period of 5 years. The funds realized from the sale of shares would be used for social sector schemes of the Government.

SEBI's minimum public shareholding requirement that stipulates that in all listed private companies at least 25% should be held by the non-promoters. In case of CPSEs, 10% should be held by non-promoters. Hence CPSEs where public shareholding is less than 10%, the Companies were required to comply with this condition within a period of 3 years by following methods permitted by SEBI for this purpose. (C)

- 287)** Rajeev Rishi took over as the new Chairman and Managing Director of _____ from August 1, 2013.
- UCO Bank
 - Indian Bank
 - Central Bank of India
 - State Bank of India
 - Oriental Bank of Commerce

Rajeev Rishi is new CMD of Central Bank: Rajeev Rishi, on August 1, 2013, took over as the Chairman and Managing Director of Central Bank of India. (C)

- 288)** Arundhati Bhattacharya was appointed as the first managing director and chief financial officer of _____ on August 1, 2013.
- UCO Bank
 - Indian Bank
 - Central Bank of India
 - State Bank of India
 - Oriental Bank of Commerce

Arundhati Bhattacharya, managing director & CEO of SBI Capital Markets, was on August 2, 2013 appointed the managing director and chief financial officer of the State Bank of India (SBI). She will be the first woman managing director at the country's largest bank. The SBI has four managing directors, five deputy managing directors and 18 chief general managers apart from its chairman. Its other managing directors are A. Krishna Kumar, Hemant G. Contractor and S Visvanathan. SBI chairman Pratip Chaudhuri is set to retire in September, and it is largely expected that Bhattacharya will take over as the chief of the nationalised bank. (C)

- 289)** Which of the following is matched correctly?
- Naina Lal Kidwai – JP Morgan India
 - Kalpana Morparia – HSBC India
 - Vijayalakshmi R. Iyer – United Bank of India
 - Archana Bhargava – Bank of India
 - None of the above

Chanda Kochhar is the managing director & CEO of ICICI Bank. Shikha Sharma heads Axis Bank. Naina Lal Kidwai is the country head of HSBC India. Kalpana Morparia is the chief executive officer at JP Morgan India. Women leading nationalised banks are: Vijayalakshmi R. Iyer is the chairperson and managing director of Bank of India, Archana Bhargava is the chairperson & managing director of United Bank of India and S.A. Panse heads Allahabad Bank. (E)

- 290)** The Union Cabinet on August 1, 2013 approved relaxations in the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy on multi-brand retail trading (MBRT). At least 50% of total FDI brought in the first tranche of US\$ 100 million shall be invested in 'backend infrastructure' within _____.
- One year
 - Two years
 - Three years
 - Four years
 - Five years

The Union Cabinet on August 1, 2013 approved relaxations in the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy on multi-brand retail trading (MBRT). The three contentious issues addressed by the policy review are: mandatory 30 per cent sourcing from small domestic industries; 50 per cent of the investment to be in back-end infrastructure and outlets to be opened only in cities with population of more than a million.

The new guidelines are as follows:

Mandatory sourcing from MSMEs: At least 30% of the value of procurement of manufactured/ processed products purchased shall be sourced from Indian micro, small and medium industries which have a total investment in plant & machinery not exceeding US \$ 2.00 million. This valuation refers to the value at the time of installation, without providing for depreciation. The 'small industry' status would be reckoned only at the time of first engagement with the retailer and such industry shall continue to qualify as a 'small industry' for this purpose even if it outgrows the said investment of US\$ 2.00 million, during the course of its relationship with the said retailer. Sourcing from agricultural co-operatives and farmers' cooperatives would also be considered in this category. The procurement requirement would have to be met, in the first instance, as an average of five years' total value of the manufactured/processed products purchased, beginning 1st April of the year during which the first tranche of FDI is received. Thereafter, it would have to be met on an annual basis".

Back-end infrastructure investment: At least 50% of total FDI brought in the first tranche of US\$ 100 million shall be invested in 'backend infrastructure' within three years. 'Back-end infrastructure' will include capital expenditure on all activities, excluding that on front-end units. For instance, back-end infrastructure will include investment made towards processing, manufacturing, distribution, design improvement, quality control, packaging, logistics, storage, warehouse, agriculture market produce infrastructure etc. Expenditure on land cost and rentals, if any, will not be counted for purposes of backend infrastructure. Subsequent investment in the back-end infrastructure would be made by the MBRT retailer as needed, depending upon his business requirements".

Population limits for MBRT permission: Retail sales outlets may be set up only in cities with a population of more than 10 lakh as per the 2011 Census OR any other cities as per the decision of the respective State Governments, and may also cover an area of 10 kms around the municipal limits of such cities; retail locations will be restricted to conforming areas as per the Master Plans of the concerned cities.

Thus retailers are to now be allowed to open stores in all states that have agreed to implement FDI in multibrand retail, even if such states do not have cities of more than a million population. States will now have a choice of city for the location of the retail stores. (C)

- 291)** Which foreign airline's proposal to acquire 24% stake in India's Jet Airways was approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on July 29, 2013?
- AirAsia
 - Ethiad
 - Emirates
 - Singapore Air
 - Qatar Airways

The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on July 29, 2013 gave its conditional approval to Jet Airways' proposal to sell a 24 per cent stake to Abu Dhabi-based Ethiad Airways for Rs 2,058 crore. Concerns raised by authorities over effective control of Jet Airways have been addressed in the revised proposal. Ethiad would now have two directors on the 12-member board. The role of all committees would be advisory in nature. Board resolutions will be passed by a simple majority, leaving control in the hands of the Indian promoter. (B)

- 292)** Patent on which company's anti-breast-cancer drug. Tykerb was revoked by the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) in August 2013?
- Pfizer
 - Novartis
 - Eli Lilly and Company
 - GlaxoSmithKline
 - Bayer

The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) on August 3, 2013 revoked a patent granted to GlaxoSmithKline for its anti-breast-cancer drug Tykerb. The reason for rejection in case of GSK's patent is similar to the rejection of Novartis' patent on Imatinib Mesylate (Glivec). According to Indian Patents Act, inventions that are mere discoveries of a 'new form' of a known substance and do not result in increased efficacy, are not patentable. In India, a strip of 10 Tykerb tablets costs Rs 3,600-4,000. A patient in an advanced stage of breast cancer is normally prescribed five tablets a day for one month. Experts say its high pricing has kept the drug's sales low in the country. (D)

- 293)** The government approved the launch of Minimum Support Price for which of the following from August 2013?
- Tea

- b) Seafood
- c) Organic food
- d) Dairy products
- e) Forest produce

Forest produce is to now get a minimum support price. The cabinet on August 1, 2013 approved a scheme to this effect, to help gatherers, who are primarily from the scheduled tribes and tend to reside in areas affected by left wing extremism. The Centre will bear an estimated cost of Rs 967 crore and the states concerned for Rs 249 crore in the 12th five-year plan ending March 2017. To be covered are forest produce such as tendu, bamboo, karanj, mahuwa seed, sal leaf, sal seed, lac, chironjee, wild honey, myrobalan, tamarind, and gums (gum araya). The scheme will cover forest produce in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Jharkhand. The idea for this scheme had been announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh earlier. (E)

294) Who among the following was the Chairperson of the Committee appointed to suggest measures to enhance exports from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector? The committee, in its report submitted in August 2013 suggested fiscal and non-fiscal incentives including an enhanced interest subsidy to boost exports from MSME sector.

- a) R. Gopalan
- b) Sumit Bose
- c) S. R. Rao
- d) R. S. Gujral
- e) Arvind Mayaram

A government panel on August 2, 2013 suggested fiscal and non-fiscal incentives including an enhanced interest subsidy to boost exports from MSME sector. The six-member inter-ministerial committee headed by Finance Secretary R S Gujral was constituted by the Cabinet Secretary to suggest short and medium term measures to enhance exports from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector. The government, meanwhile, has hiked the interest subsidy to 3% from 2% - a percentage point lower than the panel's suggestion - to encourage exports. The Committee has, however, suggested that the incentives should be limited for a period of five years in view of the need to curtail fiscal deficit. (D)

295) Which of the following had the lowest share in India's foreign exchange reserves on July 26, 2013?

- a) Gold reserves
- b) Special drawing rights
- c) Foreign currency assets
- d) Reserve position with the IMF

India's foreign exchange reserves shot up by \$90.2 million to \$280.17 billion on the back of a healthy rise in currency assets in the week ended July 26, Reserve Bank said on August 2, 2013. Foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the forex reserves, were up by \$914.1 million to \$252.05 billion for the week under review. FCAs, expressed in US dollar terms, include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of the non-US currencies, such as the euro, pound and yen, held in the reserves. During the week, the gold reserves were unchanged at \$21.55 billion. For the period under review, the special drawing rights (SDRs) were up by \$30.8 million to \$4.374 billion, while India's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$15.3 million to \$2.182 billion, the RBI data showed. (D)

296) The government on July 31, 2013 raised the import tariff value of gold to \$430 per 10 grams. The government frequently revises the import tariff value of gold to:

- a) Smuggling
- b) Encourage imports
- c) Discourage imports
- d) Prevent over-invoicing
- e) Prevent under-invoicing

The government on July 31, 2013 raised the import tariff value of gold to \$430 per 10 grams and that of silver to \$639 a kg as prices of the metals have risen in the global market. Tariff value, the base price on which the customs duty is determined to prevent under-invoicing, of gold and silver was \$416 per 10 gram and \$638 a kg, respectively. The notification by the Central Board of Excise and Customs has come on a day when gold prices regained the Rs 29,000 level after four months, by surging Rs 755 to Rs 29,200 per 10 grams in the national capital. (E)

297) Which of the following became first Central Ministry to be awarded ISO 9001:2008, Quality Management System certification on July 31, 2013?

- a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- c) Ministry of Steel
- d) Ministry of Textiles
- e) Ministry of Mines

The Ministry of Steel under Government of India on July 31, 2013 became the first Central Ministry to be awarded ISO 9001:2008, Quality Management System certification. The Bureau of Indian Standards has conferred the Ministry with the certification for three years upto June 2016. Sunil Soni, DG-BIS (Directorate General, Bureau of Indian Standards) presented the certificate to the Union Steel Minister, Beni Prasad Verma in New Delhi.

About ISO 9001:2008: ISO 9001 is quality management system which codifies quality standards in every area of organization's functioning. Many Governments around the World have made ISO 9001 a mandatory requirement. The certification involves laying down the work processes, manage and control them with the aim of continuous improvement. The certification will help in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and will aid in streamlining and improving the quality of services provided by the Ministry. It will help in benchmarking of SOPs and improve quality consciousness by focusing on strategic issues and bring about transparency. (C)

298) Which of the following statements on WPI inflation and CPI inflation is/are correct?

- I. The gap between WPI inflation and CPI inflation has narrowed in recent months
 - II. WPI inflation is higher than CPI inflation
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I & II
 - d) Neither I nor II

The divergence between the wholesale price index (WPI) inflation and consumer price index (CPI) inflation remains wide, said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its the Macroeconomic and Monetary Development report released on July 29, 2013.

According to RBI, the pick-up in headline WPI and CPI inflation in June 2013 suggests that inflation remains a concern. "The CPI (rural and urban) inflation remained close to double digits, compared with WPI inflation, which fell below five per cent during the first quarter of 2013-14. This further widened the gap between WPI and CPI inflation," said the banking regulator.

According to the central bank, from the compilation point of view, CPI and WPI differ on several counts, such as coverage of commodity/service, weighting diagram, the stage at which price quotations are collected, associated market (wholesale market, retail market) and base year.

While WPI was 4.6 per cent in June, CPI was 9.87 per cent. RBI points out that food price inflation has been a major driver of headline inflation (CPI) in recent years. (B)

299) Consider the following statements on 'Headline Inflation' and 'Core Inflation'.

- I. Headline inflation is also known as "top-line inflation".
- II. Core inflation is a better indicator of long-term inflation

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I & II
- d) Neither I nor II

'Headline Inflation' is the raw inflation figure as reported through the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that is released monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). The CPI calculates the cost to purchase a fixed basket of goods as a way of determining how much inflation is occurring in the economy. The CPI uses a base year and indexes current year prices based on the base year's values. The headline figure is not adjusted for seasonality or for the often volatile elements of food and energy prices, which are removed in the Core CPI. Headline inflation will usually be quoted on an annualized basis. It is also known as "top-line inflation".

'Core Inflation' is a measure of inflation that excludes certain items that face volatile price movements. It is generally defined as a chosen measure of inflation (Consumer Price Index or CPI) that excludes the more volatile categories of food and energy prices. Core inflation is thought to be an indicator of underlying long-term inflation. (C)

300) The 9th India _____ Summit was organised by the CII in Bangalore on August 7-8, 2013.

- a) Services
- b) Education
- c) Innovation
- d) Manufacturing
- e) Entertainment

The 9th India Innovation Summit was organised in Bangalore on Aug 7 and 8, 2013. Theme for this year's summit was "India as Start-up Nation", informed CII President and Summit Chairman S. Gopalakrishnan. The Summit serves as an

ideal platform for the industry to explore the dynamic entrepreneurship environment in the country in terms of its opportunities and challenges and also analyse the emergence of India as a startup nation. (C)

301) The Union Health Ministry on August 2, 2013 issued a notification revoking the suspension it had earlier imposed on the drug Pioglitazone. It is used in the treatment of:

- a) Cancer
- b) Diabetes
- c) Meningitis
- d) Tuberculosis
- e) Hypertension

The Union Health Ministry on August 2, 2013 issued a notification revoking the suspension it had earlier imposed on the diabetes drug Pioglitazone and all its combinations. The drug had been suspended citing concerns that long-term use of the drug could pre-dispose diabetes patients to an increased risk of bladder cancer, as had been found in some Western studies. The notification follows a recommendation of the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) which decided that the drug may be allowed to be sold and consumed in the country, with sufficient caution. The DTAB has now recommended that the manufacture and sale of Pioglitazone may be allowed, provided the manufacturer clearly mentions on the package insert and promotional literature of the drug that Pioglitazone may not be used as a first line of therapy for diabetes. DTAB has also said that the manufacturers carry a box warning, clearly mentioning the risks/side effects of the drug in bold red letters on the package. (B)

302) Which state in August 2013 engaged consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY) for improving its image as an investment destination?

- a) Bihar
- b) Punjab
- c) Haryana
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh government on August 2, 2013 engaged consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY) for facilitating long term investment promotion programme and promoting 'Brand UP'. This comes in the backdrop of taking several new policy initiatives to encourage investment and industrial development in the state. E&Y will function as knowledge partner of UP with well defined scope of work and fixed timelines for the next 18 months. E&Y, in their proposal presentation, had listed 15 prospective investors from different sectors, who were interested in setting up businesses in Uttar Pradesh in near future. (E)

303) Which state launched bottled drinking water under 'Sohna' trademark in July 2013?

- a) Bihar
- b) Punjab
- c) Haryana
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Having popularised its ready-to-eat dishes in European and Arab countries, Markfed, a public sector undertaking of the Punjab government, on July 29, 2013 said it was all set to venture into the bottled drinking water market. It is planning to launch hygienically tested water under its premium 'Sohna' brand. The production unit of this packaged drinking water is likely to be set up in Jalandhar, which would now be made operational by January 2014. (B)

304) Which North Indian state launched 'Prarambh' a first-of-its kind school for teachers to help them develop their professional skills in August 2013?

- a) Bihar
- b) Punjab
- c) Haryana
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Uttar Pradesh

To make Haryana a preferred destination for school education, the state government on August 2, 2013 decided to set up 'Prarambh' a first-of-its kind school for teachers to help them develop their professional skills. Prarambh will seek to address the quality issue in elementary and secondary teacher education with built-in mechanisms for innovation. It will be an autonomous institution having collaborations with national and international agencies of repute. It will have its dedicated 10-acre campus in Jhajjar, just 50-km away from Gurgaon. "A four-year integrated Bachelor of Education Programme is the first offering from the Prarambh School of Teacher Education. The programme will cover the academic content from degree to post-graduation level. (C)

305) Who among the following won the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 29, 2013?

- a) Kimi Raikkonen

- b) Lewis Hamilton
- c) Jenson Button
- d) Sebastian Vettel
- e) Fernando Alonso

Lewis Hamilton won his first race for Mercedes by claiming a dominant textbook triumph in the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 29, 2013. The 28-year-old Briton secured his fourth victory at the Hungaroring in sweltering conditions. The 2008 champion came home 11 seconds clear of Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus and third-placed defending triple world champion Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull, who was unable to force his way into second place in the closing laps. (B)

306) Which of the following sportspersons who have won tournaments in July 2013 and their sports is/are matched correctly?

- a) Aditya Mehta – Snooker
- b) John Isner – Football
- c) Tommy Robredo – Swimming
- d) Mikhail Youzhny – Athletics
- e) All the above

India's No. 1 snooker player **Aditya Mehta** clinched the gold medal in the World Games after defeating China's Liang Wenbo 3-0 in the final of the quadrennial event at Cali, Colombia on July 30, 2013. Top-seeded **John Isner** saved two match points then dominated the closing tie-breaker to beat Kevin Anderson 6-7(3), 7-6(2), 7-6(2) on July 28, 2013 to win the ATP Atlanta Open at Atlanta, Georgia. Meanwhile in Umag (Croatia), Spanish fifth seed **Tommy Robredo** won the ATP Croatia Open by easily defeating Italian Fabio Fognini 6-0, 6-3. **Mikhail Youzhny**, on July 28, 2013, defeated Robin Haase 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the Swiss Open. (A)

307) The Formula One India Grand Prix will not be organised in _____, according to an announcement made in July 2013.

- a) 2013
- b) 2014
- c) 2015
- d) 2016
- e) 2017

In a huge dampener for Formula One enthusiasts in India, the 2014 Indian Grand Prix was on July 30, 2013 dropped following a rejig in racing calendar for the coming year, according to race organisers JPSI, who said the motorsport extravaganza will now come back to country in March 2015. Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone has taken the decision to drop India from the 2014 calendar and has conveyed it to the Indian authorities. Sameer Gaur, managing director and chief executive, Jaypee Sports International Ltd (JPSI) also confirmed the development. (B)

308) Derrick Pereira was on August 1, 2013 adjudged the best coach for 2012-13 by the All India _____ Federation.

- a) Tennis
- b) Football
- c) Athletics
- d) Shooting
- e) Weightlifting

Salgaocar Football Club coach Derrick Pereira was on August 1, 2013 adjudged the best coach for 2012-13 by the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Pereira, who played for Salgaocar as a defender for nine years, started his coaching career with Vasco Sports Club before moving to Mahindra United for a four-year spell. He then shifted to Pune FC for another four-year stint before returning to Salgaocar. (B)

309) What is the rate of interest on marginal standing facility (MSF) charged by the RBI from banks?

- a) CRR + 1%
- b) Repo rate + 1%
- c) Bank rate +1%
- d) Base rate +1%
- e) Reverse repo rate + 1%

Under the marginal standing facility (MSF), banks could borrow funds from the Reserve Bank of India at a rate, which is 1% above the repo rate by pledging government securities. Banks can borrow funds through MSF when there is a considerable shortfall of liquidity. This measure has been introduced by RBI to regulate short-term asset liability mismatches more effectively. (B)

310) Acquisition of _____ or more shareholding in a bank will require prior approval of the RBI.

- a) 3%

- b) 5%
- c) 7%
- d) 10%
- e) 15%

According to the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2012: – An investor can hold upto 26 per cent of voting rights in a private sector bank – An investor can hold upto 10 per cent of voting rights in a nationalised bank – Any acquisition of 5% or more shareholding in a bank will require prior approval of the RBI (B)

- 311)** Which of the following statements about FDI in private sector banks are correct?
- I. 74% is the maximum FDI allowed
 - II. Voting Rights of a single shareholder is limited to 10 per cent irrespective of the size of shareholding
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

Private sector banks: FDI up to 74% is allowed. Voting rights of a single shareholder is limited to 10 per cent irrespective of the size of shareholding (C)

- 312)** What is a 'Brownfield' project?
- a) Manufacturing facility set up on agricultural land
 - b) Manufacturing facility set up for food processing industry
 - c) Manufacturing facility set up for agriculture-inputs such as fertilisers and insecticides
 - d) Manufacturing facility set up from the scratch
 - e) An already existing manufacturing facility is modified or upgraded

Brownfield projects are existing manufacturing facilities which are modified or upgraded. (E)

- 313)** Which of the following statements about FDI in public sector banks are correct?
- I. 49% is the maximum FDI allowed
 - II. Voting Rights of a single shareholder is limited to 5 per cent irrespective of the size of shareholding
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

Public sector banks: FDI up to 49% is allowed. Voting rights of a single shareholder is limited to 1 per cent irrespective of the size of shareholding (A)

- 314)** What is a 'greenfield project'?
- a) Manufacturing facility is set up on agricultural land
 - b) Manufacturing facility in food processing industry is set up
 - c) Manufacturing facility is set up for products such as fertilisers and insecticides used in agriculture
 - d) Manufacturing facility is set up from the scratch
 - e) An already existing manufacturing facility is modified or upgraded

A greenfield project is one in which new manufacturing facilities are built from scratch. Some examples of greenfield projects are new factories, power plants or airports which are built from scratch. (D)

- 315)** Rolling settlement is a term used in transactions in which of the following?
- a) Banking
 - b) NBFCs
 - c) Insurance
 - d) Foreign debt
 - e) Capital markets

Rolling Settlement: Settlement is the process by which investors pay for shares they have bought and receive payment for shares they have sold. In some markets, this process has been done by means of an account period, normally ten working days. All the transactions during that period were balanced against each other to produce a single figure that was either paid to the investor or by him. It is more common to have rolling settlement, meaning that each transaction is settled a given number, say three to ten, days after the transaction date. The significance of rolling settlement and of shortened settlement times is that when investors sell shares, the proceeds get paid into their account more quickly. (E)

- 316)** What is the banking system in which banks are allowed to provide a wide variety of financial services, including both commercial and investment services called?
- a) Narrow Banking
 - b) Universal banking
 - c) Bancassurance
 - d) Wholesale banking
 - e) Consortium Banking

Universal banking is a banking system in which banks are allowed to provide a wide variety of financial services, including both commercial and investment services. Universal banks may offer credit, loans, deposits, asset management, investment advisory, payment processing, securities transactions, underwriting and financial analysis. (B)

- 317)** Banks charge customers for transfer of funds using national electronic funds transfer (NEFT). Which of the following statements are correct?
- I. Rs. 2.50 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers up to Rs 10,000.
 - II. Rs. 5 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers between Rs 10,001 to Rs 1 lakh.
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

The charges banks can levy on customers for transfer of funds through NEFT are: – Rs. 2.50 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers up to Rs 10,000 – Rs. 5 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers between Rs 10,001 to Rs 1 lakh. – NEFT is a nation-wide payment system facilitating one-to-one funds transfer. Under this scheme, individuals, firms and corporates can electronically transfer funds from any bank branch to any individual, firm or corporate having an account with any other bank branch in the country participating in the scheme. There is no limit — either minimum or maximum — on the amount of funds that could be transferred using NEFT. However, the maximum amount per transaction is limited to Rs 50,000 for cash-based remittances and remittances to Nepal. At present, NEFT operates in hourly batches — there are eleven settlements from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on week days (Monday through Friday) and five settlements from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. (C)

- 318)** Which of the following statements on direct and indirect agricultural lending for priority sector targets of banks is/are correct?
- I. Direct agricultural lending refers to loans given to individual borrowers, self help groups (SHGs) and joint liability groups (JLGs) directly by banks.
 - II. Indirect agricultural lending refers to loans given by banks to other scheduled commercial banks for lending to individual borrowers, SHGs and JLGs.
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

Direct agricultural lending refers to loans given by banks to individual farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) engaged in Agriculture and Allied Activities (dairy, fishery, animal husbandry, poultry, bee-keeping and sericulture).

Indirect agricultural lending refers to loans given by banks to corporates, partnership firms and institutions (example-NABARD) engaged in Agriculture and Allied Activities (dairy, fishery, animal husbandry, poultry, bee-keeping and sericulture). (A)

- 319)** Foreign banks having ____ or more branches in the country have the same priority sector lending targets as domestic banks.
- a) 5
 - b) 10
 - c) 15
 - d) 20
 - e) 25

Foreign banks having 20 or more branches in the country have been brought on par with domestic banks for priority sector targets in a phased manner over a maximum period of five years starting April 1, 2013. Foreign banks with less than 20 branches will have no sub-targets within the overall priority sector lending target of 32 per cent. This is expected to allow them to lend as per their competence to any priority sector category. (D)

- 320)** Consider the following statements on priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks.

- I. The target under priority sector lending is 40 per cent
- II. The target under direct agriculture lending is 15 per cent
- III. The target under indirect agriculture lending is 5 per cent

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

Priority sector lending norms to be followed by scheduled commercial banks:

The overall target under priority sector lending is retained at 40 per cent.

The targets under direct and indirect agriculture are retained at 13.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent. (A)

321) Consider the following statements on priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks for loans to Micro and Small enterprises in Services Sector.

- I. Loan should not exceed Rs. 25 lakh
- II. Micro Enterprises with investment in equipment not exceeding twenty five lakh rupees are eligible
- III. Small Enterprises with investment in equipment not exceeding five crore rupees are eligible

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

Priority sector lending norms to be followed by scheduled commercial banks:

In Services Sector, loans to micro and small enterprises up to Rs. 25 crore allowed. **Conditions:** Investment in equipment in the Micro Enterprises should not exceed twenty five lakh rupees. For Small Enterprises, Investment in equipment should not exceed five crore rupees (C)

Service Sector	
Enterprises	Investment in equipment
Micro Enterprises	Does not exceed ten lakh rupees
Small Enterprises	More than ten lakh rupees but does not exceed two crore rupees

322) Consider the following statements on priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks for loans to Micro and Small enterprises in Manufacturing Sector.

- I. Loan should not exceed Rs. 1 crore
- II. Micro Enterprises with investment in equipment not exceeding twenty five lakh rupees are eligible
- III. Small Enterprises with investment in equipment not exceeding five crore rupees are eligible

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

Priority sector lending norms to be followed by scheduled commercial banks:

In Manufacturing Sector, loans to micro and small enterprises up to Rs. 25 lakh allowed. **Conditions:** Investment in plant and machinery in the Micro Enterprises should not exceed ten lakh rupees. For Small Enterprises, Investment in plant and machinery should not exceed 2 crore rupees (A)

Manufacturing sector	
Enterprises	Investment in plant and machinery
Micro Enterprises	Do not exceed twenty five lakh rupees
Small Enterprises	More than twenty five lakh rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees

323) Consider the following statements on priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks for educational loans

- I. Loans to individuals upto Rs. 10 lakh for education, including vocational courses, in India are permitted
- II. Loans to individuals upto Rs. 20 lakh for education, including vocational courses, abroad are permitted

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I and II
- d) Neither I nor II

Priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks for educational loans are:

Loans to individuals for educational purposes, including vocational courses, up to Rs.10 lakh in India and Rs.20 lakh abroad (C)

324) Consider the following statements on priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks for housing loans in metropolitan and non-metropolitan centres.

- I. Loans to individuals up to Rs. 20 lakh in metropolitan centres with population above ten lakh are permitted
- II. Loans to individuals up to Rs. 10 lakh in towns with population below ten lakh are permitted

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I and II
- d) Neither I nor II

Priority sector lending norms applicable on scheduled commercial banks for housing loans in metropolitan and non-metropolitan centres: Loans to individuals up to Rs. 25 lakh in metropolitan centres with population above ten lakh and Rs. 15 lakh in other centres for purchase/construction of a house is permitted. (D)

325) Consider the following statements on housing loans that are permitted under priority sector lending by scheduled commercial banks.

- I. Loans for repairs to the damaged dwelling units of families up to Rs. 2 lakh in rural and semi-urban areas and up to Rs. 5 lakh in urban and metropolitan areas
- II. Bank loans to any governmental agency for construction of dwelling units or for slum clearance and rehabilitation of slum dwellers subject to a ceiling of Rs. 2.5 lakh per dwelling unit

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I and II
- d) Neither I nor II

Housing loans that are permitted under priority sector lending by scheduled commercial banks include:

Loans for repairs to the damaged dwelling units of families up to Rs. 2 lakh in rural and semi-urban areas and up to Rs. 5 lakh in urban and metropolitan areas

Bank loans to any governmental agency for construction of dwelling units or for slum clearance and rehabilitation of slum dwellers subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakh per dwelling unit

The loans sanctioned by banks for housing projects exclusively for the purpose of construction of houses only to economically weaker sections (family income not exceeding Rs. 1,20,000 per annum) and low income groups, the total cost of which do not exceed Rs. 5 lakh per dwelling unit (A)

326) Double Olympic champion Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia announced retirement after the World Athletics Championships in Moscow in August 2013. She is the world record holder in which athletics event?

- a) Triple jump
- b) Pole vault
- c) Javelin throw
- d) Shot putt
- e) 400 m hurdles

Russian pole vaulted and double Olympic champion Yelena Isinbayeva announced on July 23, 2013 she would be retiring after her home world athletics championships, which take place in Moscow in August. Isinbayeva, who won gold at both the 2004 and 2008 Olympics, has set 28 world records in women's pole vault including the current world's best mark of 5.06 meters. The USA's Jennifer Suhr won the women's pole vault gold at 2012 London Olympics while Yarely Silva of Cuba got silver and the bronze went to Isinbayeva. (B)

327) Which anniversary of the Quit India Movement was observed on August 9, 2013?

- a) 67th
- b) 68th
- c) 69th
- d) 70th
- e) 71st

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee honoured freedom fighters on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Quit India Movement on August 9, 2013. Since 2003, the President of India has been hosting an 'At Home' function in the Rashtrapati Bhawan on the anniversary of the Quit India Movement on the 9th August of every year to honour freedom fighters. Quit India Movement was launched on 9th August 1942. (D)

328) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on August 5, 2013 banned mining or removal of sand from river beds across the country without an environmental clearance. Who among the following took is the Chairperson of NGT?

- K S Radhakrishnan
- Swatanter Kumar
- S. P. Bharucha
- A.K. Patnaik
- Dipak Misra

The National Green Tribunal on August 5, 2013 banned mining or removal of sand from river beds across the country without an environmental clearance. The tribunal noted the loss caused to the state due to illegal sand mining could run into lakhs of crores. The order was given on a plea alleging that such activities were going on in UP with the "wilful connivance" of its state machinery. Widening the ambit of the plea, a bench headed by Chairperson Swatanter Kumar said its order would be applicable across the nation, as the petition had raised substantial environmental issues. (B)

329) Which of the following statements on 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts' is/are correct?

- Holders of these accounts will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank
 - Cheque book comes free of cost with such accounts
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' (BSBDA), earlier known as zero bills accounts, have the following features:

This account shall not have the requirement of any minimum balance.

Free Facilities: The account comes with the facility of ATM card or ATM-cum-Debit Card. The services available in the account will include deposit and withdrawal of cash at bank branch as well as ATMs; receipt/credit of money through electronic payment channels or by means of deposit/collection of cheques drawn by Central/State Government agencies and departments. While there will be no limit on the number of deposits that can be made in a month, account holders will be allowed a maximum of four withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawals. These facilities will be provided without any charges. Further, no charge will be levied for non-operation/activation of in-operative 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'. There is no provision for issue of cheque book with these accounts.

Paid Facilities Banks are free to evolve other requirements including pricing structure for additional value-added services beyond the stipulated basic minimum services on reasonable and transparent basis and applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

Limitations: Holders of 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank. If a customer has any other existing savings bank deposit account in that bank, he/she will be required to close it within 30 days from the date of opening a 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'. (A)

330) Which of the following NGOs has signed a MoU with the Union Rural Development Ministry to undertake developmental and training activities in hard core naxal affected districts of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha in August 2013?

- Abhivyakti
- Aman Biradari
- Pradan
- Pahal
- Nirantar

The Rural Development Ministry on August 6, 2013 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pradan, a non-governmental organization to undertake developmental and training activities in hard core naxal affected districts of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. The projects covered include training and guidance for production and marketing of Tasar Silk and Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana to promote sustainable agriculture through women headed households. Pradan founder Deep Joshi, who is also a Member of the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory

Council (NAC) and Chairman of IRMA, Anand, said that the partnership between Government and civil society was a good way to come close to the people. (C)

331) Which of the following is the Toll Free Helpline launched for welfare of minorities by the Union Minister for Minority Affairs in August 2013?

- Aman
- Rahat
- Hifajat
- Khidmat
- Ummeed

K. Rahman Khan, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched a dedicated Toll Free Helpline with brand name "Khidmat", on August 8, 2013 in New Delhi. Dedicating "Khidmat" helpline to the minority people of India, the Minister said that the service will empower minorities through up to date information. (D)

332) Which state will have the second highest share of power from Unit-I of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project after Tamil Nadu according to Power Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in August 2013?

- Maharashtra
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Pondicherry
- Andhra Pradesh

Tamil Nadu has been allocated 100 MW of power out of the unallocated quota, from the date of commercial operation of unit-I of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. This was stated today in the Lok Sabha by MoS (I/C) Power Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on August 8, 2013. As per existing guidelines for allocation of power, the entire power to be generated from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (2x1000 MW) is to be distributed amongst the beneficiary States as: State-Power allocated (MW): Karnataka – 442 MW; Tamil Nadu – 925 MW (includes 10% home State entitlement); Kerala – 266 MW; Pondicherry – 67 MW; Unallocated – 300; Total 2000 (B)

333) The 25th anniversary celebrations of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) were organised in August 2013. MSSRF is based in:

- Chennai
- Coimbatore
- Hyderabad
- Mysore
- Bangalore

The 25th anniversary celebrations of the Chennai-based MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) were held on August 7, 2013. Dr. Swaminathan created MSSRF using funds from the First World Food Prize he received in 1987 as well as other international and national prizes. The MSSRF is a unique Research and Training Centre for imparting a pro-nature, pro-poor and pro-women orientation to technology development and dissemination.

On this occasion, President Mukherjee honoured the farmers of the Kuttanad region of Kerala who started developing techniques for below sea level farming nearly two centuries ago. This unique system of rice-fish cultivation was declared by FAO as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) in June 2013. Mukherjee presented a plaque to Chief Minister of Kerala, Oommen Chandy on behalf of the farm families of Kuttanad.

The first GIAHS site to be recognized in India is the tribal farming system of Koraput in Odisha in January 2012. Kuttanad farmers are the second to receive such a global recognition. (A)

334) NJDG was inaugurated by Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam in August 2013. NJDG is:

- National Justice Data Grid
- National Judicial Data Grid
- National Judicial Delivery Grid
- National Justice Delivery Grid
- National Judicial Decentralisation Grid

Case details like date of filing and pendency of courts across the country will now be easily accessible with the inauguration of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) by Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam on August 7, 2013. With the launch of the first phase of NJDG, case data of all the courts, including those at district level, will be available on a single website - ecourts.Gov.In. The portal will have data from around 10,000 courts. "Any visitor to this website can access the status of the case, the cause list of the district courts and in some cases, daily order or judgement of

the case, searchable on the basis of case number, party name, advocate name etc.," Justice Madan B Lokur, in-charge of the e-committee which was entrusted with the task of developing the portal, said. Justice Lokur said the data of all the courts will also serve as a "backbone database" for the NJDG which is intended to become a case information storehouse for justice delivery system. The website was launched in presence of Law Minister Kapil Sibal who said it will help in court management and will bring in more transparency. (B)

335) Which of the following is the radio show launched by the All India Radio to spread the message of women empowerment, as well as educate rural masses about various government welfare schemes in August 2013?

- Priya
- Astha
- Ujjawala
- Annapurna
- Sameeksha

Taking its endeavour to provide qualitative edutainment to its listeners, All India Radio August 6, 2013 announced the launch of its new serial "Priya", which aims to spread the message of women empowerment, as well as educate rural masses about various government welfare schemes they can avail. "Priya" is a story of a poor but courageous young woman who fights against all odds to get educated and create awareness and progress in her village. It is a story of a young girl who grows up to be a well-aware citizen and aims to illuminate her village using non-conventional energy through wind power. How this girl fights all evils and creates awareness for the villagers forms the story. To expand the reach of the message-based show, "Priya" will also be translated into 22 regional languages for pan-India listeners. (A)

336) How many PhDs were awarded in India in 2011-12, according to Union Minister of State for HRD, Shashi Tharoor in August 2013?

- 10,000
- 13,000
- 16,000
- 19,000
- 22,000

The Union Government on August 7, 2013 said that the PhDs awarded has increased over the last three years to 49.27 per cent. "As per the data provided by UGC, the number of research degrees awarded has increased from 10,781 in 2008-09 to 16,093 in 2011-12, thus registering a growth of 49.27 per cent over three years," Minister of State for HRD Shashi Tharoor said in the Lok Sabha in a written reply. He said according to UNESCO's Institute of Statistics, India's contribution to the world's research publications has increased from 26,000 in 2002 to 44,000 in 2007. In comparison, the number of PhDs of USA and China were 41,467 and 48,112 respectively. (C)

337) Which of the following has decided to provide livelihood opportunities to villagers of calamity-hit Uttarakhand at an expenditure of Rs 700 crore under its Integrated Livelihood Support project in August 2013?

- World Bank
- United Nations
- Bloomberg Foundation
- Asian Development Bank
- United States Agency for International Development

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, a United Nations agency, will provide livelihood opportunities to villagers of calamity-hit Uttarakhand at an expenditure of Rs 700 crore. The funds will be provided under the Integrated Livelihood Support project. In the first phase, Rs 20 crore has been sanctioned, Chief Secretary Subhash Kumar said in Dehradun on August 7, 2013. This will help in purchase of livestock, purchase of mules and milch animals, as well as seeds according to the requirement of the season. The objective of this project is to improve the conditions of the economically weaker sections in the hill areas. The project will be first started in nine hill districts and 38 blocks. It was decided during the meeting that the preparations for the project would conclude by September. (B)

338) Organ Donation Day was observed in India in August 2013. Which is the leading state in organ donations in the country since 2008?

- Goa
- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu continues to lead the nation in organ donation, since it started the Cadaver Organ Transplantation Programme in 2008. Armed with a series of government orders issued by a sympathetic bureaucracy, it has had 374 donors and harvested a total of 2,079 organs. Between August 2012 and July 2013, there were 99 donors, a record of sorts in the country. One other donor was from Karnataka during the same period. The effort is now on to bring more hospitals into the network to counsel families of brain-dead patients and generate more donors. On Organ Donation Day on August 6, 2013, all the employees of the Apollo Hospital pledged to donate their organs. Over 10,000 employees led by group chairman Prathap C. Reddy joined the national pool of volunteers for organ donation, as part of the hospital's Gift a Life programme. (D)

339) Whose collection of short stories titled "Fly on the Wall and other Stories" was released in August 2013?

- Ayesha Jalal
- Shubha Sarma
- Tapan K. Ghosh
- Shovon Chowdhury
- Sharmishta Roy Chowdhury

Civil servant Shubha Sarma has penned a book of short stories set in locales ranging from the dense forests of Odisha to the lush greenery of Assam, while also packing in fiction set in fast-paced Delhi and Lucknow. Titled "Fly on the Wall and other Stories," the book was released in New Delhi on August 9, 2013 by HRD Minister Shashi Tharoor in the presence of Culture Minister Chandresh Kumari Katoch. In the anthology, totalling 13 short stories, Shubha takes inspiration from realistic tales in diverse settings and also delves on subjects ranging from urban milieu to areas of social unrest. The 1999 batch Lucknow—born IAS officer from the Odisha cadre has served more than a decade in the tribal districts of Odisha and is presently serving in the Culture Ministry. **Recent Books:** Everyman's War — Strategy, Security and Terrorism in India: Raghu Raman & Follow Every Rainbow: Rashmi Bansal; The Pity of Partition by Ayesha Jalal; Bollywood Baddies by Tapan K. Ghosh; The Competent Authority by Shovon Chowdhury; The Communist Cookbook by Sharmishta Roy Chowdhury (B)

340) Who among the following defence experts, known for books such as 'Air Power' and 'Defence from the Skies: Indian Air Force through 75 years' passed away on August 4, 2013?

- Jasjit Singh
- Raghu Raman
- Radha Vinod Raju
- K. Subrahmanyam
- Bahukutumbi Raman

Noted strategic analyst Air Commodore (retired) Jasjit Singh passed away in New Delhi on August 4, 2013 at the age of 79. Singh and K. Subrahmanyam had laid the foundation of the premier defence think-tank, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA). A prolific writer on defence strategic affairs, Singh has written vastly on the import of air power, the nuclear issue and various conflicts, including Kargil war. Singh is known for books such as 'Air Power' – the first book to clearly define missions and roles for the Indian Air Force (IAF); 'Defence from the Skies: Indian Air Force through 75 years' (2007) and a biography of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh titled 'The Icon' (2009). (A)

341) A soldier from which regiment was martyred in an attack along the LoC in Poonch sector in Jammu & Kashmir on August 6, 2013?

- Assam Regiment
- Dogra Regiment
- The Grenadiers
- Rajputana Rifles
- Maratha Light Infantry

Five soldiers were killed in an early-morning attack on August 6, 2013 at their post along the LoC in Poonch sector in Jammu and Kashmir. Defence Minister AK Antony on August 8 blamed the Pakistan Army for the incident. While four soldiers belonged to the 21st Battalion of the Bihar Regiment, one was from the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment. **Indian consulate in Afghanistan attacked:** Suicide bombers attacked the Indian consulate in Afghanistan's eastern capital Jalalabad on August 3, 2013, killing nine people, including children, mostly in an adjacent mosque. (E)

342) India had trade deficit with as many as _____ countries in 2012-13; Parliament was informed on August 5, 2013.

- 40
- 50
- 60
- 70

e) 80

India had trade deficit with as many as 80 countries, including China, Australia and Iraq, in 2012-13, Parliament was informed on August 5, 2013. "India has a trade deficit with 80 countries in 2012-13. Top ten countries are China, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Venezuela, Nigeria, Australia, and Indonesia," Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said in the Lok Sabha. Contribution of trade deficit of these ten countries to our trade deficit is 76.5%. India's exports during 2012-13 stood at \$300.3 billion, while imports aggregated at \$491.9 billion. Trade deficit stood at \$191.6 billion. (E)

- 343)** The United States announced sale of 145 state-of-the-art 155mm towed Howitzers to India worth about \$885 million in August 2013. The Howitzers are being manufactured by:
- Raytheon
 - BAE Systems
 - Lockheed Martin
 - General Dynamics
 - Northrop Grumman

The United States has decided to sell 145 state-of-the-art 155mm towed Howitzers to India worth about \$885 million to improve the security of "an important partner" for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South Asia. The US Department of Defense had on August 2, 2013 notified the Congress about the proposed sale. The Indian Government requested a sale of 145 M777 155mm light-weight towed Howitzers with laser inertial artillery pointing systems (LINAPS), warranty, spare and repair parts, maintenance, and training equipment, the Department of Defense said in a notification. The estimated cost is USD 885 million, it said. "This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to strengthen the US-India strategic relationship and to improve the security of an important partner which continues to be a partner for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South Asia", the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said. The M777 155mm Light-Weight Towed Howitzers made its debut in the war in Afghanistan. In addition to the United States Army, it is also used by the Australian and Canadian armies. Saudi Arabia has also ordered for M777 Howitzers. (B)

- 344)** Which of the following is the four-day literary festival organised by the India-Bhutan Foundation in Thimpu in August 2013?
- Mountain Hues
 - Mountain Verses
 - Mountain Dragon
 - Mountain Echoes
 - Mountain Reverberations

The four-day literary feast Mountain Echoes 2013 that brought writers, authors, musicians with many thought provoking and informative sessions on diverse subjects, intriguing discussions, and musical concerts came to a close on August 11, 2013. An initiative by the India-Bhutan Foundation, Mountain Echoes was produced by Siyahi. The event was inaugurated at the India House in Thimpu on August 8, 2013 in the presence of Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay and Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck of the royal family and Indian Ambassador to Bhutan V P Haran. India-Bhutan Foundation was established in August 2003 during the visit of the then King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, to India with an aim of enhancing people to people exchanges in areas like education, culture and environment protection. The festival's guest list included prominent film-maker Aparna Sen and renowned writer Amish Tripathi. (D)

- 345)** Whose appointment as India's new Ambassador to Russia was cleared by the government in August 2013?
- S. Jaishankar
 - Ashok Kantha
 - P.S. Raghavan
 - Ajai Malhotra
 - Pavan K. Varma

The government on August 9, 2013 firmed up the appointment of Ambassadors to three prominent world capitals — Washington, Moscow and Beijing. India's Ambassador in Beijing S. Jaishankar will replace Nirupama Rao in Washington. Ashok Kantha, Secretary (East) at South Block and former High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, will replace Jaishankar in Beijing. P.S. Raghavan, currently Special Secretary in the MEA, will take over from Ajai Malhotra as India's Ambassador in Moscow. The postings will not take effect immediately. (C)

- 346)** Gibraltar was in news in August 2013 because of differences between two EU nations over imposition of border controls. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Gibraltar is on the coast of Mediterranean Sea
 - Strait of Gibraltar is the only entrance to the Mediterranean Sea from the Pacific Ocean
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

British Prime Minister David Cameron on August 5, 2013 expressed "serious concern" at the sudden escalation of the Anglo-Spanish conflict over Gibraltar, amid fears that Spanish rhetorical threats to impose border charges and close airspace could turn into a form of economic blockade of the peninsula.



Gibraltar is a British overseas territory occupying a narrow peninsula of Spain's southern Mediterranean coast. It is 5 km long and 1.2 km wide and is connected to Spain by a low, sandy isthmus that is 1.6 km long. Gibraltar is a heavily fortified British air and naval base that guards the Strait of Gibraltar, which is the only entrance to the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean. Since the 18th century, Gibraltar has been a symbol of British naval strength, and it is commonly known in that context as "the Rock."

The recent UK-Spain row has been simmering for weeks with the Spanish imposing lengthy delays on the Spanish-Gibraltar border, and accusing the British of interfering in sovereign Spanish waters. The immediate row developed when Gibraltar's boats dropped concrete blocks into the sea to create a reef for fish at the mouth of the Mediterranean. Spain said the reef would block its fishing boats. The Spanish claim the charge on the vehicles crossing could be used to provide compensation to Spanish fishermen that have lost out due to the new reef. (A)

- 347)** The National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) ordered to suspend trading by the government in August 2013 following its default of dues to investors. Who among the following is the promoter of NSEL?
- NSE
 - BSE
 - FTIL
 - IIFCL
 - NABARD

The government on August 7, 2013 said it had issued a notification giving more teeth to regulator Forward Markets Commission (FMC) to ensure that the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) settled Rs.5,600 crore in dues to investors. NSEL is facing the problem of settlement after it suspended trade in forward contracts on July 31 following the government direction. The NSEL is a national electronic spot trading platform for commodities. NSEL is part of Financial Technologies (India) Ltd., (FTIL), which has also promoted Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) and MCX-SX, a stock exchange. NSEL is the premier spot exchange for trading of commodities with a 99 per cent share of the market and deals in agri-commodities and metals. It has 817 members with over 56,000 trader work stations across the country and in 2012-13 it had turnover of over Rs.2.95 lakh crore. Spot contracts have to be settled within 11 days as per provisions of the Forward Contracts Regulation Act (FCRA), that is, delivery of the commodity and cash settlement has to be completed within this period. (C)

- 348)** Raghuram Rajan was appointed as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a term of _____ in August 2013.
- One year
 - Two years
 - Three years
 - Four years
 - Five Years

Dr. Raghuram Rajan assumed charge as the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on September 4, 2013. Prior to this, he was the Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the Eric J. Gleacher Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago's Booth School. Between 2003 and 2006, Dr. Rajan was the Chief Economist and Director of Research at the International Monetary Fund. Replacing Kaushik Basu, Rajan was appointed as Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India on 10 August 2012.

Dr. Rajan's research interests are in banking, corporate finance, and economic development, especially the role finance plays in it. He has co-authored 'Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists: Unleashing the Power of Financial

Markets to Create Wealth and Spread Opportunity' from the Capitalists with Luigi Zingales in 2003. He then wrote Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy, for which he was awarded the Financial Times-Goldman Sachs prize for best business book in 2010.

Dr. Rajan is a member of the Group of Thirty. He was the President of the American Finance Association in 2011 and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In January 2003, the American Finance Association awarded Dr. Rajan the inaugural Fischer Black Prize for the best finance researcher under the age of 40. The other awards he has received include the global Indian of the year award from NASSCOM in 2011, the Infosys prize for the Economic Sciences in 2012, and the Center for Financial Studies-Deutsche Bank Prize for financial economics in 2013.

RBI Governors: Sir Osborne A. Smith was the first Governor of RBI. He served from April 1, 1935 to June 30, 1937. Sir Chintaman D. Deshmukh was the first Indian to become Governor. He served from August 11, 1943 to June 30, 1949. (C)

- 349)** What is the minimum number of persons required for formation of a company, according to the Companies Bill 2012 passed by the Parliament in August 2013?
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 5
 - 7

The Companies Bill 2012 was passed by the Parliament in August 2013. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 8, 2013. It had already been passed by the Lok Sabha in December 2012. The new Companies Bill, on its enactment, will allow the country to have a modern legislation for regulation of corporate sector in India. It will replace the existing statute for regulation of companies in the country, viz. the Companies Act, 1956. The new law will facilitate business-friendly corporate regulation, improve corporate governance norms, enhance accountability on the part of corporates/ auditors, raise levels of transparency and protect interests of investors, particularly small investors.

Important features of the Companies Bill, 2012 are:

Corporate Social Responsibility: Companies with a net worth of more than Rs.500 crore or revenue of more than Rs.1,000 crore or net profit of more than Rs.5 crore will have to spend 2% of their average net profit over the three preceding years on activities related to corporate social responsibility (CSR). Three years will be counted as preceding the one during which CSR was to be undertaken. Those failing to meet the obligation will have to explain the reasons for the shortfall.

Public company: Any company that has a minimum paid-up share capital of Rs.5 lakh is deemed to be a public company.

Directors: The maximum number of directors in a private company has been increased from 12 to 15. The Bill has a provision that keeps tab on exorbitant remunerations for the board of directors. Companies will have to disclose ratio of remuneration of each director on the board to the average of employees' salary.

Independent Directors: Deemed public companies having paid-up share capital of more than Rs.100 crore or aggregate outstanding loans or borrowings or debentures or deposits in excess of Rs.200 crore, are required to have at least one-third of their board made up of independent directors. The independent director would be appointed for a period of 5 years and is eligible of re-appointment for the following consecutive term. However a director cannot be appointed for more than two consecutive terms (i.e. 10 years). IDs can also hold a maximum of 20 directorships. Employees stock option plans (ESOPs) could not be given to independent directors, as that was given to employees.

Auditors: The appointment of an auditor/audit firm will be for a term of five years and will be subject to annual ratification by board members. Compulsory rotation of auditors is provided for in case of listed companies and certain other classes of companies. An audit firm cannot be reappointed for more than two consecutive terms of five years each. In case of an individual auditor this would be limited to one term of five years. An auditor can serve upto 20 companies. The Bill also makes auditors subject to criminal liability if they knowingly or recklessly omit certain information from their reports.

Incorporation of companies: The provision regarding incorporation of companies states that even one person can form a company, as against the earlier requirement of at least two people.

Women Directors: Every listed company and every other company that has a paid-up share capital of Rs.100 crore or more to appoint at least one woman director on its board.

Labour rights: Safeguarding workmen in the legislation, the new law mandates payment of two years' salary to employees in companies that wind up operations.

Investor protection: Acceptance of deposits from public will be subject to a more stringent regime. Provisions for Class Action Suits revised to provide minimum number of persons who may apply for such suits. Safeguards against misuse of these provisions have also been included.

Corporate frauds: A new clause related to offence of falsely inducing banks for obtaining credit has been introduced. The changed law allows more statutory powers to the government's investigative arm, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), to tackle corporate frauds. (A)

- 350)** What was the share of exports from Special Economic Zones in the total exports in 2012-13?
- 8%
 - 18%
 - 28%
 - 38%
 - 48%

The contribution of SEZ (Special Economic Zones) exports and country's exports during the last three years and the current financial year are as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Exports		
		Total exports of the Country (Value in Rs. Crore)	Total SEZ Exports(Value in Rs. Crore)	% share of SEZ exports in the total exports of the country
1	2010-11	11,42,922	3,15,868	27.64
2	2011-12	14,65,959	3,64,478	24.86
3	2012-13	16,35,261	4,76,159	29.12
4	2013-14*	4,05,105	1,13,299	27.97

*April, 2013 to June, 2013

Exports from SEZs today constitute a wide spectrum of goods and services ranging from Engineering, Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Petro chemicals, Apparel and Garments, Gems and Jewellery, IT/ITES etc.

Businesses established in SEZs are as susceptible to the external environment similar to businesses in the Domestic Tariff Area of the country. Global economic slowdown has had an adverse impact on SEZs as well. In order to address the challenges being faced by SEZs, certain amendments in SEZ policy and its operational framework have been made with the objective of making SEZs more investors' friendly.

The information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry D. Purandeswari in the Lok Sabha on August 5, 2013. (C)

- 351)** Which of the following statements on retirement saving schemes – Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and National Pension System (NPS) is/are correct?
- Rate of return on EPS deposits is announced by the government every year
 - Rate of return on NPS deposits is market determined and is not guaranteed
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The finance ministry has recently asked Employees' Pension Scheme to fold up and hand over subscribers to National Pension System.

While Employee Provident Fund (EPF) is a mandatory retirement saving scheme, National Pension System (NPS) is a voluntary one.

Only a salaried individual can contribute towards EPF. Any individual salaried or non-salaried, up to the age of 55 years, can contribute towards NPS.

A salaried individual automatically starts contributing to EPF. There is provision to opt out of this but that declaration needs to be made at the beginning of the career.

For NPS, employees have to subscribe and ask their employers to deduct a fixed amount every month or year. While there is no investment cost in EPF, the NPS charges fund management fees of 0.0102% for the government employees and there's a ceiling of 0.25% for the private sector.

An employee has to contribute at least 12% of his basic pay towards EPF. Of this, 8.33% goes in EPS, subject to a maximum of Rs 541 a month. The employer contributes an equal amount towards the EPF corpus. Thus, at least 24% of your basic pay is invested in EPF. An employee can always invest more than the mandated 12% towards EPF. The minimum investment towards NPS should be Rs 6,000 a year.

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) appointed by the Union Labour Ministry manages the EPF and announces the interest rate on deposits made in EPF every year. NPS corpus is managed by private fund managers; rate of return in NPS is market determined. Investment in equity does not allow NPS to offer guaranteed returns.

EPF invests in government securities or bonds issued by government-owned companies. EPF does not invest in equities. NPS is allowed to invest up to 50% of its corpus in equities.

EPF allows premature withdrawal for specific purposes (house construction, child's marriage and illness), without foreclosure. However, EPS portion of EPF can be withdrawn only for nine years of service and till the age of 50, that too partially. An employee who has worked for over ten years is liable for pension.

Any premature withdrawal leads to account closure in the case of NPS. Up to 20% of the funds can be withdrawn from NPS before one turns 60; the rest has to be used to buy annuity.

An employee can easily stop contributing towards EPF in desperate times, but can't do the same with NPS.

An employee's contribution of only up to 10% of the basic and dearness allowance is eligible for deduction under Section 80CCD (this amount is within the Rs 1-lakh limit, under Section 80C). Most taxpayers exhaust a substantial part of the Section 80C limit through EPF contribution, which can be invested up to Rs 1 lakh, completely tax-free. (C)

352) What was the per capita availability of vegetables in the country in 2011-12, according to the Ministry for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries in August 2013?

- 100 gm
- 200 gm
- 300 gm
- 300 gm
- 400 gm

As per estimates, the per capita availability of milk, fruits and vegetables in the country is 290 gram, 200 gram and 401 gram, respectively which is comparable to the World average. During 2011-12, the production of fruits and vegetables in India was 76.42 million tonnes and 156.33 million tonnes, respectively. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various programmes for promotion of horticulture in the country. Under which, steps are being taken to increase production and productivity of crops, creation of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure and setting up of processing units to increase access of common man to fruits and vegetables for daily consumption. This information was given by Tariq Anwar, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries in the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2013. (E)

353) Companies are classified as 'vanishing companies' if they cease to file their balance sheets and other documents after raising capital and the whereabouts of their offices or directors become untraceable. Which state has the highest number of 'Vanishing Companies', Lok Sabha, according to the Corporate Affairs Ministry in August 2013?

- Kerala
- Bihar
- Gujarat
- Karnataka
- Maharashtra

Almost 30% of the total vanishing companies are from Gujarat, the state considered as the hub for industries in the country. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Corporate Affairs Minister Sachin Pilot on August 8, 2013 said that as many as 87 companies fall under the category of "vanishing companies" and FIRs have been lodged against all of

them. Out of 87 companies, 26 were from Gujarat. Most of these 26 companies were agro-based or pharmaceutical companies, showed a table given by the minister in the lower house. Companies are classified as 'vanishing companies' if they cease to file their balance sheets and other documents after raising capital and the whereabouts of their offices or directors become untraceable. "Prosecutions have also been filed against these companies and their promoters/directors", said Pilot. Gujarat was followed by Andhra Pradesh, with 13 vanishing companies and Tamil Nadu with 10 such companies. There were nine vanishing companies in Maharashtra and four in Delhi. (C)

354) Who among the following took over as the first head of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) under the Planning Commission in August 2013?

- Dilip Bhatia
- Ajay Chhibber
- Neelam Bhartiya
- Rahul Shanghvi
- Shyam Bhatt

Ajay Chhibber took over as the first head of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) under the Planning Commission on August 7, 2013. He is a former assistant secretary general of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The IEO, which has been given an independent status, will evaluate programmes of the central government, particularly its flagship schemes. The IEO is meant to undertake impartial assessment of the various public programmes and improve the effectiveness of public interventions. The office has been given an independent status, outside the intervention of ministries, to give a more realistic picture of government programmes and their impact. It was set up in pursuance of the promise made in the Presidential address to the joint session of both houses of Parliament in June 2009. The IEO will function at an arm's distance from the government. It will also advise the Planning Commission and the implementing agencies in developing appropriate management systems consistent with the evaluation objectives. Chhibber has earlier worked in the Commission as a consultant. (B)

355) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) in August 2013?

- Justice V. Ravi
- Justice K N Basha
- Justice DPS Parmar
- Justice N T Vanamamalai
- Justice R Balasubramanian

Justice Prabha Sridevan, Chairman of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB), demitted office in Chennai on August 8, 2013 at the end of her tenure. After she retired as a Judge of Madras High Court, she was appointed IPAB Chairman in May, 2011. During her tenure, she delivered many landmark orders on intellectual property issues. Justice K N Basha, a former judge of the Madras High Court, on August 28, 2013 assumed charge as Chairman of the IPAB. IPAB is headquartered in Chennai and holds circuit sittings at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad. (B)

356) Which state launched the 'Bhumi Sena' scheme for reclamation of barren land to help increase the State's area under cultivation in August 2013?

- Odisha
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said that the Bhumi Sena scheme for reclamation of barren, ravenous and usar (alkaline soils) land will help increase the State's area under cultivation. The Chief Minister said not only will landless farmers benefit, the State's agriculture production will also increase. Yadav launched the Bhumi Sena scheme for the fiscal 2013-14 at a function held at his 5, Kalidas Marg official residence on August 8, 2013. The Bhumi Sena scheme aimed at benefitting landless and small farmers by making barren and usar land fit for agricultural purposes was first launched by former Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav in 1990. (D)

357) Which state announced the expansion of its Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) for 2.7 lakh more beneficiaries in rural areas in August 2013?

- Odisha
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh

In a bid to include more hapless people under social security network, Odisha government on August 7, 2013 extended Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) to 2.7 lakh more beneficiaries in rural areas. The new beneficiaries would avail the pension scheme from October this year. "In order to provide social security to more number of needy persons in rural areas, the state government has decided to provide additional 2.7 lakh pensions," announced Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Stating that the state government through its own funds is covering about 17 lakh persons under MBRS, Patnaik said the total number of beneficiaries will touch 19.7 lakh people. The state government spends about Rs 629 crore on the scheme from its own resources. (A)

- 358)** Who was the only medal winner for India at the World Badminton Championships 2013 organised in Guangzhou, China in August 2013?
- Jwala Gutta
 - P. V. Sindhu
 - Saina Nehwal
 - Ashwini Ponnappa
 - Parupalli Kashyap

Lin Dan and Ratchanok Intanon on August 11, 2013 won the Men's and Women's Singles titles respectively at the BWF World Championships 2013 ended anti-climactically in Guangzhou, China. Badminton World Federation (BWF) was the organiser. **Men's Singles** defending champion Lin Dan became the only player to win five world titles when Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei retired match point down due to cramps. Lin was leading 16-21 21-13 20-17 when Lee crouched on the court, unable to continue. Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon won the **Women's Singles** title when she defeated World No. 1 and Olympic gold medallist, Li Xuerui 22-20, 18-21, 21-14. Intanon, at 18, became the youngest Women's Singles winner of the World Championships. Indonesia's Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan won the **Men's Doubles** title with a 21-13, 23-21 defeat of Denmark's Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen in the final. China's Yu Yang and Wang Xiaoli won the **Women's Doubles** final beating South Korea's Jang Ye Na & Eom Hye Won 21-14, 18-21, 21-8. Indonesia's Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir won the **Mixed Doubles** title beating the Chinese pair of Xu Chen and Ma Jin 21-13, 16-21, 22-20. **PV Sindhu**, who won a bronze after suffering a straight-game defeat against world number three Ratchanok Intanon in the semifinals, was the only medal winner for India. Both London Olympics bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal and India's best ranked men's player Parupalli Kashyap lost in the quarter-finals and failed to win a medal. (B)

- 359)** Which of the following pairs of stadiums and cities in the five test Ashes series between hosts England against Australia in July-August 2013 is/are matched correctly?
- Trent Bridge – Manchester
 - Old Trafford – Nottingham
 - Riverside Ground – Chester-le-Street*
 - All the above
 - None of the above

England had to settle for a 3-0 victory in the Ashes series against Australia after the fifth and final Test ended in a thrilling draw at The Oval in London on August 25, 2013. Australian skipper Michael Clarke had set England a target of 227 to win in a challenging declaration. England came close to winning when they needed 21 more to off 24 balls with five wickets intact, but umpires Aleem Dar and Kumar Dharmasena decided the light, even with the floodlights on, was too dark to continue and ended the match. Alistair Cook was England's captain. Brief scores: Australia 492/9d and 111/6d; England 377 and 206/5 (40 overs, target: 227). Man of the Match – Shane Watson (Australia); England's Man of the Series: Ian Bell; Australia's Man of the Match: Ryan Harris. RESULTS: England had won the first test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham by 14 runs on July 14 and second Test at Lord's, London by 347 runs on July 21. The third test at Old Trafford, Manchester ended in a draw on August 5 while England won the fourth test at the Riverside Ground, Chester-le-Street by 74 runs on August 12, 2013. (C)

- 360)** Which of the following statements on the One day international (ODI) series between India and hosts Zimbabwe organised in July-August 2013 is/are correct?
- Amit Mishra was Man of the Series
 - Jaydev Unadkat took the most wickets in the series
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

India on August 3, 2013 created history by recording their first-ever five-match ODI series whitewash on foreign soil after they thrashed Zimbabwe by seven wickets in the fifth and final cricket ODI at Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo. Riding on leg-spinner Amit Mishra's six for 48, India first bowled out Zimbabwe for a paltry 163 in 39.5

overs and then chased down the small target comfortably with 16 overs to spare. Man-of-the-match Mishra took the most wickets (18) in the series. Shikhar Dhawan (209 runs) was the top scorer in the series. (A)

- 361)** India won the bronze medal in the _____ Hockey World Cup organised in Germany in August 2013.
- Junior Men's
 - Junior Women's
 - Senior Men's
 - Senior Women's
 - None of the above

Indian girls created history by winning country's first ever bronze medal in the junior women hockey World Cup as they pipped England 3-2 on penalties in Moenchengladbach, Germany on August 4, 2013. 18-year-old Rani Rampal scored India's only goal in the regulation time and then found the net twice in the penalty shoot-out to script India's memorable victory. The two teams had ended 1-1 after regulation time. The 18-member Indian squad was led by Sushila Chanu. (B)

- 362)** The Sports Ministry in August 2013 directed the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to identify 50 athletes in various disciplines for customised training under the '_____50' scheme to improve the country's performance in Olympics.
- National Talent Development Program
 - National Sports Development Fund
 - National Potential Medal Winners
 - National Champions Builder
 - National World Class

The Sports Ministry has directed SAI to identify 50 athletes in various disciplines for customised training under the 'National Sports Development Fund 50' scheme to improve the country's Olympic performance. "The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) has decided to support up to 50 sportspersons for customised training under 'NSDF 50' scheme," the Ministry said in a statement on Aug 9, 2013. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been asked to recommend names of sportspersons in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs) by the end of August, 2013. (B)

- 363)** The 2000-km long 5th _____ Dakshin Dare rally was won by Amanpreet Ahluwalia on August 10, 2013.
- Honda
 - Land Rover
 - Tata Motors
 - Maruti Suzuki
 - Mahindra & Mahindra

The 5th Maruti Suzuki Dakshin Dare concluded in Bangalore on August 10, 2013 after five days of drive covering over 2000km. Amanpreet Ahluwalia (co-driver Venu Ramesh), driving a Maruti Suzuki Gypsy, won in the Extreme Cars class, while Nataraj Rajanna of TVS Racing emerged champion among bikes in the Extreme Bikes Category. In the Endurance Cars class, Karthik Maruti & Shankar Anand won the race. (D)

- 364)** Which country topped the medals tally at the 15th FINA World Championship that featured aquatics disciplines such as swimming, water polo, diving, and synchronised swimming from July 20 to August 4, 2013?
- USA
 - Russia
 - China
 - Germany
 - Australia

The 15th FINA World Championship was organised in Barcelona, Spain from July 20 to August 4, 2013. The 2013 World Championships featured 6 aquatics disciplines: swimming, water polo, diving, high diving, open water, and synchronised swimming. The United States topped the medals tally with 34 medals (15 gold, 10 silver and 9 bronze) followed by China, Russia, France and Hungary. The 2015 FINA World Championships will be organised at Kazan, Russian Federation. (A)

- 365)** Who among the following won the Politiken Cup Chess organised in Copenhagen in July 2012?
- K Sasikiran
 - P Harikrishna
 - Abhijeet Gupta
 - Parimarjan Negi

e) M R Venkatesh

India's young chess Grandmaster Parimarjan Negi on August 4, 2013 won the Politiken Cup in Copenhagen remaining unbeaten. Negi won eight rounds and drew two to finish with a score of nine points out of a possible 10. Negi, the lone Indian invited to the tournament, returned with a high performance rate of 2779, taking his elo rating points to 2662, the victory fetching him 19 points. (D)

366) Which of the following is known in the banking sector industry for its Finacle Core Banking solution?

- a) TCS
- b) Wipro
- c) Infosys
- d) Microsoft
- e) Cognizant

Infosys is known in the banking sector industry for its Finacle Core Banking and McCamish Insurance platforms. (C)

367) India is now the world's _____-largest smartphone market, according to a report by Canals in August 2013.

- a) Second
- b) Third
- c) Fourth
- d) Fifth
- e) Sixth

India has now become the third-largest smartphone market after China and the United States in terms of smartphone shipments, according to the latest report by Canals on August 6, 2013. The report states that in Q2 2013, the global smartphone shipments were at 238.1 million. Smartphone shipments in India hit 9 million, making it the world's third-largest smartphone market. The Canals report mentions that the top five smartphone vendors in India include Samsung, Micromax, Karbonn, Sony and Nokia. The report notes that smartphone shipments in China were 88.1 million. (B)

368) Which of the following abbreviations used in Priority Sector Lending is/are matched correctly?

- I. PACS – Primary Agricultural Credit Societies
 - II. FSS – Farmers' Service Societies
 - III. LAMPS – Large Agricultural Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies – PACS, Farmers' Service Societies – FSS; Large Adivasi Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies – LAMPS (B)

369) Which of the following has services such as 'Risk Index' for corporates and 'TransUnion Score' of individual borrowers to indicate credit-worthiness while applying for loans from banks?

- a) Experian Credit Information Co
- b) Indian Credit Rating Agency
- c) Credit Information Bureau Ltd
- d) Equifax Information Services
- e) Highmark Credit Information Services

Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd is expanding its portfolio of services by introducing a Risk Index for corporates and business houses. This will help Indian banks and non-banking finance companies, most of which are shareholders in the company, to take quicker decisions on extending loans to these business entities. The lower a company figures in the Risk Index, the more confidence banks will have in its ability to service the loan. The credit information company (CIBIL) currently has the TransUnion Score for individual borrowers that are being used by banks and financial institutions for credit decisions. The score assigned to a borrower ranges from 300 to 900. While the credit rating agencies give a broader picture of the risk profile of a company, CIBIL's index will be a quick "snapshot" for lenders. (C)

370) When was the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition observed in August 2013?

- a) August 9
- b) August 12
- c) August 19
- d) August 23
- e) August 30

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was observed on August 23, 2013. In paying tribute, on 23 August each year, to the women and men who fought this oppression, UNESCO wishes to foster reflection and debate on a tragedy that has left its mark on the world as it is today. (D)

371) When was the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed in August 2013?

- a) August 9
- b) August 12
- c) August 19
- d) August 23
- e) August 30

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances was observed on August 30, 2013. Enforced disappearance has become a global problem and is not restricted to a specific region of the world. In December 2010, the UN General Assembly welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, to be observed beginning in 2011. (E)

372) When was the International Youth Day observed in August 2013?

- a) August 9
- b) August 12
- c) August 19
- d) August 23
- e) August 30

International Youth Day 2013 was observed on August 12, 2013. The theme for this year was: 'Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward.' (B)

373) When was the World Humanitarian Day observed in August 2013?

- a) August 9
- b) August 12
- c) August 19
- d) August 23
- e) August 30

World Humanitarian Day was observed on August 19, 2013. The day was designated by the General Assembly to coincide with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. This year the UN and its humanitarian partners are launching a ground-breaking campaign called "The world needs more". This is a first-of-its-kind project that will quite literally turn words into aid. (C)

374) When was the International Day of the World's Indigenous People observed in August 2013?

- a) August 9
- b) August 12
- c) August 19
- d) August 23
- e) August 30

The 19th commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was held on August 9, 2013 at UN Headquarters in New York. This year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples highlighted the importance of honouring agreements between States, their citizens and indigenous peoples, emphasizing the principles of friendship, cooperation and peace. This year's theme: "Indigenous peoples building alliances: honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements". (A)

375) 50-year old Erika Leonard (EL) James of the US is well-known for achievements in which of the following?

- a) Film production
- b) Journalism
- c) Economics
- d) Literature

e) Music

The success of the Fifty Shades trilogy has propelled Erika Leonard (EL) James to the top of Forbes' list of the highest-earning authors. The British writer earned \$95m in 2012, Forbes said on August 12, 2013. James Patterson took second place with \$91m. James's first novel 'Fifty Shades of Grey' sold 70 million copies in eight months. James's success is almost unprecedented, said Forbes, as most of the names on its annual list are established authors whose earnings derive from sales of their extensive back catalogues. Mainstays on this year's list include Stephen King and Danielle Steel, both of whom published their first novels, Carrie and Going Home, in 1973. James Patterson, meanwhile, will release his 115th book later this year. FORBES TOP-EARNING AUTHORS: 1. EL James - \$95m; 2. James Patterson - \$91m; 3. Suzanne Collins - \$55m; 4. Bill O'Reilly - \$28m; 5. Danielle Steel - \$26m; 6. Jeff Kinney - \$24m; 7. Janet Evanovich - \$24m; 8. Nora Roberts - \$23m; 9. Dan Brown - \$22m; 10. Stephen King - \$20m (D)

376) Izumo was launched by Japan in August 2013 is a/an:

- Rocket
- Warship
- Space station
- Military satellite
- Supercomputer

Japan on August 6, 2013 unveiled its biggest warship since World War II, a huge flat-top destroyer that has raised eyebrows in China and elsewhere because it bears a strong resemblance to a conventional aircraft carrier. The ship, dubbed "Izumo", has a flight deck that is nearly 250 metres long and is designed to carry up to 14 helicopters. Japanese officials say it will be used in national defence, particularly in anti-submarine warfare and border-area surveillance missions and to bolster the nation's ability to transport personnel and supplies in response to large-scale natural disasters, like the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011. Though technically a destroyer, some experts believe the new Japanese ship could potentially be used in the future to launch fighter jets or other aircraft that have the ability to take off vertically. (A)

377) Which country sentenced its former Army Chief Ilker Basbug for plotting a coup to overthrow the democratically elected government in August 2013?

- Iraq
- Libya
- Egypt
- Turkey
- Tunisia

A Turkish court on August 5, 2013 began delivering its verdict in the controversial trial of 275 people accused of plotting to overthrow the country's Islamic-rooted government, acquitting 21 suspects and giving prison sentences of up to 47 years to some others. Among the defendants in the high-profile case are ex-military chief Ilker Basbug and other army officers as well as lawyers, academics and journalists. (D)

378) What was the joint Sino-Russian anti-terrorist war games organised in Russia's Urals region in August 2013 named?

- Key Resolve
- Peace Mission
- Hand-to-Hand
- Invincible Spirit
- Austere Challenge

Russia and China organised their regular anti-terrorist war games in Russia's Urals region from August 3 to 17, 2013. The "Peace Mission 2013" drill in the Chebarkul military training area 1,700 km east of Moscow involved 1,500 troops and more than 250 units of military hardware, including 20 aircraft and helicopters. (B)

379) Robert Mugabe was declared re-elected as Zimbabwe's president in August 2013. The Zimbabwe African National Union – _____ (ZANU–PF) has been the ruling the country since independence in 1980

- Public Front
- Primary Front
- Peoples Front
- Patriotic Front
- Paragon Front

Robert Mugabe was on August 4, 2013 declared elected as Zimbabwe's president for the seventh term after winning elections denounced by the opposition as "stolen" and criticised by Western powers. Mugabe, 89, who has run the

country since he helped end white rule in 1980, trounced his long-standing political rival, Morgan Tsvangirai, in the election on July 31, 2013. Mugabe's ZANU (PF) proved similarly dominant, winning two-thirds of the seats declared thus far. Official results showed Mugabe won 61 percent of the presidential vote and his party got a super majority in parliament that will allow it to change the constitution. He routed Tsvangirai who trailed with 34 percent. The Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) has been the ruling party in Zimbabwe since independence in 1980, led by Robert Mugabe (D)

380) The Gujar Mal Modi Award, conferred on Vinod Prakash Sharma in August 2013, is given for achievements in which of the following?

- Social service
- Hindi Literature
- Journalism
- Science & Technology
- Entrepreneurship

Eminent Scientist Vinod Prakash Sharma was presented this year's Gujar Mal Modi Award for Science and Technology in New Delhi on August 9, 2013. Dr. Sharma has been felicitated for his outstanding contribution in the field of basic and applied research of Malaria and Vector Biology. He received a cash prize of Rs 2.01 lakh, a scroll of honour and a silver shield. The Gujar Mal Modi Innovative Science and Technology Award was instituted in 1988 in the memory of industrialist Rai Bahadur Gujar Mal Modi. It is given each year to a person who has demonstrated the qualities of excellence and innovation through outstanding research and for providing leadership in the development and promotion of science and technology in India. (D)

381) McGraw Hill Financial has acquired majority state in which Indian credit rating agency in August 2013?

- CRISIL
- ICRA
- CARE
- Brickworks
- None of the above

LinkedIn on August 20, 2013 announced the launch of University Pages, tailored for higher education. University pages will enable higher education institutions to build a brand and community on LinkedIn and directly engage with prospective and current students, alumni and parents. India's premier management institute – Indian Institute of Management – Ahmedabad will be the first school in India to own a page on the LinkedIn university pages. Through the university pages students and parents, will have ready access to insights from the career outcomes of millions of professionals on LinkedIn. (A)

382) Which steel company launched India's largest blast furnace named 'Durga' in August 2013?

- Essar Steel
- Tata Steel
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd
- Jindal Steel
- Steel Authority of India Ltd

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) on August 12, 2013 operationalised the nation's largest blast furnace at its Rourkela Steel Plant. It will increase SAIL's hot metal capacity by 2.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 4.5 mtpa, the company said in a statement. Named 'Durga', the furnace is built at an approximate expenditure of Rs 1,600 crore. It has a useful volume of 4060 cubic metres. SAIL chief C.S. Verma also inaugurated a new slab caster at Steel Melting Shop-II of the plant. The environment-friendly furnace ensures minimum emissions and recovers waste energy to the fullest. It also has a closed-loop cooling system resulting in almost zero water discharge. (E)

383) Which newspaper group is facing auction of its newspaper and magazine titles by IDBI Bank due to loan defaults?

- Deccan Herald
- Deccan Chronicle
- Malayala Manorama
- The Hindu
- The Indian Express

IDBI Bank in August 2013 put the newspaper titles of the debt-ridden Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited (DCHL) for auction. The public sector lender issued a request for proposal (RFP) for transferring titles of Deccan Chronicle, Andhra Bhoomi, The Asian Age and the Financial Chronicle. Due to the failure on the part of the DCHL to repay the

financial assistance provided to it, the bank had decided to enforce the security by transferring to the highest bidder its rights/interest on the trademark for a consideration. (B)

- 384)** Where was the 42nd World Skill Competition (WSC) organised from July 2 to 7, 2013?
- Japan
 - France
 - Canada
 - Germany
 - Australia

Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram unveiled the National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme that will be implemented on pan-India basis, in New Delhi on August 16, 2013. This is a first of its kind scheme to be launched in the country. The scheme was first proposed by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2012-13 to allocate Rs 1,000 crore for a scheme that will motivate the youth of this country to acquire a vocational skill. The scheme is expected to benefit a million people in the first year of its implementation.

The scheme that is branded as STAR (Standard Training Assessment and Reward) for promotional purposes envisages that a monetary reward that will in essence financially help those who wish to acquire a new skill or upgrade their skills to a higher level. Chidambaram urged the youth of the country and all key decision influencers like parents, teachers, mentors and employers to come forward and make best use of the benefits of this scheme.

The National Skilling Mission envisages adding 500 million skilled Indians by the year 2022. While 150 million are expected to be contributed by the private sector working under National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), 350 million will be contributed by 18-odd ministries at the Centre.

Offering his Ministry's complete support, Union Minister for Rural Development Jairam Ramesh said that it is contemplated to skill at least one youth from each family which had availed of 100 day employment under the under MNREGA scheme.

S Ramadorai, chairman of National Skill Development Corporation and National Skill Development Agency, said, the skilling mission has to be inclusive. The approach must be 'no Indian will be left behind' if we are to achieve our ambitious National Skilling Mission target. Dilip Chenoy is MD & CEO of NSDC.

The major highlights of the scheme are:

A Rs 1000 crore pan-India scheme launched by the Ministry of Finance

Branded as STAR – Standard Training Assessment and Reward

To benefit 1 million people

Scheme to be implemented by National Skill Development Corporation

Each tested and certified trainee to get an average of Rs 10,000 to cover training costs.

National Skill Development Corporation, a body under the Ministry of Finance, is one of its kind public private partnership endeavour with 51 per cent equity held by private sector and 49 per cent by the Union Government. Formed in 2010, NSDC is a professionally run not-for-profit company that includes 22 Sector Skill Councils and 87 training partners with over 2500 training centres spread across 352 districts in the country.

The Finance Minister also presented medallions to three winners of the World Skill Competition (WSC). The 42nd World Skills Competition 2013 was organised in Leipzig, Germany from July 2 to 7, 2013. Termed the 'Olympics of Skills', World Skills Competition (WSC) is the largest vocational skills education competition in the world, which takes place in a member country of world skills every two years by bringing together over 1000 apprentices and young specialists from industry, handcrafts and services to compete in a variety of skills ranging from welding to web designing. (D)

- 385)** The Rajya Sabha on August 13, 2013 passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2011 that provides for registration of "overseas Indian cardholders". Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- The overseas Indian cardholder will be entitled to be registered as a voter
 - The overseas Indian cardholder cannot become a member of any legislature in India
 - If a person renounces his overseas Indian card, then his minor child shall also cease to be an overseas Indian cardholder.
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

The Rajya Sabha on August 13, 2013 passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2011 that provides for registration of "overseas Indian cardholders" instead of "overseas citizens of India".

It defines an overseas Indian cardholder as a 'person registered as an overseas Indian cardholder' by the central government under Section 7A.

It also provides for registration of a spouse of an Indian citizen, who is citizen of another country and whose marriage is also registered abroad.

But the overseas Indian cardholder will not be entitled to the rights conferred on citizens of the country with regard to equality of opportunity in public employment, for election as President, Vice President and appointment of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The overseas Indian cardholder will also not be entitled to be registered as a voter and cannot become a member of any legislature.

No person who has been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or any other country as provided for by the government, shall be eligible for registration as an overseas Indian cardholder.

If a person renounces his overseas Indian card, then his minor child shall also cease to be an overseas Indian cardholder. (C)

- 386)** What was the objective of the National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2012 passed in the Parliament on August 13, 2013?
- To authorise NHAI to vet FDI proposals
 - To increase the number of members in NHAI
 - To provide government guarantees for loans taken for NHAI projects
 - To set up an Appellate Authority for hearing complaints against NHAI orders
 - To allow state governments to acquire land for developers implementing NHAI projects

A bill seeking to increase the number of members of National Highways Authority of India was passed in Parliament with the government promising steps to improve the condition of highways and check corruption in NHAI. The National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2012 was passed in the Rajya Sabha on August 13, 2013. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in September 2012. "The bill has limited scope, that is to increase the number of permanent and part-time members in NHAI," Road Transport and Highways Minister Oscar Fernandes said in the Upper House. At present the NHAI consists of a chairman, up to five full-time members and up to four part-time members. The Bill seeks to expand the Authority and it will now consist of a chairman, up to six full-time members and six part-time members. It mandates that at least two of the part-time members must be non-government professionals with knowledge or experience in financial management, transportation planning or any other relevant discipline. Induction of outside professionals is expected to enhance the capacity of the NHAI to take strategic decision, widen its perspective, bring in the best management practices, and assist in achieving the goal of higher private participation. (B)

- 387)** Development of indigenously built INS Arihant reached a milestone when the nuclear reactor that powers it turned critical on August 10, 2013. Which of the following statements is are/correct?
- INS Arihant is the first nuclear-powered submarine developed by India
 - INS Arihant will be equipped with K-15 underwater fired missiles
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

Capping 25 years of indigenous efforts in a technologically challenging area that only a handful of nations have mastered so far, the reactor on board India's nuclear-powered submarine, Arihant, went into operation on August 10, 2013.

Arihant's reactor achieved "criticality" — the term used to describe the self-sustaining nuclear reaction which is the first step towards the stable production of power — when the boat was "already in the sea."

The submarine — which is about 111 metres long, 11 metres broad and about 15 metres tall — is designed to be propelled by a pressurised water reactor (PWR) that uses enriched uranium as fuel, and light water as both coolant and moderator. The PWR will generate about 80 MW.

The submarine will eventually be fitted with K-15 underwater fired missiles, which can hit targets 700 km away.

Five countries already possess nuclear-powered submarines: the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France and China.

Arihant is a joint effort of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Navy.

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay, played a pivotal role in designing and developing the PWR that powers the Arihant. An identical PWR of the same capacity is already operating on the shore of Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, from September 2006. The enriched uranium for both the reactors comes from the DAE's Rare Materials Plant (RMP), near Mysore. (C)

388) A Kilo class submarine acquired by India from Russia suffered a fire and sunk at Mumbai dockyard on August 14, 2013. Which was the last Kilo class submarine commissioned into the Indian Navy?

- a) INS Sindhushastra
- b) INS Sindhughosh
- c) INS Sindhuvijay
- d) INS Sindhukirti

In a major setback to the Indian Navy, INS Sindhurakshak, a Russian-made Kilo class submarine, caught fire after a massive explosion and sank in the dockyard in Mumbai on August 14, 2013, with the 18 personnel, including three officers, on board reported dead. The 2,300 tonne submarine, powered by a combination of diesel generators and electric batteries, had returned after a major upgrade programme in Russia 3-4 months ago and was capable of carrying a potent weapons package including the anti-ship 'Klub' missiles.

About Kilo class submarines: Sindhughosh-class submarines are Kilo-class diesel-electric submarines in active service with the Indian Navy. The Sindhughosh submarines, designated 877EKM, were designed as part of Project 877, and built by Severodvinsk (Russia)-based shipbuilding company Sevmash under a contract between Rosvooruzhenie and the Ministry of Defence (India). The submarines have a displacement of 3,000 tonnes, a maximum diving depth of 300 meters, top speed of 18 knots, and are able to operate solo for 45 days with a crew of 53. They are equipped with Klub anti-ship cruise missiles with a range of 220 km. The first Kilo class submarine commissioned into the Indian Navy was INS Sindhughosh in April 1986 while the last one was INS Sindhushastra in July 2000. (A)

389) Which of the following is a Kiev class aircraft carrier with the Indian Navy?

- a) INS Viraat
- b) INS Vikrant
- c) INS Vikramaditya
- d) INS Vijay
- e) INS Vishal

INS Vikrant:

India on August 12, 2013 launched its first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, joining the elite club of nations with the capability of designing and building a warship in the over 35,000-tonne class. Defence Minister A K Antony's wife Elizabeth launched the carrier at Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL). Other nations capable of designing and building a ship of equivalent size are the US, the UK, Russia and France.

Preparations for building INS Vikrant started in 2008 and the keel was laid in February 2009. The carrier was floated out of its dry dock in December 2011 and launched on August 12, 2013. The carrier is scheduled to join the Navy in 2018.

INS Vikrant is 262 metres long & 60 metres wide, and displaces about 40,000 metric tons. It features a Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOVAR) configuration with a ski-jump. The deck is designed to enable aircraft such as the MiG-29K to operate from the carrier. It is expected to carry an air group of up to thirty aircraft, which will include up to 20 fixed-wing aircraft, primarily the Mikoyan MiG-29K and the naval variant of the HAL Tejas Mark 2, besides carrying 10 Kamov Ka-31 or Westland Sea King helicopters. The Ka-31 will fulfill the airborne early warning (AEW) role and the Sea King will provide anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability.

INS Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev class aircraft carrier set to enter service with the Indian Navy in November 2013. Originally built as Baku and commissioned in 1987 as Admiral Gorshkov, the carrier served with the Soviet (until the dissolution of the Soviet Union) and Russian Navies before being decommissioned in 1996. The carrier was purchased by India in 2004. The ship has successfully completed sea trials at Sevmash shipyard in Russia's northern

city of Severodvinsk and will now undergo aviation trials. She is expected to be in commission by the end of November 2013.

INS Viraat is a Centaur-class aircraft carrier in service with the Indian Navy. Viraat was completed and commissioned in 1959 as the British Royal Navy's HMS Hermes and was transferred to India in 1987. It is likely to remain in service till 2016. (C)

390) Prithvi-II, developed under the IMGDP by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), was successfully test-fired for its full strike range of 350 km on August 12, 2013. IMGDP stands for:

- a) Indian Guided Missile Design Program
- b) Integrated Guided Missile Development Program
- c) Indigenous Guided Missile Development Program
- d) Integrated Government Missile Development Program
- e) Indigenous Government Missile Development Program

The country's first nuclear weapons-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Prithvi-II, was successfully test-fired for its full strike range of 350 km from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, off Odisha coast, on August 12, 2013. A missile unit of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) tested it as part of regular training exercise. Inducted into the SFC in 2003, Prithvi-II, the first missile to be developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the prestigious Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP), is now a proven technology. Equipped with advanced high-accuracy navigation and manoeuvring system, the missile achieved all its targeting and technical parameters set out for this launch. It was a perfect textbook launch. (C)

391) The government on August 13, 2013 said Medical Council of India (MCI) has amended post graduate medical education regulations to make it mandatory for candidates seeking admission in post graduate courses to have served in rural areas for at least _____.

- a) Six months
- b) One year
- c) One and half years
- d) Two years
- e) Three years

The government on August 13, 2013 said Medical Council of India (MCI) has amended post graduate medical education regulations to make it mandatory for candidates seeking admission in post graduate courses to have served in rural areas for at least one year. "MCI, with the previous approval of the Centre, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations to make it mandatory that a candidate seeking admission in post graduate course should have served in rural areas, i.e. primary health centres for at least one year," Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad informed Rajya Sabha. (B)

392) The Union HRD Ministry has launched a programme to limit the number of colleges a University can provide affiliation to. Currently which University has the largest number of colleges (901) affiliated to it?

- a) Mumbai University
- b) Osmania University
- c) Bangalore University
- d) Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University
- e) Tamil Nadu Teachers' Education University

The Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) proposes to put a ceiling of maximum number of colleges to be affiliated to any university at two hundred. According to the Ministry of Human Resource Development on August 16, 2013 the proposal has been submitted following several State Universities having a large number of colleges affiliated to a single university.

Universities with largest number of Affiliated Colleges: University-Number of Colleges (Top 5): Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh - 901; Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra - 811; Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj, Nagpur, Maharashtra - 800; Rajasthan University, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 735; Bangalore University, Karnataka - 687; Mumbai University, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 711; Tamil Nadu Teachers' Education University, Tamil Nadu - 661

The average number of affiliated colleges per university is 300. This phenomenon negatively affects the academic quality of the University. It is imperative that States create more universities so that affiliation does not result in large number of colleges being tied academically to one university.

RUSA is aimed at increasing enrolment in the higher education institutions to 30 per cent by 2020 as against the present 12.4 per cent. The government intends to subsume the current scheme of setting up model degree colleges in 374 educationally backward districts of the country. (B)

- 393) The Union Government approved the establishment of an "International Centre for _____ Quality" in Kolkata on August 13, 2013.
- Air
 - Sea Food
 - Jute Fibre
 - Drinking Water
 - Processed Food

The Centre on August 13, 2013 approved the establishment of an "International Centre for Drinking Water Quality" in Kolkata that will conduct research and training and advise the Centre, states and South Asian neighbours on water-related issues. The institution will be tasked with research on drinking water technologies, health impacts of water contaminants — with special focus on arsenic and fluoride — and the chemistry of sediments. Although India's cities and towns have municipal water supply lines, microbial contamination routinely leads to outbreaks of water-borne diseases, such as rotavirus infections among young children and hepatitis A or hepatitis E even among adults. (D)

- 394) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved procurement of up to 10,000 _____ under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on August 13, 2013.
- Trams
 - Buses
 - Ambulances
 - Fire brigades
 - CNG filling stations

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on August 13, 2013 approved procurement of up to 10,000 buses and ancillary infrastructure for urban transport costing Rs. 6,300 crore under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). A minimum of 2,000 buses will be earmarked for the hill states including the north eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The financial support for ancillary infrastructure components under the programme would be a maximum Rs.20 crore for cities with million plus population and Rs. 1 crore and above for smaller cities. (B)

- 395) The Linguistic Experts' Committee, constituted by the Government of India to consider demands for categorization of languages as Classical Languages, has recommended declaration of which of the following as classical language in August 2013?
- Odiya
 - Bengali
 - Marathi
 - Konkani
 - Manipuri

The Minister of Culture Chandresh Kumari Katoch on August 14, 2013 said that the Linguistic Experts' Committee, which has been constituted by the Government of India to consider demands for categorization of languages as Classical Languages, has recommended Odiya to be declared as classical language. Earlier this year Malayalam was accorded the status already given to Sanskrit, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. The benefits that accrue to a language declared as "Classical Language" are: (i) Two major international awards for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian Languages are awarded annually. (ii) A 'Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages' is set up. (iii) The University Grants Commission can be requested to create in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian Languages. (A)

- 396) The _____ Skill Summit 2013 was organised in New Delhi on August 14, 2013 by the CII, HSSC, NSDC and BGHI.
- Aviation
 - Agriculture
 - Hospitality
 - Healthcare
 - Engineering

The Healthcare Skill Summit 2013 was organised in New Delhi on August 14, 2013 by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and BGHI Skill Development Academy (SDA). In a significant step towards ensuring that allied health and paramedical workers

have the requisite training and skills, the national occupational standards were unveiled in 15 job categories by Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on the occasion. The 15 categories include that of wardboys and ayahs, identified as general duty assistants, emergency medical technicians, radiology technicians and operation theatre technicians. (D)

- 397) Which of the following was declared as the National Waterway by a Bill passed in the Rajya Sabha on August 14, 2013?
- Dhubri-Sadiya stretch
 - Allahabad-Haldia stretch
 - Lakhimpur-Bhanga stretch
 - Kottapuram-Kollam stretch
 - Kakinada-Puducherry stretch

The Rajya Sabha on August 14, 2013 passed a bill to declare the 121-km stretch of Barak River in Assam as National Waterway, a move aimed at unified development of waterways for shipping, navigation and transportation of cargo to the north-eastern region. The National Waterway (Lakhimpur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River) Bill, 2013 to develop the Barak river stretch as country's sixth National Waterway would particularly benefit Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh by facilitating cargo movement there. Shipping Minister G K Vasani said the project will entail an investment of Rs 123 crore and would be completed in two phases in five years. The Minister said the waterway has the potential to transport 12.45 lakh tonne of cargo like tea, coffee, iron, steel and coal per annum after its development by 2018-19. The country has already five National Waterways covering a length of 4,382 km of which infrastructure has been developed for initial three while the process is on for the remaining two. (C)

- 398) The Librarians Day was celebrated on _____, 2013.
- August 9
 - August 10
 - August 11
 - August 12
 - August 13

The Librarians Day was celebrated on August 12, 2013. S. R. Ranganathan, who is known as "Father of Library Science in India", was the first person one who identified the real need of libraries and library science education in our country. India celebrates August 12 as Librarians Day in his honour. (D)

- 399) A book by acclaimed _____ Ram Ugrah was released in August 2013.
- Scientist
 - Cartoonist
 - Economist
 - Film reviewer
 - Sports journalist

'India a Cartoon Chronicle' - a compilation of select cartoons drawn by noted cartoonist Ram Ugrah, chronicling important political developments since 1970s, was released by Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit in New Delhi on August 16, 2013. The cartoons featured in the book were published in a number of leading newspapers. Ugrah, who was a journalist until 1998, had worked in a number of leading newspapers. In his brief address, Ugrah said cartooning has been his hobby and he tried to reflect political developments in his cartoons. (B)

- 400) Who among the following is the author of 'Vijay Chowk Live', a novel on the malpractices in TV journalism, released in August 2013?
- Priya Singh
 - Assa Doron
 - Robin Jeffrey
 - Kingshuk Chatterjee
 - Shivendra Kumar Singh

Noted sports journalist Shivendra Kumar Singh's novel based on the lives of television journalists was released on August 11, 2013. Titled 'Vijay Chowk Live', the book was released at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The novel highlights the malpractices in TV journalism. Other books released in August 2013 include: Interpreting the Arab Spring — Significance of the New Arab Awakening? By Priya Singh, Kingshuk Chatterjee; The Great Indian Phone Book - How the Cheap Cell Phone Changes Business, Politics, and Daily Life by Assa Doron & Robin Jeffrey (E)

- 401) Chairman and Co-Founder of which IT company has authored the book 'The Elephant Catchers — Key Lessons for Breakthrough Growth' released in August 2013?

- Genpact
- Mphasis
- Wipro
- MindTree
- Infosys

The Elephant Catchers — Key Lessons for Breakthrough Growth is a book by Subroto Bagchi (Co-founder, Chairman of Mindtree) released in August 2013. **About the Book:** Unlike an operation to catch Rabbits, trapping an Elephant calls for expertise over enthusiasm. Those who hunt Rabbits are rarely able to rope in Elephants. Many organizations, even those that may have a brilliant start, falter in their attempts to achieve transformational growth in their later phases. In 'The Elephant Catchers', Subroto Bagchi distills his years of on-the-ground learning to explore why this happens and what such organizations and their people must do to climb to the next level and beyond. Through a combination of engaging anecdotes from his experiences as co-founder and subsequently Chairman of Mindtree Ltd and insightful stories from our everyday world, Bagchi demonstrates a crucial point: Organizations with real ambition to get to the top need to embrace the idea of scale and then ensure that it systematically pervades every aspect of its functioning. **(A)**

- 402)** Who among the following is the author of the book "Public Money, Private Agenda: The Use and Abuse of MPLADS" released in August 2013?
- Raza Rumi
 - Najeeb Jung
 - Surya Prakash
 - Dipankar Gupta
 - Rajendra Abhyankar

The rampant misuse of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), a scheme which puts public funds in the hands of parliamentarians to fund community projects, forms the focus of a new book by author and columnist **Surya Prakash**. The book released in New Delhi on August 22, 2013 is titled "Public Money, Private Agenda: The Use and Abuse of MPLADS". The MPLAD scheme, which began in the year 1993 with an allocation of Rs 1 crore per annum per MP has a current corpus of Rs 5 crore.

"The Sting of a Bee", a book penned by Lt Governor of Delhi **Najeeb Jung**, written while he was Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, was released on August 26, 2013. The book, which contains 50 essays penned by Jung, deals with a number of burning issues of the day: from Women's Education, Kashmir, India-Pakistan relations and secularism.

Other Books released in August 2013 include: 'Delhi by Heart: Impressions of a Pakistani Traveller' by **Raza Rumi**; 'Stuff Happens — Anecdotal Insight into Indian Diplomacy' by **Rajendra Abhyankar**; 'Revolution From Above: India's Future and the Citizen Elite' by **Dipankar Gupta (C)**

- 403)** Former Railway Board Chairman Vinay Mittal was appointed member of which of the following in August 2013?
- Planning Commission
 - National Advisory Council
 - Central Information Commission
 - Union Public Service Commission
 - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Former Railway Board chairman Vinay Mittal appointed UPSC member: Former Railway Board Chairman Vinay Mittal has been appointed as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He was appointed on August 8 for a period of six years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, a notification issued by the Ministry of Personnel said on New Delhi August 12, 2013. The retired Indian Railway Traffic Service officer was chairman of Railway Board for two years from June 30, 2011 to June 30. He is the eight member in the Commission. Besides him, Rajni Razdan, Venkatarami Reddy Y, Alka Sirohi, David R Syiemlieh, Manbir Singh, former CBI director Amar Pratap Singh and Former Navy Vice Chief D K Dewan are other members. The Commission, headed by D P Agrawal, still has two vacancies. **(D)**

- 404)** Former Union Minister and _____ Devendra Prasad Yadav passed away at the age of 76 on August 11, 2013.
- Industrialist
 - Economist
 - Journalist
 - Cartoonist

- Scientist

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader from Bihar, Devendra Prasad Yadav, 76, passed away in New Delhi on August 11, 2013. Yadav was a three-time Member of Parliament from Munger parliamentary seat of Bihar and had served as Minister of State for Education during 1971-77 in Indira Gandhi's cabinet. He was also a member of the Congress Working Committee, the apex decision making body of the party, during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. Yadav was a member of the AICC committee on economic policy and earlier served as the chairman of IFFCO as well as of Central School Organisation. A post graduate in Science from Bihar University in Ranchi, Yadav had served as a professor and junior scientist before joining politics. Closely linked with various academic and research organisations, the Congress leader had written a number of books including "Grassroot Planning", "Dynamics of Development" and "Uranium and Beyond". **(E)**

- 405)** Padma Shri awardee Sakar Khan, who passed away in Jaisalmer on August 10, 2013, was honoured for his achievements in the field of:
- Music
 - Poetry
 - Sports
 - Handlooms
 - Agriculture

Renowned Rajasthani folk musician and Padma Shri awardee Sakar Khan, an exponent of the melodious bow and string instrument Kamaicha, passed away in Jaisalmer on August 10, 2013. Khan, belonging to the traditional Manganar folk musician community of Rajasthan, was honoured with the Padma Shri in April 2012, besides being awarded the Tulsi Samman by the Madhya Pradesh Government in 1990. He was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1991. Khan had performed with renowned American violinist Yehudi Menuhin and George Harrison of The Beatles, besides appearing in numerous international performances at major festivals in the US, France, Japan and the USSR, among others. **(A)**

- 406)** Zafar Futehally, who passed away at the age of 93 on August 12, 2013, was a renowned:
- Archaeologist
 - Ornithologist
 - Nephrologist
 - Cartographer
 - Anthropologist

Renowned naturalist, ornithologist and conservationist Zafar Futehally, 93, passed away in Maharashtra's Raigad district on August 12, 2013. Futehally was remembered for his work as the honorary secretary of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) for over a decade and his Newsletter for Birdwatchers, a periodical which helped birdwatchers across India to communicate and record their observations. He was conferred with several national and international honours, including the Padma Shri in 1970. Also working for the World Wildlife Fund, and his close rapport with the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Futehally succeeded in getting the government to initiate several measures beneficial to conservation efforts. **(B)**

- 407)** Yog Raj Puri, who passed away at the age of 98 on August 12, 2013, was a pioneer in the field of _____ education.
- Media
 - Military
 - Medical
 - Montessori
 - Management

Founder-principal of India's first Sainik School at Satara (Maharashtra), Lt Col Yog Raj Puri, died in Pune on August 15, 2013 at the age of 98. His students included former Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Pradeep Naik and film-maker Rakesh Roshan. Puri was handpicked by the late Yashwantrao Chavan to be the first principal of the school which completed its golden jubilee three years ago. **(B)**

- 408)** Dilip Singh Judeo, who passed away on August 14, 2013, was a Lok Sabha MP from which state?
- Bihar
 - Odisha
 - Jharkhand
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Madhya Pradesh

Dilip Singh Judeo, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bilaspur constituency in Chhattisgarh, passed away in New Delhi on August 14, 2013. Judeo was the Minister of State for Environment and Forests in former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's BJP-led coalition government. (D)

- 409) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of _____ Moussa Faki Mahamat came on an official visit to New Delhi in August 2013?
- Togo
 - Chad
 - Libya
 - Sudan
 - Algeria

India and Chad had their first bilateral interaction when the central African nation's Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration Moussa Faki Mahamat met External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid New Delhi on August 13, 2013. "This is the first bilateral interaction at this level between India and Chad," said external affairs ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin. Chad is likely to be the next chair of Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional group of 16 countries in Africa. India is purchasing limited quantity of crude from Chad. India has also offered to set up a civil aviation academy in Chad, which has emerged as an important economic and political player in Africa. (B)

- 410) Beskop Tshechu was the _____ Festival organised in Bhutan from September 5 to 10, 2013.
- Film
 - Food
 - Buddhist
 - Children's
 - Literature

Six short films from India were screened at the Beskop Tshechu (Bhutan Short Film Festival). 'Journey to Nagaland', 'Do Flowers Fly', 'Gullak', 'Dopahar', 'Bidaya' and 'The Last Day' were screened at the festival organised from September 5 to 10, 2013. Beskop Tshechu was first launched in celebration of the historic Royal Wedding in Bhutan 2011. The festival is the first documentary, animation and short film festival in Bhutan and is dedicated to promoting and encouraging creative filmmaking in Bhutan. It showcases not only films made by Bhutanese but also a few foreign films. (A)

- 411) Which is the world's best ranked institution in the list of world's top 500 universities released by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University (CWCU) in August 2013?
- Oxford University
 - Harvard University
 - Stanford University
 - University of Cambridge
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

India's higher educational institutions have once again failed to find a respectable place in the world's top 500 universities. Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is the only institution that figures somewhere between 300 and 400 as ranked by the ARWU for 2013 released in August 2013.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is conducted by researchers at the Center for World-Class Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (CWCU). Harvard University has been described as the world's best university with a score of 100; followed by Stanford University with a score of 72.6. University of California, Berkeley; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and University of Cambridge have scored around 71 points.

The rankings consider every university that has any Nobel Laureates, field medallists, highly cited researchers, or papers published in Nature or Science. In addition, universities with significant amount of papers indexed by the Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE) and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) are also included. Universities are also ranked by several indicators of academic or research performance, and the per capita academic performance of an institution. For each indicator, the highest scoring institution is assigned a score of 100, and other institutions are calculated as a percentage of the top score. (B)

- 412) Which country detained Indian tanker 'MT Desh Shanti' on allegations of marine pollution caused by oil spill in August 2013?
- UAE
 - Iran
 - Iraq

- Qatar
- Singapore

Iran on August 16, 2013 clarified that it detained Indian tanker 'MT Desh Shanti' as a regional agency monitoring marine pollution raised an oil spill alarm. Iran's Fars News Agency has reported that the Bahrain-based Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) held the ship responsible for causing oil discharge while on its way to India from Iraq. The Iranian environment protection organisation, said the tanker had discharged "oily ballast water" 48 km away from Lavan Island in the Persian Gulf, causing a 16-km-long "oil stain". The ship was reportedly carrying Iraqi oil for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. If a case of environmental damage due to washing out of ballast water is made out, charges or penalties are likely to be slapped on the ship's insurers. (B)

- 413) Consider the following statements on RBI guidelines on the exposure of banks to their group companies.
- If the group company is a non-financial services company, the exposure will be limited to 10 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank
 - If the group company is an unregulated financial services company, the exposure will be limited to 5 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines on 'Management of Intra-Group Transactions and Exposures (ITEs)' seek to limit the exposure of banks to their group companies. The exposure limit to a single group entity, which is a non-financial services company OR an unregulated financial services company, would be 5 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank. (B)

- 414) Consider the following statements on RBI guidelines on the exposure of banks to their group companies.
- If the group company is a regulated financial services company, the exposure will be limited to 10 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank
 - The aggregate group exposure limit to all non-financial services companies taken together, would be 15 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines on 'Management of Intra-Group Transactions and Exposures (ITEs)' seek to limit the exposure of banks to their group companies. If the single group entity is a regulated financial services company, the exposure limit would be 10 per cent. In case all non-financial services companies are taken together, the aggregate group exposure of a bank would be 10 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank. (A)

- 415) Consider the following statements on RBI guidelines on the exposure of banks to their group companies.
- The aggregate group exposure limit to all unregulated financial services companies taken together, would be 10 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank
 - The aggregate group exposure limit to all group entities (financial and non-financial) taken together, would be 20 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines on 'Management of Intra-Group Transactions and Exposures (ITEs)' seek to limit the exposure of banks to their group companies. In case all unregulated financial services companies are taken together, the aggregate group exposure of a bank would be 10 per cent of paid-up capital and reserves of the bank. It would be 20 per cent in case all group entities (financial and non-financial) are taken together. (C)

- 416) Which of the following pairs of National Sports Awards announced on August 22, 2013 and their cash prizes is/are matched correctly?
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award – Rs 10 lakh
 - Arjuna Award – Rs. 5 lakh

- c) Dhyanchand Award – Rs. 7.5 lakh
- d) Dronacharya Award – Rs. 7.5 lakh
- e) All the above

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports on August 22, 2013 announced the winners of National Sports Awards-2013. Apart from a medal and a citation, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs.7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, citations and cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each. Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies. (B)

- 417)** Which of the following is hosting first 'Global Islamic Economy Summit' in partnership with Thomson Reuters in November 2013?
- a) Doha
 - b) Dubai
 - c) Sharjah
 - d) Jeddah
 - e) Teheran

With a global consumer base of 1.6 billion Muslims, the first 'Global Islamic Economy Summit' will be organised in Dubai by Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Thomson Reuters in November. The summit to be held on November 25 and 26, will gather leading thinkers, policy makers and stakeholders from around the world to lead a discussion on the future of the USD 4 trillion Islamic economy. The announcement made on August 14, 2013 follows the launch of 'Dubai: Capital of Islamic Economy' by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. (B)

- 418)** The 23rd World Congress of _____ was organised in Athens from August 4 to 10, 2013.
- a) History
 - b) Religions
 - c) Philosophy
 - d) Meteorology
 - e) Climatology

China's capital Beijing will host the 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) in 2018. This was announced at the 23rd WCP organised in Athens from August 4 to 10, 2013 by the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP). The 24th WCP will be organised by the department of philosophy at Peking University. The 23rd WCP saw participation from more than 100 countries. The theme was: 'Philosophy as inquiry and way of life.' The first WCP was held in 1900 in Paris. The congress aims at inquiring into the world's philosophical traditions, reflecting on the tasks and functions of philosophy in the contemporary world, among others. (C)

- 419)** Who among the following was sworn in as the new President of Paraguay on August 15, 2013?
- a) Efrain Alegre
 - b) Horacio Cartes
 - c) Nicanor Duarte
 - d) Federico Franco
 - e) Andres Rodriguez

Multi-millionaire businessman Horacio Cartes was on August 12, 2013 sworn in as the President of Paraguay in a ceremony in the capital, Asuncion. In his inaugural speech, Cartes, of the centre-right Colorado Party, promised to wage war on poverty. Paraguay is one of the poorest countries in South America. Cartes, a relative newcomer to politics who had not voted before 2008, was elected with 45.8% of the ballots in April. He defeated his closest rival, the Liberal Efrain Alegre, by nine percentage points. In 2008, Cartes was beaten by a left-wing coalition headed by Fernando Lugo. Lugo was controversially impeached by Congress over his handling of a land eviction in which 17 people died. (B)

- 420)** Who among the following was elected new President of Mali in election held in August 2013?
- a) Mandé Sidibé
 - b) Alpha Oumar Konaré
 - c) Abdoulaye Sékou Sow
 - d) Ibrahim Boubacar Keita
 - e) Amadou Toumani Touré

Mali announced Ibrahim Boubacar Keita as its new leader after the ex-prime minister won a landslide victory in a presidential poll held on August 11, 2013. Results announced in capital Bangui on August 16 showed Keita won an overwhelming 77.6 per cent of the vote, with his rival Soumaila Cisse trailing on 22.4 per cent. Mali's first election

since 2007 was seen as crucial for unlocking more than USD 4 billion (three billion euros) pledged by international donors. Aid to the country had been halted after a separatist uprising led to a 2012 coup and an Islamist insurgency that plunged the country, then seen as one of the region's most stable democracies, into turmoil. Keita, 68, has a reputation for toughness and is known for his blunt speaking and unwillingness to compromise. (D)

- 421)** Which of the following pairs of those who passed away in August-September 2013 is/are matched correctly?
- a) Alexander Soldatenkov – Rocket scientist
 - b) Jacques Verges – Lawyer
 - c) Johan Friso – Dutch Prince
 - d) Both (a) & (b)
 - e) (a), (b) & (c)

SS Staff Sgt. **Rochus Misch**, bodyguard to Adolf Hitler for most of World War II and one of the last of a generation that bears direct responsibility for German brutality during World War II, died on September 5, 2013 at the age of 96. The last remaining witness to Hitler's final hours in his Berlin bunker, he remained in what he called the "coffin of concrete" for days after Hitler's death, finally escaping as Berlin crumbled around him and the Soviets swarmed the city.

Economist **Ronald Coase** passed away on September 2, 2013 at the age of 102. A British economist and author who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1991, Coase is best known for two articles in particular: "The Nature of the Firm" (1937), which introduces the concept of transaction costs to explain the nature and limits of firms, and "The Problem of Social Cost" (1960), which suggests that well-defined property rights could overcome the problems of externalities.

Veteran British journalist and broadcaster **David Frost**, who won fame around the world for his TV interviews with the former U.S. President, Richard Nixon, passed away at the age of 74 on August 31, 2013. He was the only person to have interviewed all six British Prime Ministers serving between 1964 and 2007 and the seven U.S. Presidents between 1969 and 2008. He had recently been working for Al-Jazeera International.

Alexander Soldatenkov, 86, a top Russian rocket designer who worked on the mission that made Yuri Gagarin the first man in space, died in the Volga city of Samara on Moscow August 11, 2013.

France's **Jacques Verges**, the provocative lawyer who earned the nickname of "Devil's advocate" by defending a long list of high-profile criminals from Klaus Barbie to Carlos the Jackal, died in Paris on August 16, 2013 at the age of 88. One of his last high-profile cases was the defence in 2011 of his long-time friend, Cambodia's former communist head of state Khieu Samphan, who faced charges of crimes against humanity over the 1975-1979 Khmer rule.

Dutch Prince **Johan Friso** passed away on August 12, 2013, more than 17 months after he suffered a severe brain injury in an avalanche. Prince Friso, 44, was caught in an avalanche at an Austrian ski resort in February 2012. His elder brother, Willem-Alexander, is king of the Netherlands. (E)

- 422)** A _____ national replaced India's Ajay Chhibber as the UN Assistant Secretary General in August 2013.
- a) Chinese
 - b) Japanese
 - c) Malaysian
 - d) Indonesian
 - e) South Korean

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on August 13, 2013 announced the appointment of Haoliang Xu of China as Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He will replace Ajay Chhibber of India, who will return to his Government. (A)

- 423)** The Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2012 were announced on August 14, 2013. Which of the following had the highest number of recipients?
- a) Shram Ratna
 - b) Shram Bhushan
 - c) Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana
 - d) Shram Shree/Shram Devi

The Government on August 14, 2013 announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2012 to be awarded to 70 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performances, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind. The sole winner of the Shram Ratna Award (Subrata Kumar, Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur) received Rs. 2

lakh and a citation. Each individual winner of Shram Bhushan (8 winners) got Rs. 1 lakh and citation; Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana (20 winners) –Rs. 60,000 and a citation & Shram Shree/Shram Devi (41 winners) – Rs. 40,000 and a citation. (D)

- 424) Which of the following was observed on August 19, 2013 in honour of Joseph Nicephore Niepce and Louis Daguerre?
- World Cinema Day
 - World Poetry Day
 - World Painting Day
 - World Publishing Day
 - World Photography Day

August 19, 2013 was observed as World Photography Day. Founded in 2009 and first launched globally in 2010, the World Photography Day originates from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic processes developed by Joseph Nicephore Niepce and Louis Daguerre. On January 9, 1839, The French Academy of Sciences announced the daguerreotype process. A few months later, on August 19, 1839, the French government announced the invention as a gift "Free to the World". (E)

- 425) Who among the following was selected for the Kirti Chakra by President Pranab Mukherjee on August 14, 2013?
- Maj Mahesh Kumar
 - Maj Amarjeet Singh
 - Maj Mohan Chandra
 - Capt Rampreet Singh
 - Maj Swagat Kumar Das

President Pranab Mukherjee on August 14, 2013 approved the award of one Kirti Chakra and six Shaurya Chakra, which will be conferred at an investiture ceremony to be announced later. The awardees are: Kirti Chakra: 1. IC-65454F Maj Mahesh Kumar, SM, PUNJAB, 22 RR; Shaurya Chakra: 1. IC-69324W Maj Sanjeev Kumar, ARMD, 39 ASSAM RIF 2. IC-69663W Maj Swagat Kumar Das, 9 SIKH INF 3. SS-41220Y Maj Amarjeet Singh, MECH INF, 44 ASSAM RIF 4. SC-00574M Maj Mohan Chandra, SM, 4 KUMADON 5. IC-72213K Capt Rampreet Singh, 3 JAK RIF 6. 2489218Y NK Balwinder Singh, SM, PUNJAB, 22 RR. (A)

- 426) Which of the following is being jointly developed by India with Russia?
- Airborne Early Warning and Control system
 - Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft
 - Multi-Role Combat Aircraft
 - Light Combat Aircraft.
 - Phased Array Radar

India's biggest defence project in the making, the critical joint development of the fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) with Russia, has flown into some rough weather. Defence ministry sources said in July 2013 said the signing of the final design and R&D contract for the stealth fighter has been hit by a huge delay, with Russia also jacking up costs for the futuristic project. The FGFA is slated for induction in the Indian Air Force by 2022. (B)

- 427) The Reserve Bank of India on August 14, 2013 _____ on NRE and FCNR (B) deposits of three to five years maturities made after July 26, 2013.
- Increased CRR and SLR banks are required to maintain
 - Exempted banks from maintaining CRR and SLR
 - Lowered CRR and SLR banks are required to maintain
 - Did not change the CRR and SLR banks are required to maintain

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 14, 2013 announced the following measures to boost forex inflows:

Ceiling on NRE deposit rate removed

The interest rate offered by banks to non-resident Indians (NRIs) has been deregulated. Till now, banks were not allowed to pay higher rates for non-resident (external) rupee (NRE) deposits than those for the resident ones. Banks are free to offer interest rates without any ceiling on NRE deposits with maturities of three years and above.

Ceiling on FCNR (B) deposit rate raised for 3-5-year maturities

The interest ceiling for FCNR (B) deposits, for three- to five-year maturities, has been raised 100 basis points to Libor plus 400 bps.

No CRR/SLR on incremental NRE/FCNR (B) deposits of 3-5-year maturities

Banks would not have to maintain cash reserve ratio (CRR) or statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) for any incremental NRE and foreign currency non-resident FCNR (B) accounts. Beginning August 24, 2013, incremental FCNR (B) deposits as also NRE deposits with reference base date of July 26, 2013, and having maturity of three years and above, will be exempt from maintenance of CRR and SLR

To amplify, if a bank had a total FCNR (B) deposit base of say USD 100 as on the base date, and mobilises an incremental deposit of say USD 20, that portion of USD 20 which has a maturity of 3 years and above will not be part of NDTL and will qualify for CRR and SLR exemption. The same principle will apply for calculation of NRE deposits for exemption from maintenance of CRR/SLR requirements.

However, any transfer from Non-Resident (Ordinary) (NRO) accounts to NRE accounts shall not qualify for such exemptions. (B)

- 428) The RBI has announced several measures to lower import of gold to reduce:

- Fiscal deficit
- Budget deficit
- Primary deficit
- Revenue deficit
- Current Account Deficit

The Reserve Bank on August 14, 2013 prohibited inward shipment of gold coins, medallions and dores without license. From now onwards import of gold in any form or purity shall be subject to a licence issued by DGFT prescribing 20-80 scheme. It shall be incumbent on all nominated banks, agencies and other entities to ensure that at least one-fifth, or 20 per cent, of every lot of import of gold is exclusively made available for the purpose of exports and the balance for domestic use.

It has further stipulated that nominated banks, agencies and other entities shall make available gold for domestic use only to the entities engaged in jewellery business, bullion dealers and banks authorised to administer the gold deposit scheme against whole upfront payment.

Also importers will be required to make full upfront payment for the shipments.

The latest measures are part of the series of steps taken to curb gold import, the single biggest contributor to the widening Current Account Deficit (CAD). (E)

- 429) Which Meghalaya-based cement company was approved a subsidy of over Rs. 80 crore by the government under the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) on August 13, 2013?

- Vikram Cement
- Dalmia Cement
- Adhunik Cement
- Lafarge Cement
- Shaktiman Cement

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on August 13, 2013 approved Rs.86.0973 crore to M/s. Adhunik Cements Ltd., Meghalaya as Central Capital Investment Subsidy under the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS), 2007 of the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007. The grant of the subsidy will not only provide incentives to the operational units but also boost the confidence of existing investors as well as potential investors in the States of the North East Region. This is the first claim under NEIIPP, 2007 which has been brought for the consideration of the Union Cabinet paving the way for approval of other similar cases. (C)

- 430) The government raised the import duty on gold to _____ on August 13, 2013.

- 8.5%
- 9%
- 9.5%
- 10%
- 10.5%

The government on August 13, 2013 hiked the import duty on gold yet again to a record 10 percent and also raised excise duty on the metal. Import duty on refined gold bars will now be 10 percent compared to 8 percent previously, the third hike in eight months, while factory gate duty on gold bars will be 9 percent against 7 percent earlier. The government also raised on the import duty on silver to 10 percent from the earlier 6 percent. Data showed that Indians bought more in July despite attempts to strangle supply and curb demand as the government tries to rein in dollar spending. Industry players and analysts said hiking import duty would not necessarily help the government achieve its aims. (D)

- 431)** What were India's gold imports in April-June quarter of 2013-14, according to World Gold Council's latest report on August 15, 2013?
- 38 tonnes
 - 138 tonnes
 - 238 tonnes
 - 338 tonnes
 - 438 tonnes

India's consumption of gold rose to 310 tonnes in the second quarter ended June, highest in the last 10 years, despite government curbs to restrict imports to rein in burgeoning current account deficit, said the World Gold Council (WGC) in its latest report on August 15, 2013. Imports more than doubled to 338 tonnes in April-June of this calendar year. Gold consumption stood at 181.1 tonnes in the same quarter in 2012-13. India, the world's biggest buyer of gold, has been trying to curb imports of the yellow metal, which is the second biggest imported item after crude oil. **(D)**

- 432)** Which former President of India's Samadhi is at Karma Bhoomi in New Delhi?
- Rajendra Prasad
 - S. Radhakrishnan
 - Shankar Dayal Sharma
 - K.R. Narayanan
 - Zail Singh

The President, Pranab Mukherjee paid homage at the Samadhi of the former President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on his 95th birth anniversary, at Karma Bhoomi, in Delhi on August 19, 2013. **(C)**

- 433)** Which of the following became the fifth city in the country after the four metros to host the FM Gold Radio of All India Radio in August 2013?
- Amritsar
 - Ludhiana
 - Jalandhar
 - Chandigarh
 - Gurdaspur

Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari inaugurated the FM Gold Radio of All India Radio in Ludhiana on August 16, 2013. With this launch, Ludhiana has become the fifth city in the country after four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta to have its own FM Gold Radio. **(B)**

- 434)** Which state announced the creation of seven new districts, taking the total number of districts in the state to 33, from 26 districts on August 13, 2013?
- Goa
 - Kerala
 - Assam
 - Odisha
 - Gujarat

The Gujarat government on August 13, 2013 announced the creation of seven new districts, taking the total number of districts in the state to 33, from 26 districts until recently. The seven new districts of Aravalli, Botad, Chota Udeipur, Morbi, Mahisagar, Gir-Somnath and Dwarka would become come into effect from August 15. Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi had announced creation of various districts and talukas in 2012 during the Vivekananda Yuva Vikas Yatra (VYVY) before the state election. Currently, there are eight districts in Saurashtra, seven districts in South Gujarat, six in North Gujarat and five in Central Gujarat. **(E)**

- 435)** Where was India's first Cyber Forensic Laboratory (CFL) inaugurated on August 11, 2013?
- Aizwal
 - Kohima
 - Shillong
 - Agartala
 - Guwahati

India's first Cyber Forensic Laboratory (CFL) has been set up in Tripura. The lab, established at the Tripura High Court will provide court case related information. From the CFL, automatic SMS alert would go to both lawyers and the litigant about the fate of the court case. If any lawyer or the petitioner remains absent on the day of trial, the SMS alert would go to all concerned. Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B. Lokur inaugurated the CFL in Agartala on August 11, 2013. "A National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is being developed under the Supreme Court's supervision. All

information about legal services, court cases and judicial actions would be available from the NJDG," Lokur said. Separate high courts were set up in Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur in March. The seven north-eastern states - Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh - were earlier under the Guwahati High Court with benches in the state capitals. Sikkim had a separate high court. **(D)**

- 436)** Which stadium in Delhi earned the unique distinction of being certified as the first green stadium in the country by the CII- Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) gold rating certificate in August 2013?
- Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium
 - Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Stadium
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium
 - Thyagaraj Sports Stadium
 - Talkatora Indoor Stadium

Thyagaraj Stadium, built by Delhi Government ahead of the Commonwealth Games, on August 16, 2013 earned the unique distinction of being the first green stadium in the country. Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was given the CII-Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) gold rating certificate for construction of the "green stadium" at a function. Built by CPWD and spread over an area of 16,000 square metres, the Thyagaraj Stadium was built with green building technologies and eco-friendly material. The stadium was equipped with a gas panel for energy supply. Currently solar energy is being used for lighting purposes. The stadium features effective water management systems such as rainwater harvesting and sewage treatment with two lakh litres a day capacity. The multi-purpose air conditioned indoor stadium has a seating capacity of 5,823. The stadium was built at a cost of Rs 297 crore. **(D)**

- 437)** Where was the 27th Asian Basketball Championship organised in August 2013?
- Teheran
 - Hiroshima
 - Shanghai
 - Incheon
 - Manila

Iran proved to be too strong for hosts Philippines as the West Asian giants won the 27th Asian Basketball Championship 85-71 for their third continental title in six years at Manila on August 11, 2013. Hamed Haddadi, who led the All Star team of the tournament, led Iran with 29 points and 16 rebounds. He also earned the Most Valuable Player award. With the silver medal, the Philippines nabbed one of the three slots for next year's FIBA World Cup in Spain. The other two berths went to winners Iran and South Korea, who beat Chinese Taipei for third place. **(E)**

- 438)** Rogers Cup, a tournament organised in Canada in August 2013, is related to which sport?
- Golf
 - Tennis
 - Cycling
 - Yachting
 - Baseball

Serena Williams cruised to victory in the Rogers Cup final beating Sorana Cirstea to capture her third title at Toronto on August 11, 2013. Williams won 6-2, 6-0 in a match that lasted only 65 minutes. The victory was also Williams' 54th career WTA title and eighth title of the year, matching her personal best of eight wins in 2002. In the doubles final, the team of Jelena Jankovic and Katarina Srebotnik defeated Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Kveta Peschke in three sets to capture the women's doubles title. Rafael Nadal thumped Canada's Milos Raonic 6-2 6-2 in the final of the men's Rogers Cup in Montreal, Canada on August 11, 2013 to capture his eighth ATP title this season. The victory provided Nadal with his third win at the Rogers Cup and his 25th career Masters title and the Spaniard rose to three in the world rankings. Meanwhile, world number one Serena Williams beat Sorana Cirstea 6-2, 6-0 to win the WTA title in Toronto. Williams needed just 61 minutes to capture her eighth title of 2013 and the 54th of her career, which moved her past Monica Seles into sole possession of ninth on the WTA career list in the Open Era. **(B)**

- 439)** France's top female tennis player, Marion Bartoli, 28, announced her immediate retirement from professional tennis on August 14, 2013? Which is the only grand slam tournament won by her?
- US Open
 - French Open
 - Wimbledon
 - Australian Open

France's top female tennis player and the current Wimbledon women's champion, Marion Bartoli, 28, announced her immediate retirement from professional tennis following her 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 second round loss to Simona Halep in the second round of the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 14, 2013. Bartoli won her first Grand

Slam title by beating Germany's Sabine Lisicki in the Wimbledon final. She was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2007.

(C)

440) Desh Prem Azad, who passed away at the age of 75 on August 16, 2013, was a well-known coach in which sport?

- Cricket
- Hockey
- Football
- Athletics
- Wrestling

Desh Prem Azad, a former coach of legendary cricketer Kapil Dev, passed away in Mohali at the age of 75 on August 16, 2013. Azad was Kapil's coach in the early 1970's and was also bestowed upon Dronacharya award in the past.

(A)

441) Which lake hosted the 61st Nehru Trophy Boat Race organised in Kerala on August 10, 2013?

- Ashtamudi
- Paravur
- Punnamada
- Vellayani
- Payyambalam

Sree Ganesan Chundan of the St Francis Boat Club, Harippad, emerged winner of the 61st Nehru Trophy Boat Race at Punnamada lake in Alappuzha on August 10, 2013. The Sree Ganesan Chundan, inched out Jawahar Thayankari of the Kumarakom Town Boat Club to the second place in the finals of the snakeboat category. Anari Puthen Chundan of the United Boat Club, Kainakary, and Illikkalam of the Vembanad Boat Club, Kumarakom, placed third and fourth respectively. This is the second consecutive year Sree Ganesan had won the glittering silver trophy, donated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru way back in 1952 with his signature embossed on it, after a visit to the state. 22 chundans (snake boats) and 41 other country boats participated in the race inaugurated by Kerala Governor Nikhil Kumar, who handed over the trophies to the winners. Tourism minister K Chiranjeevi was the Chief Guest. (C)

442) Which US newspaper was sold by the New York Times to John Henry in August 2013?

- Los Angeles Times
- Washington Post
- Chicago Tribune
- Washington Post
- Boston Globe

New York Times Co, which put its Boston Globe newspaper up for sale earlier this year, has agreed to sell the publication to John Henry for \$70 million in cash. The deal, which also includes the Globe's website, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette and its website, Boston.com, a 49 percent stake in Metro Boston, and the Globe's direct mail marketing company GlobeDirect, is expected to close in 30 to 60 days, the New York Times said in a statement on August 3, 2013. (E)

443) Which of the following launched 'Capsispray' – a non-lethal chilli spray for personal protection and self-defence in August 2013?

- CSE
- ISRO
- DRDO
- IISc
- CSIR

Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed a chilli spray — Capsispray. It is an eco-friendly, non-lethal chilli spray for personal protection and self-defence. It contains oleoresin capsicum extracted from the world's hottest chilli, the Bhut Jolokia (capsicum assamicum), largely cultivated in Assam and other parts of North-East. This information was given by Defence Minister A.K. Antony in Rajya Sabha on August 7, 2013. (C)

444) Which Indian company has launched fuel-efficient Neptune engine for commercial vehicles in August 2013?

- Force Motors
- Mahindra & Mahindra
- Tata Motors
- Asia Motor Works
- Ashok Leyland

Commercial vehicles major Ashok Leyland Ltd on August 23, 2013 announced the launch of its own Neptune family of engines to be fitted its vehicles in a phased manner. The future-ready Neptune engine will be available in BS-III (Bharat Stage) and BS-IV versions and is also package protected for BS-V and BS-VI. According to the company, the modular sub-system design ensures maximum vehicle uptime and better noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) characteristics. The Neptune engines will range from 160 HP to 380 HP and will be deployed across a range of trucks and buses in a phased manner. "This is perhaps the most significant development in our road map to being future ready and what is more heartening is that it has been entirely inspired by our customers," managing director Vinod K. Dasari was quoted as saying in the statement. (E)

445) Which of the following organisation has launched the '10K initiative' aimed at nurturing 10,000 start-ups in the next few years?

- CII
- NSDC
- NASSCOM
- Planning Commission
- Department of Biotechnology

A start-up warehouse was launched in Bangalore on August 6, 2013, as part of NASSCOM's '10K initiative' aimed at strengthening the eco-system for starting technology companies. A joint initiative launched by NASSCOM in April 2013 with partners like Google, Microsoft and VeriSign, the '10K initiative' is aimed at nurturing 10,000 start-ups in the next few years. (C)

446) Which US magazine was sold by the International Business Times to Barry Diller in August 2013?

- Newsweek
- Time
- Slate
- Readers' Digest
- The Economist

IBT Media said it's buying Newsweek from IAC/InterActiveCorp, splitting it from the Daily Beast brand, and plans to make it profitable. IBT, owner of the International Business Times, is acquiring Newsweek after the 80-year-old magazine shifted to online-only in January 2013. Terms of the deal weren't disclosed, according to a statement from IBT on August 3, 2013 announcing the transaction. IAC, run by Barry Diller, purchased Newsweek as part of an agreement with the late Sidney Harman in November 2010 and combined it with the Daily Beast news website. The billionaire this year said he regretted the move and started looking for buyers. Tina Brown, editor-in-chief of Newsweek/Daily Beast Co, will remain at the Daily Beast. The magazine, which published its last print issue in December, will remain online-only. (A)

447) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 25, 2013 revised norms for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to raise funds via external commercial borrowing (ECB) for low-cost affordable housing projects. HFCs can give loan upto _____ for an individual housing unit under the scheme.

- Rs. 10 lakh
- Rs. 15 lakh
- Rs. 20 lakh
- Rs. 25 lakh
- Rs. 30 lakh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 25, 2013 eased norms to raise funds via external commercial borrowing (ECB) for low-cost affordable housing projects.

Now, developers and builders with three years' experience in undertaking residential projects will be eligible to raise funds through the ECB route. Earlier, RBI had prescribed a minimum five-year experience. They should have a good track record in terms of quality and delivery.

RBI relaxed the minimum paid-up capital norm for housing finance companies (HFCs) to raise funds through ECBs. The condition of minimum paid-up capital of not less than Rs 50 crore for HFCs stands withdrawn.

The condition of the minimum net-owned funds of Rs 300 crore for the past three financial years for HFCs remains unchanged.

The annual limit for raising ECB under the low-cost affordable housing scheme is capped at \$1 billion.

This norm will be applicable to the current financial year, FY14 and the next year (2014-15). The ECBs availed of by developers and builders shall be swapped with rupees for the entire maturity on a fully-hedged basis.

On the issue of fixing spread for on-lending by NHB, RBI said the housing finance regulator would decide the spread taking into account factors like cost. NHB has to ensure the spread for HFCs for on-lending to owners of individual units was reasonable.

HFCs have to furnish a certificate that money raised through ECB is for financing prospective owners of individual units for low-cost affordable housing. They will ensure the cost of individual housing units does not exceed Rs 30 lakh and the loan amount does not exceed Rs 25 lakh.

The maximum carpet area for such units is capped at 60 square metres. They have the responsibility to ensure the interest rate spread charged by the HFCs to the ultimate buyer is reasonable. (D)

448) Which of the following abbreviations used in banking is/are matched correctly?

- I. CAMEL – Capital, Asset quality, Management, Earning, Liquidity
 - II. CASA – Current Account Savings Account
 - III. CBLO – Collateralised Banking and Lending Obligation
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

CBLO – Collateralised Borrowing and Lending Obligation (B)

449) The term 'round tripping' refers to which of the following?

- a) Coming back of domestic money as foreign direct investment
- b) Coming back of domestic money as income for goods exported
- c) Sending of domestic money for investments in tax havens abroad
- d) Sending of domestic money abroad by over-invoicing of imports
- e) Holding back export income abroad to benefit from depreciation of Rupee in future

Round tripping entails an Indian resident, creating holding company in an overseas tax favourable jurisdiction. Using these holding companies, money is brought back into India as FDI and treaty benefits are claimed for these investments. Round-tripping is usually referred to routing of domestic investments through Mauritius to take advantage of the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to pay lower taxes on profits. India has reportedly found many cases of misuse of DTAA with Mauritius and is working on revising the treaty with the country to prevent its abuse by companies, domestic or foreign. (B)

450) Which of the following is the correct expansion of the abbreviation BCPs in context of risk assessment in banking information systems?

- a) Business Credit Plans
- b) Business Continuity Plans
- c) Business Coordination Plans
- d) Business Cooperation Plans
- e) Business Communication Plans

In the wake of increasing cyber attacks, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 26, 2013 asked banks to test their information systems (IS) and check their robustness periodically. RBI has also asked the banks to put in place appropriate business continuity plans (BCPs) and test them periodically. These ISs should also be subjected to vulnerability assessment and penetration testing (VAPT). A BCP document should cover policies, standards and procedures to ensure continuity, resumption and recovery of critical business processes and limit the impact of any disaster on people, processes and infrastructure (including information technology). The document should also contain steps taken to minimise the operational, financial, legal, reputational and other material consequences arising from such a disaster. (B)

451) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 28, 2013 released draft guidelines for banks selling products of from insurance companies and mutual funds. Transactions above _____ for these products should only be accepted through debit to customers account with the bank and not in cash/cheque of other banks.

- a) Rs 10,000
- b) Rs 20,000
- c) Rs 50,000
- d) Rs 75,000
- e) Rs 100,000

Banks will need to create a subsidiary or a separate division for conducting wealth management services (WMS) according to the draft guidelines released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 28, 2013. This is to address the issue of conflict of interest arising from the single entity conducting both the activities of advisory/fund management as well as marketing.

The RBI issued the draft guidelines on wealth management/marketing/distribution services in the wake of recent allegations of banks being involved in tax evasion and fraudulent transfer of funds practices. In the guidelines, the RBI said banks may conduct all WMS activities — referral, investment advisory service and portfolio management service — either from a separate subsidiary or through a separately identifiable department/division.

Banks, including their subsidiaries, who are already undertaking the above activities, may reorganise the structure in accordance with the final guidelines within a period of one year from the date of issue of the final guidelines.

Further, while banks must adhere to the KYC/AML guidelines, they must also “ensure that their employees do not receive cash/non-cash incentives directly from insurance companies, mutual funds and other third party product providers”.

“Transactions above Rs 50,000 for these products should only be accepted through debit to customers account with the bank and not in cash/cheque of other banks. There should be no evasion of these regulations by accepting several amounts for lower values from the same client to avoid the stated threshold.

The RBI said that under the Banking Regulation Act payment of a portion of the commission earned on marketing and distribution of third-party products by the bank to the staff is prohibited. (C)

452) Who among the following is the Chairperson of the committee appointed by the RBI in June 2013 to study all major financial benchmarks in India with a view to assessing their current relevance?

- a) Aditya Dahiya
- b) Kingshuk Nag
- c) Vijaya Bhaskar
- d) Vinay Dabholkar
- e) Abhiram G. Shankar

The RBI on June 28, 2013 announced the appointment of a committee to study all major financial benchmarks in India with a view to assessing their current relevance/usage and fallback mechanisms in place in the event of benchmark being rendered obsolete.

Changes, if any, for inclusion of new benchmarks or exclusion of some of the existing benchmarks will be suggested by the committee. It will also propose a system of supervisory oversight in respect of institutions involved in computing/disseminating the benchmarks.

The benchmarks in the financial markets include the Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate and the Mumbai Interbank Bid rate, among others.

“In the context of the recent global developments relating to financial benchmarks and the related reforms implemented by various international agencies, there is a need to review the process of computation and dissemination of major financial benchmarks in India, the governance mechanisms in the institutions involved in computing the benchmarks and other related issues,” the RBI said.

The committee will be headed by RBI Executive Director Vijaya Bhaskar and will submit its report by December 31, 2013. (C)

453) Which of the following launched India Microfinance Platform, a portal which gives comprehensive information about microfinance companies in the country, in June 2013?

- a) NABARD
- b) SIDBI
- c) IFCI
- d) REC
- e) IIFCL

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on June 28, 2013 launched India Microfinance Platform, a portal which gives comprehensive information about microfinance players in the country. The platform launched with World Bank assistance has data about each and every microfinance firm working right up to district level, SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director Sushil Muhnot said after launching the website. The site will monitor the performance of an MFI on quarterly, he said, adding, it will promote transparency. It will help in analysing market trends relative to their microfinance exposure, he added. Muhnot also added that the most important thing is that the microfinance sector has to adapt itself to the expectations of the public at large, especially with regard to the prescribed code of conduct and

spread of microfinance in underserved areas, especially in those states where microfinance has not reached like North-Eastern Region, etc. (B)

- 454) Who among the following was re-elected Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2013-14 in June 2013?
- T.M. Bhasin
 - K.R. Kamath
 - Bhaskar Sen
 - Chanda Kochhar
 - Pratip Chaudhuri

Punjab National Bank's (PNB) Chairman and Managing Director K. R. Kamath was on June 6, 2013 re-elected as Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Chairman for 2013-14. The association at its 66th Annual General Meeting also elected HDFC Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Aditya Puri as Deputy Chairman. State Bank of India's Chairman Pratip Chaudhuri was named as the honorary secretary. Other office-bearers of the association would be Indian Bank Chairman and Managing Director T M Bhasin, and UCO Bank Chairman and Managing Director Arun Kaul. (B)

- 455) There should be a gap of at least _____ months between two buybacks of shares by a company, according to the new buyback norms announced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on June 25, 2013.
- 4 months
 - 6 months
 - 9 months
 - 12 months
 - 18 months

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on June 25, 2013, tightened share buyback rules to discourage companies from announcing frivolous offers.



SEBI has made it mandatory for companies to buy back at least 50 per cent of the proposed offer size - a penalty of 2.5 per cent will be charged on companies failing to do so.

Companies will have to keep 25 per cent of the buyback amount in a separate escrow account and complete their share buybacks within six months, compared with one year earlier.

There will be a one-year cooling-off period between two buybacks and companies will not be allowed to carry out any fundraising during this period.

In a bid to encourage buybacks using tender method, where larger amount of surplus funds are involved, Sebi said that companies are required to buyback at least 15% of targeted amount. At present there are two routes by which a company can come out with a buyback - open market and tender offer. In an open market offer, companies can buyback shares from shareholders without knowing the buyer, while tender offer involves the company writing to its shareholders individually to know their willingness for sale of shares in the buyback. Under the tender offer, shares are bought back at a fixed price, which is generally at a premium to the market price.

Experts said SEBI's steps were investor-friendly and would discourage companies using buybacks as a measure to support their share prices. Companies can no longer afford to announce frivolous buyback offers, as they stand to lose 2.5 per cent of the buyback amount. The reduced timeframe will reduce scope for market manipulations. (D)

- 456) Stock market regulator SEBI on June 25, 2013 merged FII's, Sub-Accounts and Qualified Foreign Investors (QFIs) into a single and new investor class called "Foreign Portfolio Investors" (FPIs). Portfolio investment by a single investor has been capped at _____ of the equity of an Indian company.
- 2 per cent
 - 5 per cent
 - 7 per cent
 - 8 per cent
 - 10 per cent

Stock market regulator SEBI on June 25, 2013 merged FII's, Sub-Accounts and Qualified Foreign Investors (QFIs) into a single and new investor class called "Foreign Portfolio Investors" (FPIs). Accepting the K.M. Chandrasekhar

committee recommendations on rationalising investment routes and monitoring foreign portfolio investments, SEBI has decided to do away with prior direct registration of FIIs and Sub-Accounts.

This would be done by designated depository participants (DDP) authorised by the regulator and would be subject to know your client (KYC) compliance. FPI have been divided into three categories.

Category I would include Government and Government-related entities such as Foreign Central Banks, Sovereign Wealth Funds, Multilateral Organisations and the like.

Category II would have regulated entities such as banks, asset management companies, broad-based funds such as mutual funds, investment trusts, insurance and reinsurance companies, university funds, pension funds and university-related endowments already registered with SEBI.

Category III would consist of those not falling under the above two. KYC would be risk-based said SEBI. The documents needed for registration and on-boarding would be the simplest for Category I and most stringent for Category III.

The requirement of submitting proof of personal identification such as copy of passport, photograph of the designated officials of FPIs belonging to Category I and Category II has been done away with.

Portfolio investments by any single investor or investor group has been capped at 10 per cent of the equity of an Indian company. Investment beyond 10 per cent shall be considered as Foreign Direct Investment. (E)

- 457) Which of the following is among the top three states/union territories in terms of financial inclusion according to CRISIL Inclusix - a new index of financial inclusion unveiled by rating agency CRISIL in June 2013?
- Goa
 - Kerala
 - Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Tamil Nadu

One out of every two Indians has a savings account, but only one in seven has access to bank loan. This is revealed in a report based on a new index of financial inclusion prepared by rating agency Crisil.

The report released by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on June 25, 2013 states that the southern region leads in financial inclusion with a Crisil Inclusix score of 62.2 in 2011.

The western region stands second with an score of 38.2, followed by the northern region (37.1), eastern region (28.6), and north-eastern Region (28.5).

Though overall index is just 40.1, which the report terms as low, the fact is that it has improved from 35.4 in 2009. The RBI provides the data used for index computation.

The report found that the number of saving accounts (624 million) is almost four times the number of loan account (160 million). It also said that 618 out of 632 districts reported an improvement in terms of financial inclusion. The top three States in terms of financial inclusion are Puducherry, Chandigarh and Kerala.

The new index intends to measure the extent of inclusion in India, right down to each of the 632 districts.

It uses a statistically robust and transparent methodology. It is a relative index on a scale of 0 to 100 and combines three parameters, branch penetration, deposit penetration and credit penetration, into one metric.

"Besides measuring inclusion at the district, State and national levels, the index can be used to compute progress on financial inclusion by each bank," said Roopa Kudva, MD and CEO, Crisil.

This index will enable policymakers, regulators, and bankers to identify priorities to improve financial inclusion, design focused initiatives to push the inclusion agenda and, most importantly, measure the progress made, she added. (B)

- 458) What was India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) in 2012-13 according to RBI data released on June 27, 2013?
- per cent of GDP
 - 4.2 per cent of GDP
 - 4.8 per cent of GDP
 - per cent of GDP
 - 6.7 per cent of GDP

The RBI on June 27, 2013 said the current account deficit (CAD) had dipped to 3.6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the fourth quarter of January to March from a historic high of 6.7 per cent at the end of the third quarter. In absolute terms, CAD was down to \$18.1 billion in the first three months of 2013 from \$21.7 billion a year ago and \$32.6 billion in the preceding quarter. For the full year, however, CAD rose to 4.8 per cent of GDP from 4.2 per cent in 2011-12. In absolute terms, it stood at \$87.8 billion against \$78.2 billion a year ago.

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (DEFICIT)						
(\$billion)	Apr-Mar 2012-13 (P)			Apr-Mar 2011-12 (PR)		
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net
Current Account (1+2+3+4)	530.2	618.1	-87.8	527.0	605.2	-78.2
1. Goods	306.6	502.2	-195.7	309.8	499.5	-189.7
2. Services	145.7	80.8	64.9	140.9	76.9	64.0
3. Primary Income	10.3	31.7	-21.5	10.1	26.1	-16.0
4. Secondary Income	67.7	3.3	64.4	66.1	2.7	63.5

VARIOUS COMPONENTS IN CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (US\$ Billion)			
	Apr-Mar 2012-13 (P)	Apr-Mar 2011-12 (PR)	
1. Goods	-195.7	-189.7	
2. Services	64.9	64.0	
2.a Transport	2.5	1.8	
2.b Travel	6.2	4.7	
2.c Construction	-0.2	-0.2	
2.d Insurance and pension services	0.8	1.1	
2.e Financial Services	0.3	-2.0	
2.f Charges for the use of intellectual property	-3.9	-2.9	
2.g Telecommunications, computer and information services	64.3	60.7	
2.h Personal, cultural and recreational services	0.3	0.1	
2.i Government goods & services	-0.2	-0.3	
2.j Other Business services	-1.9	-0.9	
2.k Others n.i.e	-3.3	1.9	
3. Primary Income	-21.5	-16.0	
3.a Compensation of Employees	0.9	0.5	
3.b Investment Income	-22.6	-16.7	
3.c Other primary Income	0.2	0.2	
4. Secondary Income	64.4	63.5	
4.a Personal Transfers	62.0	61.5	
4.b Other Transfers	2.3	2.0	
5. Current Account (1+2+3+4)	-87.9	-78.2	

P: Preliminary; PR: Partially Revised

Foreign investors and brokerage analysts have highlighted CAD as a deterrent to investment inflows even as global credit rating agencies have warned that they could lower India's rating to junk bond status if the situation on this front didn't improve. The deficit in the current account arises when a country's total import of goods, services and fund transfers are greater than the total export of goods, services and transfers.

A rising CAD has been highlighted as one of the main reasons behind the dramatic slide in the rupee's value. So far, this deficit has been financed by FII inflows, but concerns have risen on this front with foreign investors becoming major sellers in the debt markets in recent weeks.

Rupee breaches 60 barrier versus dollar: The rupee touched an all-time low of 60.76 a dollar on June 26, 2013, breaching its previous historic low of 59.98 (intra-day). It closed at 60.71/72 as compared to its June 25 close of 59.66/67 in the foreign exchange market. The dollar has strengthened against all major currencies and the dollar index also strengthened. (C)

- 459) India's longest railway tunnel was inaugurated by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the Pir Panjal mountain range in Jammu & Kashmir on June 27, 2013. The tunnel connects Qazigund to ____.
- Sopore
 - Banihal
 - Katra
 - Pahalgam
 - Udhampur



The train between Banihal in Jammu region and Baramulla district in Kashmir began regular operations on June 27, 2013, a day after the Banihal-Qazigund section was inaugurated by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The 11 km long tunnel is India's first longest transport tunnel and Asia's second longest tunnel. Longest tunnel in Asia is Wushaoling tunnel (20 km) in Gansu, China.

The commissioning of this link between the Jammu Region and Kashmir Valley will provide all weather connectivity with significantly reduced travel time through the Pir Panjal mountain range. This will be an alternative connection between the two regions for the Jawahar Tunnel too, which is often snow bound during the winter months.

The tunnel has been constructed by the Hindustan Construction Company using New Austrian Tunnelling Method, which has been used for the first time on such a large scale in the country. This method optimises the tunnel design by mobilising the inherent ground strength in adopting a curved section, providing primary support system immediately after excavation and monitoring the ground behaviour while permitting it to develop its inherent strength.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 25, 2013 kick-started work on a mega 850 megawatt hydro-electric project on the River Chenab as part of efforts to tap the hydroelectric potential in Jammu and Kashmir. (B)

- 460) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid foundation stone for the 850 MW Ratle hydro-electric power plant in Jammu and Kashmir on June 25, 2013. It is being built by which of the following companies?
- NHPC
 - Tata Power
 - GVK Power
 - Adani Power
 - Reliance Power

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 25, 2013 laid foundation stone for GVK Power's 850 mw Ratle hydro-electric power plant on the River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir. This is India's first hydroelectric project that was bid out through tariff based international competitive bidding. The project cost is Rs 5,500 crore and it is scheduled to be completed by February 2018. The project was awarded to GVK Power which offered the lowest tariff for generating power. (C)

- 461) Which of the following is the new change in the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) announced by Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on June 22, 2013?
- Coverage of women will continue upto two years after the delivery
 - Coverage of women will start at least six months before the delivery
 - Private hospitals have also been covered under the scheme
 - Coverage has been extended to women with two or more children
 - Cash assistance for nutrition has been increased

Union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on June 22, 2013 announced a new scheme for pregnant women in the country under which they will get expenses for treatment, transportation and food at least six months before delivery date. "We have introduced a new scheme for more care and comfort to pregnant women in the country under which

the government will take care of her treatment, diagnosis, transport and food at least six to seven months before the delivery and will also cover the new born against all diseases for one year," said Azad. Under the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) introduced eight years ago, a pregnant woman used to get benefits at the time of delivery, but as per the upgraded scheme, married women will get benefits immediately after conceiving till the time of delivery. (B)

- 462) Which of the following is launching a media campaign against indecent portrayal of women in mass media?
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - Ministry of Women and Child Development
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
 - Ministry of Human Resource Development
 - Ministry of Home Affairs

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) on June 21, 2013 announced that it had constituted a committee to finalise modalities for a media campaign against indecent portrayal of women in mass media. WCD Minister Krishna Tirath said it was also decided that a committee be constituted to draw up the modalities of such a campaign in the mass media. The committee will be headed by WCD Additional Secretary K. Ratna Prabha. (B)

- 463) Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), engaged in anti-Maoist operations in Central Chhattisgarh, will now operate from _____ district from July 2013.
- Durg
 - Bastar
 - Kanker
 - Sukma
 - Dantewada

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), engaged in anti-Maoist operations in Central Chhattisgarh, will now operate from Durg district. Until now, UAVs were undertaking operations from Begumpet airfield in Hyderabad and covering Maoist controlled areas in South Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh police and paramilitaries were finding it difficult to access the service of the UAVs stationed at Begumpet. On June 25, a lease agreement was signed and land was formally handed over to country's specialised snoop department, National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), in charge of flying UAVs. The flying time from Begumpet to south Bastar is two to three hours. So, the UAVs could not be accessed on a short notice. Moreover, unmanned vehicles cannot fly for long hours. (A)

- 464) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a postage stamp on renowned Kashmiri _____ Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor on June 25, 2013.
- Poet
 - Cleric
 - Singer
 - Painter
 - Architect

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 25, 2013 released a postage stamp on renowned Kashmiri poet Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor in Srinagar and said the Centre will extend full support to promote Kashmiri language, culture and literature. (A)

- 465) Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has submitted a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for Rashtrapati Bhavan to President Pranab Mukherjee on June 26, 2013. Who among the following was the architect of Rashtrapati Bhavan?
- Laurie Baker
 - Edwin Lutyens
 - Charles Correa
 - Le Corbusier
 - Hafeez Contractor

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach) has submitted a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for Rashtrapati Bhavan to President Pranab Mukherjee that would serve as a blueprint for all future constructions aimed at restoring the premises to its original plan as outlined by Sir Edwin Lutyens and others. The CCMP was submitted to the President on June 26, 2013. Mukherjee had personally instructed that a CCMP be prepared to restore the President's Estate to its original plan. (B)

- 466) Which of the following launched quarterly news bulletin e-Abhilekh in July 2013?
- Archaeological Survey of India
 - National Film Archive of India
 - Geological Survey of India
 - National Archives of India

- e) Survey of India

National Archives of India (NAI) has planned a quarterly news bulletin, e-Abhilekh to promote and project activities and development being made in India and abroad in the archival field. The formal launch of this e-bulletin is scheduled in the first week of July 2013. In the inaugural bulletin, NAI would be incorporating the news and other highlights for the period April-June 2013. This was notified by the Ministry of Culture on June 28, 2013. (D)

- 467) Who among the following is the author of the recently released book 'And What Remains in the End — The Memoirs of an Unrepentant Civil Servant'?
- Shiv Khera
 - Chetan Bhagat
 - Rashmi Bansal
 - Robin Gupta
 - Anjali Joseph

'In And What Remains In The End: The Memoirs Of An Unrepentant Civil Servant', released in July 2013, author Robin Gupta provides readers with the socio-historical and economic developments that have occurred in India over the last four decades. Gupta's memoir provides a rich account about a country that is progressive and the people who have dedicated themselves to serving India. It is a sensitive, historical, and philosophical account, of India's growth as a nation, and the major role played by Indian civil servants in advancing it.

Written in an autobiographical style, Gupta who is an ex-civil servant served four Indian provinces, including Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, and Punjab. He also had a lengthy deputation period with Central Government, playing an active and vital role in Indian politics and governance. Since his duty as a civil servant required him to make frequent travels, he had the opportunity to travel across all of India, and other countries around the world.

Gupta also talks candidly about his participation in policy-making in the 36 years of his service, and also about policy development, working alongside politicians and in isolation, encountering individuals who were both concerned and apathetic, and the experience of having to traverse numerous bureaucratic channels. The memoir succeeds in leaving a legacy for younger Indians, forcing them to expand their horizons and think about how best they can serve their nation.

About Robin Gupta: Robin Gupta is an author and retired civil servant. He was born in 1948 in Delhi. Gupta briefly served with the Indian Police Service before becoming an Indian Administrative Service officer in 1974. As an IAS officer, he received challenging assignments which required him to travel across the country. Gupta was also posted as a commissioner on seven different occasions, which is a record in Indian civil service history. Gupta's final posting was in the Government of Punjab, where he was a financial commissioner (D)

- 468) Who among the following former Governors of the RBI was in news for his recent book 'A Commentary On India's Recent Financial Policies' released in July 2013?
- Bimal Jalan
 - S.S. Tarapore
 - Y. V. Reddy
 - C. Rangarajan
 - S. Venkitaramanan

'A Commentary On India's Recent Financial Policies' authored by former RBI Governor S. S. Tarapore was released in July 2013. The book provides a commentary on recent financial policies covering macroeconomic perspectives, monetary-fiscal policies, external sector policies, particularly exchange rate management and gold. The collection would be of interest to the general reader with broad interest in financial policies as also policymaker, opinion makers, banks and financial institutions, academics and students of finance. (B)

- 469) Who among the following is the author of the recently released book 'A Garland of Memories'?
- Gulzar
 - Girish Karnad
 - Ruskin Bond
 - Khushwant Singh
 - Shashi Tharoor

Famous author Ruskin Bond celebrated his 79th birthday in Dehradun on May 19, 2013 with the release of his book 'A Garland of Memories'. Bond narrates the most extraordinary tales — from his chance encounter with Rudyard Kipling's ghost, to his adventures with eccentric Uncle Ken, being witness to a bitter battle between a brave snake, a braver mongoose and two foolhardy birds, about the hungry pet python who ate up everyone's lunch and the mythical snow-woman who almost exists. All stories, told in Bond's unique, lucid, simple prose are based on life and its experiences and nudge open a window into the reader's self. They are also a sterling example of the often forgotten harmony between man and nature. (C)

- 470)** Krishna Chaudhary was appointed as the new Director General of which of the following organisations in June 2013?
- Indian Coast Guard
 - Narcotics Control Bureau
 - Bureau of Police Research and Development
 - National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence
 - Rapid Action Force

Krishna Chaudhary was on June 25, 2013 appointed as Director General, National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence (NDRF&CD). His appointment will take effect from the date he assumes charge of the post and until his superannuation on 30.06.2017 or till further orders, whichever is earlier. **(D)**

- 471)** Former Delhi police commissioner Krishan Kant Paul was appointed the new Governor of which of the following states in July 2013?
- Sikkim
 - Assam
 - Manipur
 - Meghalaya
 - Arunachal Pradesh

Former Delhi police commissioner Krishan Kant Paul was appointed the new Meghalaya governor on July 1, 2013. Apart from Paul, Lt Gen. (retd) A.K. Singh was appointed the new lieutenant governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. **(D)**

- 472)** The United States senate on June 28, 2013 passed an immigration reform Bill that makes it harder and costlier for Indian tech firms to use H-1B workers at their US operations. Who among the following is also the President of Senate in the US?
- Barack Obama
 - John Kerry
 - Joe Biden
 - Susan Rice
 - Chuck Hagel

The United States senate on June 28, 2013 passed an immigration reform Bill that makes it harder and costlier for Indian tech firms to use H-1B workers at their US operations. But the Bill is not law yet, and it may never become one in its present form because the House of Representatives, the other chamber of US Congress, is considering its own set of bills. In its present shape, the bill is bad news for India because of its impact on firms such as Infosys, Wipro and TCS. Vice-president Joe Biden, who is also the president of the Senate, presided at the voting, signaling the Bill's importance to the Obama administration. "Today, the Senate did its job," said US President Barack Obama, who is currently touring Africa, in a statement. "It's now up to the House to do the same," he added. The bill has three central themes: strengthening border security, citizenship for 11 million illegals, and legal immigration revamp to expand talent pool and keep American jobs home. **(C)**

- 473)** The FATF has praised India's action in curbing money laundering and terror financing activities in June 2013. FATF is:
- Foreign Activity Tracking Force
 - Financial Activity Tracking Force
 - Financial Action Task Force
 - Foreign Action Traffic Force
 - Financial Analysis Task Force

India's fight against black money got a big thumbs-up on June 26, 2013, with the global inter-government body FATF saying that the country has substantially addressed deficiencies in its regulatory checks against money laundering and terror financing activities. Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) also said that India has significantly stepped up its probes into suspected money laundering and terror funding cases, although a low conviction rate remains a matter of serious concern. FATF sets global standards for Anti Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regulations for governments across the world, while India has been its member since 2010. **(C)**

- 474)** The first meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Business Council was organised in Islamabad on June 29, 2013. Who among the following Indian industrialists is the Co-Chairman of the Council?
- Anand Mahindra
 - Sunil Bharti Mittal
 - Onkar Kanwar
 - Sunil Munjal

e) Ratan Tata

The first meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Business Council was organised in Islamabad on June 29, 2013. The agenda included discussions relating to grant of MFN (most favoured nation) status to India, import of petrochemicals and petroleum products, the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) pipeline project, and co-operation in infrastructure and information technology (IT). The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) represented Indian industry in the Council which consists of 15 representatives from the two countries. The Indian delegation was headed by Sunil K. Munjal. The Pakistan delegation was led by Syed Yawar Ali, Chairman of Nestle Pakistan Ltd. **(D)**

- 475)** Who among the following co-chaired the Fourth India-US Strategic Dialogue organised in New Delhi on June 24, 2013?
- Barack Obama
 - John Kerry
 - Joe Biden
 - Susan Rice
 - Chuck Hagel

External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and US Secretary of State John Kerry co-chaired the Fourth India-US Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on June 24, 2013. While the US asked India to remove trade barriers to boost two-way economic ties, India raised concerns over visa problems faced by its IT companies. India also reassured the visiting Kerry that it would look into the issue of "trade barriers". India raised the concerns over problems being faced by Indian IT companies with regard to changes in the US regulations for grant of professional visas. Prior to his visit, US companies had urged Kerry to talk tough on policies regarding India's rejection of patent suits against domestic companies manufacturing generic drugs for poor people. **(B)**

- 476)** Which of the following has put India on a list of "high-risk" Asian and African countries whose citizens would be required to deposit cash bond worth Rs. 2.75 lakh when they apply for a visa from November 2013?
- Australia
 - USA
 - Canada
 - UK
 - Mauritius

India has been put on a list of "high-risk" Asian and African countries whose citizens would be required to deposit £3,000 cash bond when they apply for a British visa. The money would be forfeited if they overstay. Controversially, the move is targeted only at people from non-white Commonwealth countries as part of the Tory-led government's resolve to drastically cut down on immigration levels. The scheme — aimed at preventing abuse of immigration rules — will initially cover India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Ghana. "They have been designated 'high-risk' countries, from which visitors aged over 18 on six-month visit visas will be forced to pay the £3,000 from November. The countries are being targeted by the Home Office because of the high volume of visitor visa applications and relatively high levels of fraud and abuse," it said. Home Secretary Theresa May on June 24, 2013 said the move was part of the government's policy to make the immigration system "more selective." **(D)**

- 477)** Who among the following is the American counterpart of Charles F. Bolden Jr. who came on an official visit to India in June 2013?
- Avinash Chander
 - K. Radhakrishnan
 - Altamas Kabir
 - Bikram Singh
 - Anand Sharma

Chief of United States space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration Charles F. Bolden Jr. and his Indian counterpart K. Radhakrishnan met at Ahmedabad and discussed civil cooperative activities between the two agencies on June 25, 2013. Potential areas of future cooperation also figured in the talks. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. The meeting came at Bolden's visit to the ISRO Space Applications Centre. **(B)**

- 478)** Which nation is ranked first in the 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' of Ernst & Young that was released on June 23, 2013 and what is India's position?
- Canada, fourth
 - Germany, fifth
 - Australia, sixth
 - Japan, seventh
 - USA, eighth

High entry-barriers for foreign investors and the rising cost of financing have led to the country slipping to a low eighth position on the renewable energy country attractive index in the first quarter of 2013, says an Ernst & Young survey. The US is at the top followed by Canada, Germany, Australia, UK, Japan, Canada, India, France and Belgium.

According to the report 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' released on June 23, 2013, India's ranking slipped from fourth position to eighth this period, due to several challenges, including high cost of finance, entry-barriers for external investors, among others. The index includes a revised methodology to reflect the shifts in investment drivers and the maturing of the sector. The ranking is made based on increased focus on the role renewable energy plays in country's energy mix, energy supply and demand, the cost competitiveness of renewable energy, the importance of de-carbonisation and an increased emphasis on the economic and political stability of each particular market. (E)

- 479) President Pranab Mukherjee promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance on July 5, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Food security allowance will be provided in case of non-supply of food grains to entitled persons
 - Centre will provide assistance to States for intra-State transportation and handling of foodgrains
 - Elders woman of eighteen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest male member is to be the head of the household.
- a) I only
b) I and II only
c) II and III only
d) III and I only
e) I, II and III

President Pranab Mukherjee promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance on July 5, 2013.

Highlights are as follows:

Upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population will be covered

The uniform entitlement will be 5 kg foodgrains per person per month

Wheat will be supplied for Rs. 3/kg

Rice will be supplied for Rs. 2/kg

Coarse grains will be supplied for Rs. 1/kg

Non-Antyodaya households will be entitled to a maximum of 25 kg foodgrains per month

Households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) will be entitled to a maximum of 30 kg foodgrains per month

Per Kg price of foodgrains will be the same for AAY and Non-AAY households

The allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs will not exceed the average annual offtake during last three years.

Eligible households will be identified by the Central government based on Census data

State-wise coverage will be determined by the Central Government.

Food security allowance will be provided in case of non-supply of food grains to entitled persons

Centre will provide assistance to States for intra-State transportation and handling of foodgrains

Elders woman of eighteen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest male member is to be the head of the household.

The Bill provides for penalty to be imposed on public servants or authority, if found guilty of failing to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO)

At the proposed coverage of entitlement, total estimated annual foodgrains requirement is 612.3 lakh tons and corresponding estimated food subsidy for 2013-14 costs is about Rs. 1.24 lakh (E)

- 480) The National Cyber Security Policy was released by Union Minister for Communications and IT Kapil Sibal on July 2, 2013. Which of the following abbreviations are expanded correctly?
- NTRIO – National Technical Research Organisation
 - CERT-In – Computer Emergency Review Team-India
 - NATGRID – National Technical Grid
- a) I only
b) I and II only
c) II and III only
d) III and I only
e) I, II and III

Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Communications and IT released the National Cyber Security Policy, on July 2, 2013.

The policy proposes to set up agency to ward off cyber threats, create a workforce trained in cyber security and provide fiscal benefits to businesses for adopting security best practice

The government has proposed to set up a National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), which will act as a 24x7 centre to ward off cyber security threats in strategic areas such as air control, nuclear and space.

It will function under the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRIO), a technical intelligence gathering agency controlled directly by the National Security Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office.

As part of the policy, the government has proposed to create a workforce of around 500,000 trained in cyber security. It also proposes to provide fiscal benefits to businesses to adopt best security practices.

Rentala Chandrasekhar is the Director of the NTRO, which has been entrusted with the task of missile monitoring, satellite and airborne imagery, cyber patrolling and security, cyber offensive operations and communication support systems.

The Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In) will handle the infrastructure. **Gulshan Rai**, director general of CERT-In, said the government would also set up testing labs to regularly check the safety of equipment being used in the country.

The policy has laid down 14 objectives which include creation of a cyber ecosystem in the country, developing effective public-private partnerships and collaborative engagements through technical and operational cooperation, among others. Emphasis has been laid on developing indigenous security technologies through research.

The policy will provide a road map for strengthening cyber security and a secure computing framework that will inspire consumer confidence for electronic transactions.

Raghu Raman is the CEO of NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid) (A)

- 481) Indian Satellite Research Organisation's (ISRO) satellite IRNSS-1A was launched on July 2, 2013. IRNSS is Indian _____ Navigation Satellite System.
- Reconnaissance
 - Resources
 - Regional
 - Review
 - Rapid

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C22, has successfully launched IRNSS-1A, the first satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), in the early morning hours of July 2, 2013 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This is the twenty third consecutive successful mission of PSLV.

The 1425 kg IRNSS-1A is being tracked by ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan, Karnataka.

The PSLV-C22 used for the launch does not directly transfer satellites into a geosynchronous orbit. Instead, it puts the satellite into an interim sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (sub-GTO), from where thrusters are used to push the satellite into geosynchronous orbit.

IRNSS-1A is the first of the seven satellites constituting the space segment of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland. IRNSS would provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Services (SPS) – provided to all users – and Restricted Services (RS) provided only to authorised users.

With a mission life of 10 years, the IRNSS-1A it will deliver applications ranging across terrestrial, aerial and marine navigation, disaster management, tracking of vehicles, guiding hikers and travellers, and visual-voice navigation for drivers.

A number of ground stations responsible for the generation and transmission of navigation parameters, satellite control, satellite ranging and monitoring, etc., have been established in as many as 15 locations across the country.

As per a Press Release issued by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) the entire IRNSS constellation of seven satellites is planned to be completed by 2015-16. (C)

- 482) The government proposed amendments in the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act in August 2013 for improving the functioning of which of the following?
- IB
 - CBI
 - RAW
 - CRPF
 - Delhi Police

The Union government informed the Supreme Court that the CBI will be given functional autonomy in its affidavit filed on July 3, 2013. In its affidavit, the Centre explained the steps it proposed to take to insulate the CBI from government interference in investigation as well by amending the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act. The Centre filed the affidavit on the petitions filed by advocate Manohar Lal Sharma and others in the 'Coal allotment scam.' The Central government will introduce a Bill containing necessary amendments in Parliament.

Highlights of the affidavit:

Appointment: The CBI Director and other officers will be appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or a judge nominated by him.

Tenure: The CBI Director will hold the post for two years and he cannot be transferred without the consent of the committee.

Removal: The CBI Director shall be removed from office only by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity, based on the report filed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

Grant of sanction for prosecution by CBI: The Centre will take a final decision on such requests within three months and an order declining sanction will contain reasons in support thereof.

An **Accountability Commission** will be set up by the President. It will have three retired Supreme Court or High Court judges as whole time members and the seniormost among them will be designated as the chairperson. The Central Vigilance Commissioner will be the ex-officio member of the Commission, whose members will hold office for three years. The Commission will have the power to entertain and inquire into allegations of misbehaviour, incapacity, impropriety or irregularity on the part of an officer or an employee of the CBI either on a complaint or on a reference from the Centre.

The **financial powers** of the CBI Director will be equivalent to the powers of the Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force. (B)

483) Who among the following was appointed as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee in July 2013?

- Lieutenant General Anil Chait
- Lieutenant General D. S. Suhag
- Lieutenant General K. T. Parnaik
- Lieutenant General Sanjiv Chachra
- Lieutenant General Philip Campose

Lieutenant General Anil Chait took over as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee in New Delhi on July 1, 2013. (A)

484) The Innovation Clusters initiative of India's National Innovation Council (NInC) was recognised in the Global Innovation Index 2013 Report of the United Nations in July 2013. Who among the following is Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)?

- Sam Pitroda
- Goverdhan Mehta
- Samir Brahmachari
- Srikumar Banerjee
- Vijay Kumar Saraswat

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, along with the authors, presented the findings of the Global Innovation Index 2013 Report at an event in Geneva on July 1, 2013. One chapter in Report is dedicated to the Innovation Clusters initiative of the National Innovation Council (NInC), chaired by Sam Pitroda, Adviser to PM. This initiative was launched in 2011 by NInC to create a model of local innovation ecosystems at Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) clusters, with a vision to transform India's industry clusters for inclusive growth and global competition.

As part of the initiative, NInC is conducting a pilot of this approach in 7 MSME clusters in the country viz. Auto Components Cluster – Faridabad, Haryana, Ayurveda Cluster – Thrissur, Kerala, Bamboo Cluster – Agartala, Tripura, Biotech & Pharma Cluster – Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Brassware Cluster – Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Food Processing Cluster – Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu and Furniture Cluster – Ernakulam, Kerala. NInC has been able to establish partnerships among 39 different institutions and these clusters, which have resulted in strengthening the innovation capabilities, productivity and growth prospects of the MSMEs. Collectively, the local ecosystems have demonstrated 10 new products, 12 process improvements and 2 new entrepreneur facilitation centers.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is one of the primary partners in this effort and has provided extensive support to the MSME clusters through its nation-wide network of labs. "CSIR under its CSIR-800 program is willing to open doors to all the technologies they have developed till now for the benefit of MSME clusters. We are keen to provide technology solutions to MSMEs for their growth" said Samir Brahmachari, Director-General, CSIR, speaking of this initiative. (C)

485) The Union Tourism Ministry in July 2013 decided to develop the Konhoji Angere _____ in Maharashtra as a tourist destination.

- Jetty
- Delta
- Island
- Shipyards
- Lighthouse

K. Chiranjeevi, Union Minister for Tourism after holding discussions with G. K. Vasani, Minister for Shipping and Milind Deora, Minister of State for Shipping, Communication and Information Technology on July 2, 2013 agreed to provide Central Financial Assistance for the development of heritage lighthouses as tourist destinations. Out of fifteen heritage lighthouses having historical importance, in the first phase, Konhoji Angere lighthouse in Maharashtra will be taken up for development. The Ministry of Tourism plans to support construction of a boat jetty and passenger terminal at Konhoji Angere lighthouse which is situated nine nautical miles away from the Gateway of India, Mumbai. Once the jetty is built, Mumbai and the domestic as well as international tourists will get a new day-trip destination. (E)

486) The second meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was organised in New Delhi in July 2013. What is the cloud computing initiative of the Government named?

- MeghRaj
- VarunRaj
- BadalRaj
- CloudRaj
- VarshaRaj

The second meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was organised in New Delhi on July 1, 2013 to review the progress of implementation of NeGP. The NeGP was approved by Government of India in May 2006 with the vision to "Make all Government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs". Recent initiatives in this regard include the following:

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) has developed a web portal – e-TAAL (e-Transactions Aggregation and Analysis Layer). The portal aggregates and analyses the transaction statistics of central and state level e-governance projects on a real time basis and is expected to enhance the outcome focus of e-Governance programs in the country.

DeitY has launched Mobile Seva, a unique country-wide initiative on mobile governance to provide public services to the citizens through mobile phones and handheld devices.

A mobile AppStore (<http://mgov.gov.in/msd/appstore.jsp>) has also been launched with 153 live applications for citizens to download and use.

Recently, DeitY has implemented a pilot project in three states on using the hi-speed connectivity of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for delivery of public services like tele-medicine, tele-education, skill development courses and banking services. The lessons from this pilot will be useful in utilising the NoFN infrastructure being planned to connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats.

DeitY has developed an e-Gov AppStore to host successful e-governance applications. These applications can be replicated by all government departments intending to implement e-Gov initiatives, thereby saving immense time and costs in application development and hosting.

To harness the benefits of cloud technology, DeitY has launched a new initiative named as 'MeghRaj' for creating a Government of India cloud (GI Cloud) computing environment at the national level. This initiative will not only optimise utilisation of IT infrastructure, but also enable rapid deployment/replication of e-Gov services. (A)

487) Which of the following is the last of the three "Talwar Class" frigates commissioned in June 2013?

- INS Teg
- INS Trikaal
- INS Trikand
- INS Tarkash
- All commissioned simultaneously

INS Trikand, the last of the three "Follow On Talwar Class" frigates built in the Russian Federation, was commissioned into the Indian Navy today at Kaliningrad, Russia by Vice Admiral R K Dhowan, the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy, on June 29, 2013. The commissioning of INS Trikand marks the culmination of a three ship contract for "Follow On Talwar Class" ships built in Russia, and is therefore a milestone in the Indo-Russian military-technological

cooperation. Her sister ships INS Teg and INS Tarkash were commissioned in 2012 and are now undertaking operations as part of the Western Fleet. (C)

488) Who among the following was appointed the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand in July 2013?

- a) Babul Marandi
- b) Arjun Munda
- c) Hemant Soren
- d) Sudesh Mahto
- e) Madhu Koda

President Pranab Mukherjee on July 13, 2013 revoked the President's Rule imposed on Jharkhand on January 18, 2013. The President's rule was imposed on January 18, 2013 after the JMM withdrew support to the BJP-led government under Arjun Munda on January 8. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Legislature Party leader Hemant Soren took oath as the new chief minister of Jharkhand on July 13. Soren was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Syed Ahmed in Ranchi. The JMM-LP leader had staked claim for formation of a government in alliance with Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, smaller parties and independent MLAs. Soren gave the Governor a list of 43 MLAs supporting him in the 82-member Assembly. (C)

489) The Supreme Court on July 5, 2013 held that freebies offered by political parties in manifestos would not come under "corrupt practices" and "electoral offences" under the _____.

- a) Right to Education Act
- b) Prevention of Corruption Act
- c) Right to Information Act
- d) Representation of the People Act
- e) Unfair Electoral Practices Act

The Supreme Court on July 5, 2013 held that freebies offered by political parties in manifestos would not come under "corrupt practices" and "electoral offences" under the Representation of the People Act. A Bench of Justices P. Sathasivam and Ranjan Gogoi, however, directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines in this regard in consultation with all recognised parties. The Bench upheld the offer of grinders, mixies, laptops, etc, made by the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu. (D)

490) Which two districts of Haryana have been included in the National Capital Region (NCR) from July 2013?

- a) Jind, Rohtak
- b) Karnal, Kurukshetra
- c) Bhiwani, Kurukshetra
- d) Hissar, Mahendragarh
- e) Bhiwani, Mahendragarh

The National Capital Region (NCR) Planning Board has approved the inclusion of Bhiwani and Mahendragarh districts of Haryana and Bharatpur district of Rajasthan in the National Capital Region. The NCR Planning Board which met on July 1, 2013 under the chairmanship of the Urban Development Minister Kamal Nath also approved the Rajasthan Government request for identification of Jaipur as Counter Magnet Area. The Board also approved the Sub-Regional plan for UP sub-region. (E)

491) Statistics Day was observed in June 2013. Which of the following is/are matched correctly?

- a) Srikant Kumar Jena – Minister for Statistics & Programme Implementation
- b) TCA Anant – Chief Statistician of India
- c) Pronab Sen – Chairman, National Statistical Commission
- d) (a) & (b) only
- e) (a), (b) & (c)

In recognition of the notable contributions made by Late Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of economic planning and statistical development, the Government of India has designated 29th June every year, coinciding with his birth anniversary, as the "Statistics Day".

The theme for this year's Statistics Day observed on June 29, 2013 was "Labour and Employment Statistics". Speaking on the occasion, the Minister for Statistics & Programme Implementation Srikant Kumar Jena said that there is a need to further strengthen the role of Statisticians in the administration of the country.

National Award in Statistics, constituted in the Honour of Prof. C.R. Rao was also conferred on Dr. Abhiman Das, Eminent Statistician from Reserve Bank of India. He was presented a shawl, citation and a cash award of Rs. two lakh.

Besides, launching of the India Statistics Community in the Data Portal India, some important Statistical Publications viz. "Children in India 2012- A statistical appraisal", "Women and Men in India 2012", "SAARC Social Charter India Country Report 2012" & "India in Figures- 2013" were also released on the occasion.

Chief Statistician of India TCA Anant and Pronab Sen, Chairman, National Statistical Commission also spoke on the occasion. (E)

492) Who among the following is the author of the book 'The Future of Indian Agriculture' released in July 2013?

- a) William Dar
- b) Yogendra Alagh
- c) Madhava Gadgil
- d) MS Swaminathan
- e) Goverdhan Mehta

The Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari released the book 'The Future of Indian Agriculture' authored by Dr. Yoginder K. Alagh in New Delhi on July 5, 2013. He opined that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. The sector's contribution to the national GDP was 14.5 percent in 2010-11. It accounts for 11% of our exports and is a vital source of raw material for a large number of industries. About 52% of the total workforce is still employed by the farm sector which makes more than half of the Indian population dependant on agriculture for sustenance. An average Indian spends almost half of his/her total expenditure on food. (B)

493) Which is the most recent book by Internet expert Ankit Fadia released in July 2013?

- a) Software Hacking
- b) Unofficial Guide to Ethical Hacking
- c) Encryption: Protecting Your Data
- d) How to Unblock Everything on the Internet
- e) Faster: 100 Ways to Improve Your Digital Life

Books released in July 2013: 'Faster: 100 Ways to Improve Your Digital Life' by Ankit Fadia; 'When Crows Are White' by Jerry Pinto and Garima Gupta; 'SD Burman — The World of His Music' by Khagesh Dev Burman, S.K. Ray Chaudhuri; 'India's Foreign Policy - A Reader' by Kanti P Bajpai and Harsh V Pant **Other books by Ankit Fadia:** Unofficial Guide to Ethical Hacking (2001); Encryption: Protecting Your Data (2009); Software Hacking (2009); How to Unblock Everything on the Internet (2012) (E)

494) Justice Palanisamy Sathasivam, sworn in as the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on July 19, 2013, has served as the Chief Justice of:

- a) Delhi High Court
- b) Madras High Court
- c) Mumbai High Court
- d) Guwahati High Court
- e) None of the above

Justice Palanisamy Sathasivam, seniormost judge of the Supreme Court, was on July 19, 2013 sworn in as the 40th Chief Justice of India. He succeeds Altamas Kabir, who retired on July 18, and will have a brief tenure of about nine months. He is due to retire on April 26, 2014.

Justice Sathasivam, 64, is the first judge from Tamil Nadu to become the CJI. Justice M. Patanjali Sastri, who served as CJI from November 1951 to January 1954, represented the undivided Madras Presidency.

Hailing from Erode district of Tamil Nadu, Justice Sathasivam was appointed a permanent judge of the Madras High Court in January 1996. He was transferred to the Punjab & Haryana High Court in April 2007.

Justice Sathasivam never served as Chief Justice of a High Court as he was elevated directly to the Supreme Court on August 21, 2007, when he was serving as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Landmark judgements

As a Supreme Court judge, Justice Sathasivam has delivered some landmark judgments on matters of national importance which include Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. vs. Reliance Industries Limited wherein he emphasised the use of natural resources through public sector undertakings. He observed that "in a national democracy like ours, the national assets belong to the people" and "the government owns such assets for the purposes of developing them in the interests of the people."

In the Mayawati vs. Union of India case, he held that the Central Bureau of Investigation exceeded its jurisdiction in lodging FIR of disproportionate assets against Mayawati in the Taj Corridor matter and the same was quashed as being illegal.

In the Mumbai blasts case, Justice Sathasivam convicted Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt to five years' imprisonment under the Arms Act and he was asked to serve out the remaining sentence. (B)

- 495) Who among the following was selected to succeed Ranjan Mathai as the next Foreign Secretary in July 2013?
- Chokila Iyer
 - Sujata Singh
 - Nirmala Buch
 - Vandana Joshi
 - Meera Shankar

Sujata Singh, Indian Ambassador to Germany, was on July 1, 2013 selected as India's next foreign secretary. She succeeds Ranjan Mathai. Singh will be the third woman to head the services after Chokila Iyer and Nirupama Rao. (B)

- 496) Anil Goswami was appointed as the new _____ Secretary in July 2013.
- Home
 - Cabinet
 - Revenue
 - Defence
 - Petroleum

Anil Goswami took over as Union Home Secretary on July 1, 2013. He succeeds Raj Kumar Singh who retired from Government service. Other bureaucratic appointments made on July 1, 2013 include Bimal Julka as the new Information & Broadcasting Secretary, Afzal Amanullah as the Parliamentary Affairs Secretary, Sangita Gairola as Youth Affairs Secretary, Nita Chowdhury as Women and Child Development Secretary, Pradeep Kumar Sinha as Power Secretary and Alok Rawat as Water Resources Secretary. (A)

- 497) Who among the following replaced Tejendra Khanna as the new Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi in July 2013?
- Bimal Julka
 - Najeeb Jung
 - Afzal Amanullah
 - Sangita Gairola
 - Ravindra Singh

Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University Najeeb Jung was on July 1, 2013 appointed the new Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi. He has taken the charge at a time when the Capital is grappling with a range of challenges, including regularisation of unauthorised colonies and safety of women. Jung, who was the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, was appointed the new Lt. Governor in place of Tejendra Khanna. As the Lt. Governor, Jung will be in-charge of the Delhi Police and the Delhi Development Authority besides being the administrative head of the Delhi Government. (B)

- 498) Rajan Gupta was appointed as the new Director General of which of the following organisations in June 2013?
- Rapid Action Force
 - Indian Coast Guard
 - Narcotics Control Bureau
 - Bureau of Police Research and Development
 - National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence

Rajan Gupta, IPS (PB:78) was on July 3, 2013 appointed as Director General, Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) till the date of his superannuation i.e. 31.03.2015, from the date of assumption of the post or until further orders, whichever event takes place earlier. (D)

- 499) What was the theme of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Economic and Business Conference organised in July 2013?
- Enhancing Trade and Investment
 - Unlocking the Potential of the Services Sector
 - Creating Agri-business linkages in the Ocean Economy
 - Addressing Food Security and Sustainable Development
 - Deepening Economic Linkages for Balanced, Inclusive & Sustainable Growth

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Anand Sharma co-chaired the first Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Economic and Business Conference organised in Port Louis, Mauritius on July 4-5, 2013 under the theme of 'Deepening Economic Linkages for Balanced, Inclusive & Sustainable Growth'. The meeting was co-hosted by the Governments of Mauritius and India and brought together Ministers and business representatives from across the Indian Ocean Rim. Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam said India made "significant contribution to fight against the scourge of piracy in our region." (E)

- 500) Which island nation's entire petroleum requirement is met by supplies from Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)?
- Maldives
 - Mauritius
 - Sri Lanka
 - Jamaica
 - Trinidad & Tobago

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Anand Sharma met Sayyad Abd-Al-Cader Sayed Hossen, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, Mauritius, in Port Louis on July 4, 2013. During the meeting, the Mauritian minister conveyed that the issue of renewal of contract with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) had been sorted out and only the final touches are being put in place. India's exports to Mauritius comprises largely of petroleum products as a result of the three year Agreement signed between MRPL and the State Trading Corporation of Mauritius in July 2007 for the supply of all petroleum requirement of Mauritius. The Agreement is expected to be renewed soon. Later, in his meeting with the Mauritian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade, Arvin Boolell, Sharma discussed the issue of liberalisation of visa and conveyed that including Mauritius in the list of the countries that get visa on arrival is under consideration. (B)

- 501) Who among the following is the Chinese counterpart of Defence Minister AK Antony?
- Chang Wanquan
 - Lou Jiwei
 - Yang Jiechi
 - Luo Yuan
 - Wang Yi

China on July 8, 2013 said Defence Minister AK Antony's visit to Beijing has given both countries an opportunity to enhance their "strategic cooperative partnership" and jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas through increased military-to-military coordination. Chinese Foreign Ministry said "high attention" was given to Antony's visit as he held talks with Premier Li Keqiang, Defence Minister Gen Chang Wanquan and State Councillor and Special Representative on India-China border talks, Yang Jiechi. Antony, who is the first Indian Defence Minister to visit China in seven years, concluded his four day visit on July 7. The stress on the need for maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) comes against the backdrop of the Depsang valley incursion incident in May 2013 when the Chinese troops had pitched their tents 99kms inside Indian Territory for over three weeks. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the two sides also agreed to hold talks on China India Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA). Antony was assisted by the Indian Ambassador Dr S Jaishankar, the Defence Secretary, R. K. Mathur and GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, Lt General Dalbir Singh. (A)

- 502) Bangalore-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC) project will be implemented by India in joint venture with:
- UK
 - USA
 - France
 - Japan
 - Germany

India and United Kingdom have decided to join hands to develop the signature Bangalore-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC) project in close association with private companies from Britain. The decision to implement the project, outlined both by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and British Prime Minister David Cameron, was taken during the recent meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister, Anand Sharma UK's Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skill, Vince Cable, and UK's Minister for Government Policy in Cabinet office, Oliver Letwin during Sharma's recent visit to London in July 2013. (A)

- 503) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Vietnam's Minister Nguyen Bac Son who came on an official visit to India in July 2013?
- Kapil Sibal
 - AK Antony
 - Anand Sharma
 - P. Chidambaram
 - M. Veerappa Moily

The Government on July 4, 2013 asked Vietnam to set up an electronics cluster in India. India and Vietnam signed two memorandums of understanding (MoU) in New Delhi for partnership in the field of information, communications and technology (ICT). Communications and IT Minister Kapil Sibal and his counterpart from Vietnam Nguyen Bac Son have decided to set up a six-member joint committee to work on a roadmap for collaboration in the field of ICT. (A)

- 504)** The 36th Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission organised in Rome in July 2013 was on which of the following issues?
- Health
 - Telecom
 - Education
 - Defence
 - Aviation

The Codex Commission is shouldering the responsibility of laying down the global parameters of quality and safety of food products for human consumption. This ensures the health of the consumers and fair practices in the export and import of food products. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Ghulam Nabi Azad said in Rome on July 1, 2013. Azad was addressing the inaugural programme of the 36th Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission on the occasion of 50 years of the Commission's Sessions. The membership of the Commission has grown from 30 countries to 150 countries over the last 50 years. This is on account of the keen interest and trust evinced by the developing countries in the Codex process, making Codex a truly international food standards-setting organization of the United Nations. **(A)**

- 505)** Who was ranked first among 142 countries in the Global Innovation Index 2013 released by the WIPO, CII, INSEAD and Cornell University in July 2013?
- Singapore
 - Switzerland
 - UK
 - The Netherlands
 - USA

India dropped two places from its last year's position of 64 to 66 on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2013 released in July 2013. The index, which ranks 142 countries across the world on their innovation capacity and efficiency, is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, World Intellectual Property Organization and Confederation of Indian Industry. This year's toppers in the GI were Switzerland and Sweden, followed by the UK, the Netherlands and the US. These countries were among the top 10 in 2012 also. "The results of the GI provide testimony to the global nature of innovation today. The top 25 ranked countries are a mix of nations from across the world-North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania and West Asia. While high-income economies dominate the list, several new players have increased their innovation capabilities and outputs," said Soumitra Dutta, co-editor of the report and a top official at Cornell University. **(B)**

- 506)** Y.K. Sinha was appointed as India's next High Commissioner to which neighbouring country in July 2013?
- Bhutan
 - Sri Lanka
 - Myanmar
 - Pakistan
 - Bangladesh

Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, presented his credentials to President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo on July 3, 2013. He succeeds Ashok K. Kantha, who is now Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs. A senior diplomat, with a career spanning over three decades, Sinha was earlier Additional Secretary (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran) in the Ministry of External Affairs. He also served as Ambassador to Venezuela and Consul-General of India in Dubai, and held key positions in the Indian missions in New York, Islamabad, Rome, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. **(B)**

- 507)** Who among the following is the Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Envoy who met PM Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in July 2013?
- Pervez Akhtar
 - Shahid Khan
 - Akhtar Saleemi
 - Shahryar Khan
 - Mustafa Jauhar

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Special Envoy Shahryar M. Khan on July 5, 2013 met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi and conveyed Islamabad's "sincere desire" to move forward on improving relations with India. Khan also held discussions with National Security Advisor the Foreign Secretary and Dr. Singh's Special Envoy Satinder Lambah who had visited Pakistan in May 2013. **(D)**

- 508)** The 13th Amendment, affecting the minority community, refers to Constitution in which country neighbouring India?
- Bhutan
 - Sri Lanka

- Myanmar
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh

India welcomed Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa's announcement on elections in the Tamil-majority Northern Province, but asked him not to dilute the provisions of a promised political settlement known as the 13th Amendment plus. This was conveyed to Rajapaksa's younger brother Basil (Minister of Economic Development) when he met External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, besides the National Security Advisor and the Foreign Secretary, in New Delhi on January 5, 2013. The main purpose of Basil's visit was to inform India about his government's plans to revisit the 13th Amendment or in other words dilute it by scrapping some of the powers promised to the provinces in the India-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987. The issue of giving powers to the Northern Province is the biggest political bone of contention between the two countries. **(B)**

- 509)** Which of the following released an updated "Red List" of species that have become extinct or are threatened with extinction in July 2013?
- Greenpeace
 - World Wildlife Fund
 - United Nations Environment Programme
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature

A freshwater shrimp, an island-dwelling lizard and a pupfish from Arizona have been declared extinct, while nearly 21,000 species are at risk of dying out, an updated "Red List" released on July 2, 2013 showed. The List has been compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN has assessed 70,294 of the world's 1.82 million known species of plants and animals. According to the update, 20,934 species are currently listed as "threatened with extinction".

The recent updates focused especially on the decline among conifers, a category of cone-bearing trees and shrubs that includes one of the world's oldest and largest organisms, such as the Bristlecone Pine that can live to be almost 5,000 years old and the Coast Redwood which can reach a height of 110 metres (360 feet).

The report also provided the Red List's first-ever global assessment of freshwater shrimps. One such species, the Macrobrachium leptodactylus, was declared extinct.

The Cape Verde Giant Skink, a lizard that had lived on a single island and two small islets and which was last seen in 1912, was also declared extinct, as was the Santa Cruz Pupfish, once found in the Santa Cruz River basin in Arizona, which disappeared due to water depletion. **(E)**

- 510)** July 2013 issue of which international magazine was banned by Sri Lanka and Myanmar over its alleged anti-Buddhist cover story?
- Time
 - Fortune
 - Readers' Digest
 - The Economist
 - National Geographic

Sri Lanka has banned the July 1 issue of Time magazine because its cover story on Myanmar's Buddhist-Muslim clashes could hurt religious sentiment on the island. Customs department spokesman Leslie Gamini on July 2, 2013 said the issue carrying a photo of a prominent Myanmar monk under the headline: "The Face of Buddhist Terror" would be banned. Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka, where tensions with Muslims and other minority religious communities have been rising, is the second country to censor the edition after Myanmar also blocked it **(A)**

- 511)** MINUSMA is the UN peacekeeping force in:
- Mali
 - Congo
 - Somalia
 - South Sudan
 - Sierra Leone

United Nations (U.N.) soldiers took over from African troops in conflict-scarred Mali in capital Bamako from July 1, 2013. The 12,600-strong peacekeeping force, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), took over security duties from French troops who entered Mali in January 2013 while France winds down its deployment from its peak of nearly 4,500. Rwandan General Jean-Bosco Kazura will lead the force. The majority of his soldiers will be Africans already stationed in Mali. The U.N. mission is due to play a key role in presidential polls announced for July 28. The U.N. has called on member states to contribute critical resources, including personnel and equipment, to ensure that it can support Mali in implementing the accord and preparing for the elections. **(A)**

- 512)** Croatia became a new member of the European Union (EU) on July 1, 2013. Which of the following pairs of leading persons in the EU is not matched correctly?
- Mario Draghi – President of European Central Bank
 - Herman Van Rompuy – President of the European Council
 - José Manuel Barroso – President of the European Commission
 - Catherine Ashton – High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
 - None of the above

Croatia has become the 28th member of the European Union, with crowds joining celebrations in the capital Zagreb on July 1, 2013. Croatia will not yet join the single currency or the free-movement Schengen zone, where most EU citizens are not subject to passport checks. **CURRENCIES:** Albania – Lek; Bosnia and Herzegovina – Marka; Poland – Zloty; Romania – Leu; Croatia – Kuna; **CAPITALS:** Albania – Tirana; Croatia – Zagreb; Serbia – Belgrade; Sarajevo – Bosnia and Herzegovina; Slovenia – Ljubljana

Members of EU: The European Union is an international organization comprising 28 European countries. The EU's members are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Croatia.

Important Persons in EU: Mario Draghi – President of European Central Bank; Herman Van Rompuy – President of the European Council; José Manuel Barroso – President of the European Commission; Catherine Ashton – High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy **(E)**

- 513)** The eruption of Popocatepetl volcano in which country was in news in July 2013?
- Chile
 - Mexico
 - Kenya
 - Brunei
 - Indonesia

US airlines on July 4, 2013 cancelled several flights into Mexico City over fears that ash from the Popocatepetl volcano would affect their planes. The volcano has been spewing ash and a fountain of hot rock since May, and the alert level is currently set one notch below evacuation level **(B)**

- 514)** In which neighbouring country has the "Elderly Rights Law" that says people must look after their ageing parents came into effect in July 2013?
- Sri Lanka
 - Nepal
 - Bhutan
 - China
 - Pakistan

Grown children in China must visit their parents or potentially face fines or jail, a new law that came into effect on July 1, 2013 says. China's new "Elderly Rights Law" deals with the growing problem of lonely elderly people by ordering adult children to visit their ageing parents. The law says adults should care about their parents "spiritual needs" and "never neglect or snub elderly people". The regulation has been ridiculed by tens of thousands of Chinese web users. Many across China are questioning how the law could be enforced, since it fails to spell out a detailed schedule dictating the frequency with which children should make parental house calls. **(D)**

- 515)** Which countries' navies organised the "Joint Sea-2013" exercises in the Sea of Japan in July 2013?
- Japan and USA
 - South Korea and USA
 - Vietnam and Laos
 - China and Russia
 - The Philippines and Malaysia

China-Russia hold "Joint Sea-2013" exercise: China and Russia kicked off their largest-ever joint naval drills on July 5, 2013 in the Sea of Japan. Eighteen surface ships, one submarine, three airplanes, five ship-launched helicopters and two commando units were taking part in the "Joint Sea-2013" exercise that runs through July 12. The drills will cover anti-submarine warfare, close manoeuvring, and the simulated take-over of an enemy ship. The drills are bigger than anything China's navy has previously held with a foreign partner. **(D)**

- 516)** What proportion of the global population has internet access, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in July 2013?
- 10%

- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%

While India inches towards 13 per cent Internet penetration with roughly 160 million users, nearly 40 per cent of the global population or 2.7 billion people are already online in 2013, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on July 4, 2013. **(D)**

- 517)** Which country is facing a lawsuit in the International Court of Justice for hunting of whales in violation of an international treaty in July 2013?
- UK
 - USA
 - Japan
 - China
 - Australia

Japan defended its whaling in the Antarctic on July 2, 2013, telling the International Court of Justice that it is sustainable and legal. "Japanese whaling is not commercial but purely scientific," Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Tsuruoka told the United Nations' highest court in The Hague, arguing that it, therefore, did not endanger the whales. Australia filed suit against Japan, charging that it is indeed engaged in commercial whaling and is breaching international law by killing hundreds of whales every year for commercial purposes Japan officially halted commercial whaling in 1987 but since then has conducted "research whaling" under what critics argued is a loophole in the charter of the International Whaling Commission. **(C)**

- 518)** World _____ Design Day was observed on June 29, 2013.
- Art
 - Software
 - Industrial
 - Engineering
 - Architecture

The World Industrial Design Day (WIDD) was observed on June 29, 2013. The Day is observed annually on 29 June in recognition of the profession of industrial design. First declared in 2007 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of ICSID (International Council of Societies of Industrial Design), World Industrial Design Day has been established with the aim of promoting awareness of the profession of industrial design and facilitating collaborations that help to highlight the impact of industrial design on economic, social, cultural and environmental quality of life throughout the world. **(C)**

- 519)** Which tourist destination was ranked first in the TripAdvisor's 2013 Travellers Choice Attractions Awards in June 2013?
- Taj Mahal – India
 - Machu Picchu – Peru
 - Angkor Wat – Cambodia
 - Petra – Jordan
 - Bayon Temple – Cambodia

Travellers from across the globe have ranked India's Taj Mahal among the top three landmarks in the world, a leading travel website has announced. According to TripAdvisor's 2013 Travellers Choice Attractions Awards, Taj Mahal was ranked third in the list of Top 25 landmarks. The top two places were taken by Machu Picchu in Peru and Angkor Wat in Cambodia respectively. "The winners of Travellers' Choice Attractions awards were determined based on the quality and quantity of traveller reviews of attractions," said a company statement on June 30, 2013. Petra World Heritage Site in Jordan and Bayon Temple in Cambodia, which are ranked fourth and fifth respectively in the list of 25 top landmarks in the world. **(B)**

- 520)** Who was sworn in as the interim President of Egypt following the ouster of Mohamed Morsy in July 2013?
- Rashad Bayoumi
 - Mohamed ElBaradei
 - Adly al-Mansour
 - Hussein Tantawi
 - Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Egypt's chief justice Adly al-Mansour was sworn in as interim President on July 4, 2013 after the army ousted and detained Mohamed Morsy in an abrupt end to the Islamist's first year in office. **Key events in Egypt's recent history:** **February 2011** - Hosni Mubarak resigns as president after two weeks of massive street protests and violent clashes; **January 2012** - Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) wins parliamentary elections with

almost half of votes; **June 2012** - Mohammed Morsi of FJP becomes Egypt's first freely elected president; **July 2013** - The army suspends the constitution and removes Morsi from power; Adly Mansour sworn in as interim president until fresh elections are held (C)

- 521)** Who was appointed as the National Security Advisor by US President Barack Obama in July 2013?
- John Brennan
 - Chuck Hagel
 - Susan Rice
 - Porter Gross
 - Newt Gingrich

Susan Rice joins White House as National Security Advisor: Susan Rice, the former US Ambassador to the United Nations, on July 1, 2013 joined the White House as the National Security Advisor. Rice (48), who replaces Tom Donilon in her new capacity as NSA, would be the top advisor to President Obama on all national security and foreign policies. Rice is well known for advocating strong relationship with India. As the US Ambassador to the UN, Rice maintained a close personal relationship with Hardeep Puri, the then Indian Ambassador to the UN, when India was a member of the UN Security Council for two years. (C)

- 522)** Whose Presidential jet, on journey home from Moscow, was searched for the presence of US fugitive Edward Snowden at European airports in July 2013?
- Jose Mujica
 - Raul Castro
 - Evo Morales
 - Rafael Correa
 - Nicolas Maduro

Bolivian President Evo Morales was on July 3, 2013 finally on his way back home after a diplomatic flap set off by France, Italy and Portugal refusing to let his private jet overfly them as he headed home from Moscow and, upon landing in Vienna for refuelling, denying him permission to take off. The actions followed rumours that the whistleblower Edward Snowden was on board. Spain, France, Portugal and Italy reportedly denied permission for Morales's plane to fly through their airspace, in effect forcing it to make an unscheduled stop in Vienna, where Austrian authorities inspected the plane. Morales was returning after a meeting of producer-countries of natural gas. France, Italy and Portugal evidently feared that Snowden would have boarded the presidential aircraft with a view to obtaining political asylum upon touching down on European soil.

- 523)** Who among the following was appointed the new King of Belgium in July 2013 following the abdication by his father Albert II?
- Harald
 - Gerard
 - Alfonso
 - Philippe
 - Ferdinand

Crown Prince Philippe was on July 21, 2013 sworn in as the new Belgian king after the abdication of his father Albert II. The Oxford- and Stanford-educated, trained air force pilot took the oath as the country's seventh king in a ceremony in parliament. King Philippe, 53, promised to uphold the constitution. Belgium has a constitutional monarchy in which the king plays a largely ceremonial role. One of the duties the monarch does have is trying to resolve constitutional crises. In his final address before signing a legislative act to step down, 79-year-old King Albert said his country must remain a "source of inspiration" to Europe. His resignation on the grounds of ill-health came after nearly 20 years on the throne and was timed to coincide with Belgium's national day. He stressed his wish that Belgium - split between the Dutch-speaking north and the French south - remained united. (D)

- 524)** Match the persons who passed away in July 2013 correctly.

PERSON	FAMOUS FOR
I. Jim Kelly (67)	1. Archaeologist
II. Mike Morwood (62)	2. Journalist
III. Helen Thomas (92)	3. Hollywood actor

- I-1, II-2, III-3
- I-3, II-2, III-1
- I-3, II-1, III-2
- I-1, II-3, III-2

Hollywood actor & karate expert, **Jim Kelly**, who featured in 'Enter the Dragon' along with Bruce Lee, passed away in California on June 29, 2013 at the age of 67. **Helen Thomas**, a trailblazing journalist who covered the White House

for nearly five decades, passed away in Washington on July 20, 2013 at the age of 92. **Mike Morwood**, the Australian archaeologist who rocked the science world with his discovery of a tiny new species of human known as the "hobbit", passed away at the age of 62 on July 23, 2013. (C)

- 525)** Marc Van Montagu, Mary-Dell Chilton and _____ were named winners of the 2013 World Food Prize on June 19, 2013.
- Daniel Hillel
 - Robert T. Fraley
 - David Beckmann
 - John Agyekum Kufuor
 - Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Marc Van Montagu of Belgium, and Mary-Dell Chilton and Robert T. Fraley of the United States — were on June 19, 2013 named the winners of the 2013 World Food Prize. The cash prize of \$250,000 will be shared by the three scientists. Renowned Indian scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan is the Chairman of the World Food Prize Laureate Selection Committee.

Marc Van Montagu, who is Founder and Chairman of the Institute of Plant Biotechnology Outreach at Ghent University in Belgium; Mary-Dell Chilton, who is Founder and Distinguished Fellow of Syngenta Biotechnology; and Robert T. Fraley, the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Monsanto, will be formally awarded the World Food Prize at Iowa, USA on October 17, 2013.

"These three scientists are being recognized for their independent, individual breakthrough achievements in founding, developing, and applying modern agricultural biotechnology," said the World Food Prize Laureate Selection Committee. Their research is making it possible for farmers to grow crops with improved yields, resistance to insects and disease, and the ability to tolerate extreme variations in climate. (B)

- 526)** "Barfi" was the Best Film at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony organised in _____ in July 2013.
- Macau
 - Sydney
 - Hong Kong
 - Montreal
 - Singapore

"Barfi" won the award for Best Film at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards in Macau on July 6, 2013. Best actress was won by Vidya Balan for "Kahani", while, Ranbir Kapoor for "Barfi" took home the award for best actor. (A)

- 527)** President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Youth Award 2011-12 given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports on 27 individuals and one organization on July 4, 2013. How much cash prize was given to the awardee in 'organisation' category?
- Rs. 1 lakh
 - Rs. 2 lakh
 - Rs. 3 lakh
 - Rs. 4 lakh
 - Rs. 5 lakh

President Pranab Mukherjee on July 4, 2013 conferred the National Youth Award 2011-12 given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports on 27 individuals and one organization at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. National Youth Awards, instituted in the year 1985 are conferred on youth each year who have demonstrably excelled in youth work in different fields of youth developmental activities and social service. The award carries a pure silver medal, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 40,000/- in case of individual awardee and Rs. 2.00 lakhs for voluntary organization. The organisation chosen for this year's award is Bhavishya Educational and Charitable Society, West Bengal. (B)

- 528)** Who among the following was conferred the World Trophy for promoting participation of women in sports at the 2013 IOC Women and Sport Awards in Lausanne in July 2013?
- Ishrat Afreen
 - Fouzia Saeed
 - Shahnaz Bukhari
 - Ahlam Salem Mubarak al Mana
 - Ghazala Rahman Rafiq al Sabah

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on July 1, 2013 honoured six women for their outstanding contributions to the development of women's participation in sport and sports administration, during a ceremony for the 2013 IOC Women and Sport Awards in Lausanne. Qatar's Ahlam Salem Mubarak Al Mana, a pioneer for women's and girls'

sports rights in her country, was presented with the World Trophy. She has helped increase the selection of Qatari sportswomen to compete at international level and played an integral role securing the participation of four Qatari female athletes at the London 2012 Olympic Games – the first time in Olympic history that Qatari women had taken part.

The **five continental trophies** were awarded as: IOC Trophy for Africa: Dr Djènè Saran Camara (Guinea); IOC Trophy for the Americas: Marlene Bjornsrud (USA); IOC Trophy for Asia: Boossaba Yodbangtoey (Thailand); IOC Trophy for Europe: Ona Baboniene (Lithuania); IOC Trophy for Oceania: Catherine Alice Wong (Fiji). As President of the Qatar Women's Sport Committee, World Trophy winner Ahlam Salem Mubarak Al Mana has been promoting women's participation in sport across all levels.

Also Jacques Rogge, President, International Olympic Committee, was awarded the **'Power of Sports' Trophy** by the President of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), Gianni Merlo, in Lausanne on June 30, 2013. The award is in recognition of the Belgian's contribution to the Olympic Movement during his 12-year tenure which ends this September. (D)

- 529)** The deadline for submission of applications for banking licenses to the RBI ended on July 1, 2013. No entity other than NOFHC can hold more than _____ of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank.
- 2.5 per cent
 - 5 per cent
 - 7.5 per cent
 - 10.0 per cent
 - 12.5 per cent

The deadline for submission of applications for banking licenses to the Reserve Bank of India ended on July 1, 2013.

A total of 26 applications were received, including those from corporates like L&T, the Tata group (Tata Sons has applied, not Tata Capital), Reliance Capital, Aditya Birla Nuvo, Bajaj Finserv, Videocon (in the name of Aurangabad-based Value Industries), apart from infrastructure financier IDFC, gold loan company Muthoot Finance, realty developer Indiabulls, micro financier Bandhan and Bangalore-based Janalakshmi.

The Department of Posts, Tourism Finance Corporation and government-owned financial institution IFCI were among the public-sector entities that applied. Apart from these, India Infoline, Religare, Edelweiss, Magma Fincorp and SREI Infra Finance were also on the list of aspirants. Kotak Mahindra and YES Bank were the last to receive licenses in 2003-04.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines for "Licensing of New Banks in the Private Sector" that allow corporate and other entities to promote a bank through a wholly-owned Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) are as follows:

Bank can be set up through a wholly-owned Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC): Eligible entities/groups can set up a bank through a wholly-owned Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC). The NOFHC shall be wholly owned by the Promoter/Promoter Group. The NOFHC shall hold the bank as well as all the other financial services entities of the group.

Entities eligible to apply for license: Entities/groups in the private sector, entities in public sector and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) shall be eligible to apply for license. The RBI does not exclude any companies from speculative sectors such as real estate and brokerage houses from entering the banking sector. In its draft guidelines, earlier, the RBI had excluded companies from these areas from getting new banking licences.

Track record of applicants: Entities/groups should have a past record of sound credentials and integrity, be financially sound with a successful track record of 10 years. For this purpose, RBI may seek feedback from other regulators and enforcement and investigative agencies.

Minimum voting equity capital requirements for banks and shareholding by NOFHC: The initial minimum paid-up voting equity capital for a bank shall be Rs. 500 crore. The NOFHC shall initially hold a minimum of 40 per cent of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank which shall be locked in for a period of five years and which shall be brought down to 15 per cent within 12 years.

Listing requirement: The bank shall get its shares listed on the stock exchanges within three years of the commencement of business by the bank.

Foreign shareholding in the bank: The aggregate non-resident shareholding in the new bank shall not exceed 49% for the first 5 years after which it will be as per the extant policy.

Exposure norms to promoter group companies: The NOFHC and the bank shall not have any exposure to the Promoter Group. The bank will not be permitted to lend or invest in any entity belonging to the promoter group. The bank shall not invest in the equity/debt capital instruments of any financial entities held by the NOFHC.

Branches in unbanked centres: The bank shall open at least 25 per cent of its branches in unbanked rural centres (population upto 9,999 as per the latest census).

Capital adequacy requirements: The capital requirements for the regulated financial services entities held by the NOFHC shall be as prescribed by the respective sectoral regulators. The bank shall be required to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 13 per cent of its risk weighted assets (RWA) for a minimum period of 3 years after the commencement of its operations subject to any higher percentage as may be prescribed by RBI from time to time. On a consolidated basis, the NOFHC and the entities held by it shall maintain a minimum capital adequacy of 13 per cent of its consolidated RWA for a minimum period of 3 years. This was 12% in draft guidelines issued in 2012.

Equity investment in new bank beyond 5% will require RBI approval: Any acquisition of shares which will take the aggregate holding of an individual/entity/group to the equivalent of 5 per cent or more of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank will require prior approval of RBI.

Maximum equity entities other than NOFHC can hold in the new bank: No single entity or group of related entities, other than the NOFHC, shall have shareholding or control, directly or indirectly, in excess of 10 per cent of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank. (D)

- 530)** According to the FDI guidelines notified by the RBI on July 4, 2013, a company is considered as 'controlled' by resident Indian citizens if _____ is held by Indian entities and citizens.
- The CEO is an Indian citizen
 - More than 50 per cent of the equity
 - More than 50 per cent of its revenue comes from India
 - The power to appoint a majority of the directors on its board

The Reserve Bank of India, on July 4, 2013, notified foreign direct investment (FDI) guidelines, defining control of a company and its ownership. The notification of Press Note 2 and 3 of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) will be used to ensure that foreign direct investments comply with FDI ceilings and other norms. As per the press notes, a company is considered as **'controlled' by resident Indian citizens** if the power to appoint a majority of the directors on its board is held by Indian companies and citizens. On the other hand, a company is considered as **'owned' by resident Indians** if more than 50 per cent of the equity is held by the entities in India. Similarly, it would be a foreign company, if over 50 per cent of the equity is held by a non-resident. (D)

- 531)** Intersol Charges are levied by which of the following for providing services to their customers?
- Banks
 - NBFCs
 - Mutual funds
 - Depositories
 - Insurance companies

The Reserve Bank on July 1, 2013 directed banks not to discriminate against their customers and follow a uniform, fair and transparent pricing policy. RBI said banks should not discriminate between their customers at a home branch and non-home branches under the Core Banking Solutions (CBS) platform. "Accordingly, if a particular service is provided free at the home branch, the same should be available free at non-home branches also. There should be no discrimination as regards intersol charges between similar transactions done by customers at home branch and those done at non-home branches," RBI said in a directive. Charges levied by banks on their customers for products and services are called intersol charges. (A)

- 532)** Which of the following statements on RBI notifications on gold purchases in June-July 2013 is/are correct?
- Banks should convert gold purchases done through credit cards into equated monthly instalments (EMIs)
 - Banks should not accept use of credit cards for purchase of gold coins at branches
 - Banks should not lend against gold coins weighing over 50 g
- I only
 - II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - III only

After taking policy measures to lower gold imports, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to curb retail consumption, too.

The Central Bank on July 1, 2013 asked banks not to convert gold purchases done through credit cards into equated monthly instalments (EMIs), besides mandating that cards should not be accepted for purchase of gold coins at branches.

Earlier, RBI had also moved to curb loans against gold coins. It had asked banks not to lend against gold coins weighing over 50 g.

The norms for gold imports had also been tightened through restrictions on nominated banks & agencies and premier & star trading houses. Under these, RBI had said, import of gold on a consignment basis would only be for meeting genuine needs of jewellery exporters. (C)

- 533)** The Reserve Bank of India in July 2013 has asked banks to:
- Reduce provisioning for exposures to corporates having hedged foreign currency exposures
 - Increase provisioning for exposures to corporates having unhedged foreign currency exposures
 - Reduce provisioning for exposures to corporates having unhedged foreign currency exposures
 - Increase provisioning for exposures to corporates having hedged foreign currency exposures

The Reserve Bank of India on July 2, 2013 introduced incremental provisioning and capital requirements for bank exposures to corporates having unhedged foreign currency exposures. These measures have been introduced as unhedged foreign currency exposure (UFCE) of corporates is a source of risk to them as well as to the financing banks and the financial system. (A)

- 534)** Who won the Men's Hockey World League Round 3 tournament held in Johor Bahru, Malaysia in July 2013?
- Malaysia
 - Argentina
 - England
 - Germany
 - South Korea

Germany was crowned champions of the Men's Hockey World League Round 3 tournament held in Johor Bahru, Malaysia on July 7, 2013, after defeating Argentina 4-2. Earlier, England had beaten South Korea 2-1 to take third place. (D)

- 535)** The Election Commission, in its revised rules for allotment of symbols to unrecognised parties in July 2013, has made such parties eligible for allotment of symbols if they commit to contests at least _____ of the seats in Assembly/Lok Sabha constituencies in the state and submit a list of such constituencies six months in advance.
- 5%
 - 10%
 - 15%
 - 20%
 - 25%

The Election Commission on July 12, 2013 revised rules for allotment of symbols to unrecognised parties. The EC has decided to facilitate allotment of a common symbol to a registered unrecognized party that contests at least 10% of the seats in Assembly/Lok Sabha constituencies in the state and submit a list of such constituencies six months in advance. Until now, unrecognized parties were allotted a symbol only closer to notification of an election. In States with 40 seats or less in the Assembly, the party has to contest from a minimum of 5 seats. In the case of Lok Sabha election, in the States with less than 20 Lok Sabha seats, the party has to contest from a minimum of 2 seats. The party is required to submit the list of constituencies where it is going to contest. The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Amendment Order, 2013, will be effective from July 15, 2013. (B)

- 536)** Which newspaper group has discontinued its weekly English newspaper printed from many cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai in July 2013?
- The Times of India
 - Hindustan Times
 - Indian Express
 - Deccan Herald
 - The Hindu

Bennett Coleman & Co (BCCL) has decided to shut its weekly newspaper titled Times Crest within four years of its launch. The last edition of the weekend newspaper was published on July 20, 2013. The group decided to close the newspaper due to the steep decline in ad revenues. TOI Crest was introduced in 2009 as a weekend read which picked up the important/ unusual happenings of the week, stories which a regular paper would bypass. (A)

- 537)** Which High Court has imposed a ban on caste-based rallies in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect in July 2013?
- Supreme Court

- Delhi High Court
- Bombay High Court
- Calcutta High Court
- Allahabad High Court

The Allahabad High Court on July 11, 2013 stayed caste-based rallies in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect. The decision to stay caste-based rallies was taken by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad HC. "We stay caste-based rallies throughout the state of UP," the bench comprising justices Uma Nath Singh and Mahendra Dayal said on a PIL filed by a local lawyer Motilal Yadav. The bench, while banning the caste-based rallies, also issued notices to the central and state governments, the Election Commission, and four major political parties, including the BJP, Congress, BSP and SP. (E)

- 538)** M. Shashidhar Reddy is associated with which of the following organisations?
- AEC
 - CEA
 - AERB
 - NDMA
 - NPCIL

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on July 10, 2013 constituted a Cabinet committee to oversee reconstruction and rehabilitation in flood-ravaged Uttarakhand. Defence Minister A K Antony, Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, Finance Minister P Chidambaram, Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, Road Transport Minister Oscar Fernandes, Law Minister Kapil Sibal, Housing Minister Girija Vyas, Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh and Water Resources Minister Harish Rawat are the members of the committee chaired by Singh. Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna and National Disaster Management Authority Vice Chairman M Shashidhar Reddy are the permanent invitees. (D)

- 539)** Which public sector bank in July 2013 launched a new remittance card in India in partnership with Xpress Money and UAE Exchange for both receiving remittances from abroad and making withdrawals at ATMs?
- SBI
 - BoI
 - PNB
 - UCO Bank
 - Indian Bank

A global money transfer firm has launched a new remittance card in India in partnership with the State Bank of India, which can be used for both receiving remittances from abroad and making withdrawals at ATMs. The State Bank Xpress Money Card, which will initially be available in Kerala and eventually cover other States, is a product of partnership between Xpress Money, State Bank of India and UAE Exchange and Financial Services Ltd. The card is a prepaid product which combines features of both debit and remit as it allows users to receive remittances from abroad and can also be used at ATMs and for e-commerce transactions, said a statement released in Dubai on July 18, 2013. (A)

- 540)** Which is the highest ranked Indian company in the list of world's 500 largest companies unveiled by Fortune magazine in July 2013?
- SBI
 - ONGC
 - Tata Steel
 - Indian Oil
 - Reliance Industries Ltd

Eight Indian companies have found place in the list of world's 500 largest companies compiled by Fortune magazine released on July 9, 2013. With annual revenue of USD 86,016 million, Indian Oil is ranked 83rd. Reliance Industries is ranked 99th, followed by Bharat Petroleum (225th), Hindustan Petroleum (267th), SBI (285th), Tata Motors (314th), ONGC (357th) and Tata Steel (401st). The list is compiled on the basis of latest annual revenue figures. (D)

- 541)** Which is the world's highest ranked company in the list of world's 500 largest companies unveiled by Fortune magazine in July 2013?
- Apple
 - General Motors
 - Royal Dutch Shell
 - Exxon Mobil
 - Wal-Mart Stores

Fortune's global list of world's 500 largest companies for 2012, released on July 9, 2013, is topped by Royal Dutch Shell with annual revenues of USD 484,489 million. At the second place is energy firm Exxon Mobil, followed by Wal-

Mart Stores, energy company BP, and oil producer and refiner Sinopec Group. American companies have cornered 132 places in the list, followed by China, with 73 seats and then Japan with 68 seats. (C)

542) Which once popular search engine introduced in 1995 was shut down in July 2013?

- Bing
- Lycos
- Netscape
- AltaVista
- Mozilla

AltaVista was an early web search engine. It was once one of the most popular search engines, but it lost ground with the rise of Google and was purchased in 2003 by Yahoo!, which retained the brand but based all AltaVista searches on its own search engine. On July 8, 2013, the service was shut down by Yahoo! and the domain now redirects to Yahoo!'s own search site. (D)

543) Which public sector company is the most internationalized Indian company according to a ranking by the Indian School of Business (ISB) in July 2013?

- SBI
- STC
- MMTC
- HPCL
- ONGC Videsh

Government-owned ONGC Videsh has emerged as the Indian company having the most international exposure, replacing Tata Steel, according to a survey whose results were disclosed on July 15, 2013. ONGC Videsh has topped the list of 15 most internationalized Indian companies, prepared by Indian School of Business (ISB) along with Brazil's Fundacao Dom Cabral. The company is the only public sector enterprise in the league, which features six Tata group companies. Besides, Tata Steel at the second spot -- which was on top last year -- others are Tata Global Beverages (3), Tata Communications (6), Tata Motors (9), Tata Consultancy Services (12) and Tata Chemicals (15). The list reflects domestic companies having the maximum international exposure. The top 15 rankings have been made from 27 companies that participated in the survey. Other companies in the list are Motherson Sumi Systems (4), HCL Technologies (5), Hindalco Industries (7), Suzlon Energy (8), Dr Reddy's Laboratories (10), Jubilant Life Sciences (11), Infosys (13) and Punj Lloyd (14). The rankings, which have taken into accounts figures for fiscal ended March 2012 -- are based on three factors: percentage of international assets against total assets, overseas revenues against total revenues and percentage of foreign employees with respect to total headcount. The methodology is based on the Transnationality Index (TNI) developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). (E)

544) Which of the following has been asked by an independent panel to scrap its ranking of countries meant to evaluate the ease of doing business in its annual "Doing Business" report?

- IMF
- World Bank
- WTO
- OECD
- UNCTAD

An independent panel recommended on June 26, 2013 that the World Bank scrap a contentious and influential ranking of countries meant to evaluate the ease of doing business. The annual "Doing Business" report, first published by the World Bank in 2003, ranks 185 countries by aggregating 10 different indicators such as starting a business, getting construction permits, electricity, and credit, registering property, protecting investors, paying taxes, and enforcing contracts. It is supposed to assess how easy or difficult the regulatory and legislative environment makes it to do business. The review panel, set up by the World Bank and headed by South African planning minister Trevor Manuel, concluded the main index was open to misinterpretation and should be discontinued. It urged the World Bank to continue publishing the report without the headline index and to instead give only separate rankings for each individual indicator now aggregated into the main index. "The Panel found that the main disagreement was whether the Doing Business report measured the correct indicators, in the correct way. In other words, the debate was about whether a higher ranking implied that a country was on the right track for private-sector development." It said another big concern was whether the information being gathered was really relevant. The World Bank set up the independent review after the index came in for some harsh criticism from a number of directions. China and India, which ranked 91 and 132 respectively in the latest index, were among the critics. (B)

545) The US has withdrawn trade concessions given to which SAARC nation under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) because of poor labour conditions in its textile factories, in July 2013?

- Sri Lanka
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- India

e) Nepal

The United States on June 27, 2013 suspended Bangladesh from its Generalised System of Preferences, part of a World Trade Organisation programme designed to assist developing countries. Both the EU and the Obama administration had raised concerns with the Bangladesh government about the suppression of labour rights and the working conditions that have caused the deaths of hundreds of garment workers there. This follows the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory building in April 2013 which took the lives of more than 1,100 mostly female garment workers. Bangladesh is "not taking steps to afford internationally recognised worker rights", President Barack Obama said in a letter to Congress. The GSP programme covers less than one per cent of Bangladeshi goods that come into the U.S. duty-free -- mostly plastics, tobacco, crockery and some textile products -- saving Bangladesh approximately \$2 million in duties. The U.S. programme doesn't apply to the \$5-billion worth of imported garments on which Bangladesh paid approximately \$732 million in duties in 2012. (C)

546) The team of three Chinese astronauts returned safely to earth on June 26, 2013 after a 15-day mission. What is the Chinese Space Capsule that carried them into space and brought them back to earth named?

- Jiuquan
- Liaoning
- Tiangong
- Xichang
- Shenzhou

Three Chinese astronauts returned safely to earth on June 26, 2013 after a 15-day mission that included docking exercises, a televised science demonstration for children and a phone call from their country's president, Xi Jinping. The Shenzhou 10 capsule landed in northeast China, ending China's fifth manned space mission. China is seeking to master the skills and technology needed to operate a manned space lab for long stretches, and the crew on the latest flight practiced rendezvous and docking exercises with the orbiting Tiangong 1 space module, a small prototype of such a lab. China first sent an astronaut into space in 2003. The Shenzhou-10 spacecraft made a safe landing in Gobi desert on morning of June 26. The Shenzhou-10 carried the country's second woman astronaut Wang Yaping with the commander of the mission Nie Haisheng and Zhang Xiaoguan. While in space, Wang had successfully conducted a 40-minute space in orbit for millions of Chinese students on Earth with assistance of astronauts. (E)

547) The annual session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was organised in June 2013. Which of the following pairs of new sites added to the World Heritage List and their countries is matched correctly?

- Kaesong -- North Korea
- Medici Villas and Gardens -- Greece
- Red Bay Basque Whaling Station -- Spain
- Both (a) & (b)
- Both (b) & (c)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) organised its 37th annual session in Phnom Penh. On June 23, 2013 it completed an update of new sites to be added the World Heritage List. The main decisions are:

- Mount Etna (Italy): tallest active volcano on the European continent.
- Mount Fuji (Japan): Fujisan, the highest mountain in Japan.
- Agadez (Niger): the 15th century town was a crossroads for the trans-Saharan caravan trade and is home to the tallest minaret ever built out of mudbrick.
- El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico): desert that is home to many species of plants and animals.
- Tajikistan National Park
- Terraced rice fields of Honghe Hani (China): marking 1,300 years of rice cultivation
- Xinjiang Tianshan (China)
- Namib Sand Sea (Namibia): coastal desert area whose only water source is uniquely delivered by fog
- Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India)
- Monuments of Kaesong (North Korea): a dozen monuments including tombs, fortress walls and a 700-year-old school at the medieval city of Kaesong, the base of Koryo dynasty
- Medici Villas and Gardens (Italy)
- Wooden tserkvas (churches) in the Carpathian Mountains (Poland and Ukraine)
- Red Bay Basque Whaling Station (Canada): A 16th-century Arctic base for Basque whalers (A)

548) Forest fires in which of the following caused smog in many neighbouring ASEAN countries in June 2013?

- Indonesia
- Myanmar
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- The Philippines

Indonesia has begun seeding clouds in an attempt to create rain to extinguish blazes that have choked Singapore and Malaysia with smog, on June 23, 2013, while launching investigations into plantation firms suspected of starting the fires. The pollution index dropped to "moderate" in Singapore on June 23 after having hit "hazardous" levels but the smog intensified in Malaysia, with its government declaring a state of emergency in two southern districts. An aircraft with cloud-seeding equipment on June 22 managed to unleash rain over Sumatra Island, where some of the biggest fires are raging, Indonesian disaster management agency said. (A)

- 549) Julia Gillard resigned as the Prime Minister of Australia in June 2013. Which is the party in power?
- Labor Party
 - Liberal Party
 - Conservative Party
 - Democratic Party
 - National Party

Kevin Rudd was sworn in as Australian Prime Minister in Canberra for the second time on June 27, 2013, a day after toppling Julia Gillard and three months ahead of elections in which opinion polls show the ruling Labor Party faces defeat. This follows three years of squabbling within the Labor leadership and as the world's 12th largest economy faces challenges stemming from a slowdown in top trade partner China. The favourite to win the coming elections, opposition leader Tony Abbott, has promised to scrap a carbon tax and a 30 per cent tax on iron ore and coal mine profits if he wins power. Rudd was Prime Minister from late 2007 until 2010 when he was replaced by Gillard. (A)

- 550) Which country in the Middle East saw the transfer of monarchy from the 61-year old monarch to his 33-year old son on June 25, 2013?
- Jordan
 - Bahrain
 - Kuwait
 - Qatar
 - Saudi Arabia

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani (61), on June 25, 2013 handed over power to his son, the Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (33). In foreign policy, the emirate is expected to maintain its alliance with the West while at the same time pursuing an activist stance in Syria and other Arab countries. However, he will also inherit strained relations with some of Qatar's Gulf neighbours, notably Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who have been angered by Qatar's perceived closeness to the influential regional Islamist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood. (D)

- 551) Who among the following was re-elected as the President of Mongolia in June 2013?
- Sanjaagiin Bayar
 - Elbegdorj Tsakhia
 - Norovyn Altankhuyag
 - Nambaryn Enkhbayar
 - Baterdene Badmaanyambuu

Mongolia's president has won a second four-year term, providing a mandate for his efforts to crack down on corruption and further integrate the landlocked north Asian nation into international society. Elbegdorj Tsakhia of the Democratic Party (DP) had 50.22 per cent of the vote in the election held on June 26, 2013, with Baterdene Badmaanyambuu of the main opposition Mongolian People's Party receiving 41.48 per cent. The result is seen as an affirmation for Elbegdorj's drive against graft in the nation of 3 million people whose fortunes are being transformed by a boom in mining for coal, copper, gold, and other resources. "We will join the president in his struggle to uproot corruption", said Prime Minister Altankhuyag Norov, who is also chairman of Elbegdorj's ruling Democratic Party, in the capital Ulan Bator. Elbegdorj, who has a degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, was heavily backed by the urban middle class in the capital that is home to about half of Mongolia's 3 million people. He was elected president in 2009 after serving two terms as prime minister. Great Hural is the parliament of Mongolia. (B)

- 552) Who was appointed as the new Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in June 2013?
- Josef Sutovsky
 - Vladimir Spidla
 - Milan Uhde
 - Jiri Rusnok
 - Václav Klaus

The left-leaning Czech President on June 25, 2013 appointed his economic adviser Jiri Rusnok as the Prime Minister. President Milos Zeman was tasked with appointing the leader and Cabinet after conservative Prime Minister Peter Necas resigned amid a spying and bribery scandal. (D)

- 553) William D. Dar is well-known in India for achievements in the field of:
- Physics
 - Railways
 - Civil Aviation
 - Agriculture
 - Atomic energy

William D. Dar, director general of International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, has been selected for the M.S. Swaminathan award for leadership in agriculture for 2013. Named after eminent agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan, the award is considered the country's version of the "world food prize". Dr. Dar had been selected by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) for his multi-dimensional and distinguished contributions as an educationist and scientist. Planning Commission member (science) K. Kasturirangan conferred the award on Dr. Dar at a function in New Delhi on June 24, 2014. (D)

- 554) Three Indian projects were selected for the United Nations Public Service Day awards given in June 2013. Which of the following winning projects and their states are matched correctly?
- Mass Contact – Kerala
 - Swavalamban – Jharkhand
 - Grameen Haat – Rajasthan
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

U.N. Public Service Day was observed on June 23, 2013. The United Nations Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. Three Indian projects received the U.N. Public Service Awards this year. The awards are given for projects that fight poverty and promote sustainable development. The projects are Mass Contact Programme of Kerala, Swavalamban of District Administration of Dhanbad in Jharkhand and Grameen Haat programme of Department of Cottage and Rural Industries in Madhya Pradesh. (B)

- 555) Oil India Ltd (OIL) and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) are acquiring a 10 per cent stake in the Rovuma gas field in _____.
- Kenya
 - Nigeria
 - Nigeria
 - Mozambique
 - Madagascar

Oil India Ltd (OIL) and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) will pay \$2.47 billion to acquire a 10 per cent stake in the Rovuma 1 gas field in Mozambique. The stake is currently held by Videocon Industries promoted by Venugopal N. Dhoot. In statements issued on June 25, 2013, the two companies announced that they have signed a definitive agreement in Singapore with Videocon Mauritius Energy Ltd to acquire 100 per cent of its arm Videocon Mozambique Rovuma 1 Ltd, which has the stake in the gas project. (D)

- 556) How many Indian Umpires have found place in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires for the 2013-14 season finalised in June 2013?
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - None

Pakistan's Asad Rauf and New Zealand's Billy Bowden were on June 25, 2013 dropped from the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires after an annual review of their performance. They have been replaced by former Test cricketers Richard Illingworth and Paul Reiffel. Illingworth and Reiffel have joined Aleem Dar, Kumar Dharmasena, Steve Davis, Marais Erasmus, Ian Gould, Tony Hill, Richard Kettleborough, Nigel Llong, Bruce Oxenford and Rod Tucker in the panel for the 2013-2014 season, commencing from July 1, 2013. Illingworth has been umpiring in international cricket since July 2010 and has so far stood in four Tests, 16 ODIs and seven Twenty20 Internationals. There is no Indian among the 12 umpires in ICC Elite Panel. (E)

- 557) Dicky Rutnagar, who passed away at the age of 82 in June 2013, was a writer known for his coverage of _____.
- Agriculture

- b) Economy
- c) Science
- d) Sports
- e) Films

Dicky Rutnagur, the former sportswriter and radio commentator, passed away in London aged 82 on June 20, 2013. Rutnagur covered over 300 Tests in a career that spanned five decades, in which he also reported on squash and badminton. He co-edited 'Indian Cricket - Field Annual' for eight years starting in the late 1950s before migrating to England in the mid-60s. For about 40 years, Rutnagur wrote about cricket, badminton and squash in the Daily Telegraph. Rutnagur also wrote two books – 'Test Commentary (India v England 1976-77)' and 'Khans Unlimited' (the history of squash in Pakistan). (D)

- 558) What was the India's Women's team in the FIH World League Round 3 organised in Rotterdam in June 2013?
- a) Third
 - b) Fourth
 - c) Fifth
 - d) Sixth
 - e) Seventh

The Indian Men's hockey team finished sixth among eight teams participating at the FIH World League Round 3 after losing 2-4 to Spain at Rotterdam on June 23. The Netherlands, Australia and Belgium were the three teams that qualified for the World Cup. Six top teams – three each from the two editions of FIH World League Round 3 – the event in Rotterdam and the next one in Malaysia from June 29 to July 7 – will qualify directly for the 2014 World Cup.

The Indian women's team scored a hard-fought 2-1 win over lower-ranked Chile to finish seventh in the FIH World League Round 3 in Rotterdam on June 22, 2013. Germany won the tournament beating Netherlands 4-3 in penalty shoot-out after the match ended in 1-1 draw. The results (women): Final: Germany 1 (Janne Muller-Wieland) bt the Netherlands 1 (Kim Lammers) in shootout 4-3. 3rd place playoff: Korea 1 (Han Hye Lyoung, Seung A. Park, Han Hye Lyoung) bt New Zealand 3 (Anita Punt, Katie Glynn, Kyla Sharland) in shootout 3-2. (E)

- 559) Who topped the medals tally in the 44th Senior Men's Asian Weightlifting Championships at Astana in June 2013?
- a) Iran
 - b) Kazakhstan
 - c) India
 - d) China
 - e) Japan

Iran won the 44th Senior Men's Asian Weightlifting Championships at Astana, Kazakhstan. Indian lifters came in second. Iran claimed the championships title with 564 points, followed by India and Chinese Taipei with 490 and 474 points, respectively. (A)

- 560) Which Formula 1 driver in June 2013 announced retirement at the end of the 2013 season?
- a) Lewis Hamilton
 - b) Mark Webber
 - c) Jenson Button
 - d) Nico Rosberg
 - e) Sebastian Vettel

Australia's Mark Webber is to leave Formula One at the end of the current season, he announced on his official website on June 27, 2013. The 36-year-old Red Bull driver has signed a contract with Porsche from 2014 and will compete in the manufacturer's LMP1 sports prototype at the Le Mans 24 Hours race and World Endurance Championship, the German company said. Webber has already raced twice at the famous French circuit, finishing runner-up in the GT Championship in 1998. Webber is currently fifth in the Formula One drivers' world championship standings. In the course of his F1 career from 2002, he has achieved 36 podium places, nine race wins and been in pole position 11 times. (B)

- 561) The 5th Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards 2011-12 were conferred on four plant genome saviour communities from four different states by Tariq Anwar, Minister of State, Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, on May 22, 2013. Which of the following pairs of winners and states are matched correctly?
- a) Seed Saver Farmers Group – Maharashtra
 - b) Sanjeevini Rural Development Society – Andhra Pradesh
 - c) Deepaoli Women's Self Help Group – Kerala
 - d) Both (a) & (b)
 - e) Both (b) & (c)

Tariq Anwar, Minister of State, Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India conferred 5th Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards 2011-12 at NASC complex, New Delhi on May 22, 2013. Anwar emphasised upon the conservation of plant genetic resources and said breeding activities and use of new varieties are the decisive factors for improving rural income and overall economic development. He also appreciated the Farmers' Right Act for recognizing the multiple roles played by farmers in cultivation, conservation, development and selection of varieties. Anwar congratulated Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPV & FRA) for its endeavors in conserving plant genetic wealth and identifying plant genome saviour farmers and communities.

Four plant genome saviour communities from four different states were awarded with Rs. 10 lakh cash, citation, certificate and memento. These are: 1: Seed Saver Farmers Group in Jawahar District, Block-BAIF Bhavan, District Pune, Maharashtra 2: Sanjeevini Rural Development Society, Dumburiga Mandar, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 3: Deepaoli Women's Self Help Group, Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu 4: Akampadam Chimpachala Punchakkadu Padasekhara Samithi representing Rice Farming Communities, Palakkad, Kerala

Also 10 plant genome saviour farmers got cash reward of Rs. 1 lakh each were awarded on the occasion. (D)

- 562) Who among the following ministers was conferred with the "Global Citizen Award" by Bangkok-based The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in May 2013 for his role in transforming Bangalore as a global IT hub?
- a) Kapil Sibal
 - b) AK Antony
 - c) Shashi Tharoor
 - d) Veerappa Moily
 - e) Mallikarjun Kharge

Union Minister Veerappa Moily was presented with a "Global Citizen Award" by a university in Bangkok for his role in transforming Bangalore as a global IT hub during his tenure as Karnataka Chief Minister. The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), presented the award to the Minister who was chief guest at the university's graduation ceremony on May 22, 2013. The award givers remarked that Moily's contribution in promoting India and particularly the city of Bangalore as a global destination for the IT industry has helped the city emerge as the "Silicon Valley of India". (D)

- 563) Which of the following is the only state in the country to have achieved its target in the 'Saakshar Bharat' scheme in May 2013?
- a) Goa
 - b) Bihar
 - c) Kerala
 - d) Karnataka
 - e) Tamil Nadu

The Centre has lauded Tamil Nadu for attaining the distinction of becoming the only state in the country to have achieved its target in the 'Saakshar Bharat' scheme it has educated more than 17.25 lakh adults. Union minister of state for human resource development Shashi Tharoor sent a letter of appreciation on the state's success in the scheme to chief minister J Jayalalithaa. A centrally sponsored scheme of ministry of human resource development, 'Saakshar Bharat' aims to further promote and strengthen adult education, by extending educational options to those adults, who lost the opportunity of access to formal education and crossed the standard age for receiving such education. At least 6,304 coordinators in 3,152 centres were taking classes on week days between 3pm and 7pm for these people, said an official release on May 29, 2013. It said the chief minister had encouraged more participation of women by introducing classes in soap-making as well as in artificial jewellery and cradles and in tailoring. (E)

- 564) Where was India's 8th Telecom Centre of Excellence inaugurated by Communications & IT Minister Kapil Sibal on June 5, 2013?
- a) Allahabad
 - b) Kanpur
 - c) Kharagpur
 - d) Roorkee
 - e) Varanasi

India got its 8th Telecom Centre of Excellence in Roorkee on June 5, 2013 with RailTel Corporation signing an MoU with IIT Roorkee for establishing RailTel IIT Roorkee Centre of Excellence in Telecom (RICET). The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications & Information Technology and Law & Justice. RailTel shall fund the TCOE through 100% budgetary support over 5 year period for doing Research & Development in the field of 'ICT & Broadband Applications'.

RailTel Corporation, which is a Mini Ratna (Category I) PSU of the Ministry of Railways, is one of the largest telecom infrastructure providers in the country having country wide optic fiber network along Railway right of way. Already 7 TCOEs are working in the country established by all major Telecom operators in partnership with premier institutions like IITs & IIMs. Over 28 innovations and products have been developed in various fields of telecommunication by

existing TCOEs which are available for commercial roll out. With the establishment of the 8th TCOE, north India also got its first TCOE in the region.

RICET will work upon R&D in the field of development of applications, services and technology in the domain of broadband & ICT for providing affordable services to the citizens with high network availability. This shall include in-house development of applications, customizing applications for specific use as per local requirements or through collaboration with national/international organizations and for promoting affordable broadband infrastructure in the country. (D)

565) Who among the following was selected as India's new High Commissioner to Pakistan in June 2013?

- a) Dinkar Khullar
- b) Ashok K. Kantha
- c) Satinder Lambah
- d) TCA Raghavan
- e) Ajai Malhotra

India on June 6, 2013 appointed a new high commissioner to Pakistan, TCA Raghavan, a day after Nawaz Sharif was sworn in as Pakistan's prime minister. A 1982-batch IFS officer, Raghavan is currently serving as India's high commissioner to Singapore. Raghavan will replace Sharat Sabharwal, who was on an extension after he retired last year. Raghavan has considerable experience of handling Pakistan. He had earlier served as joint secretary handling Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Raghavan has, in fact, also served as Charge d'affaires in Pakistan. He is expected to take charge in July. Raghavan has also served in the UK, Bhutan and Kuwait. (D)

566) Nation's highest _____ will be set up at Nyoma, Leh district of Jammu & Kashmir at a height of about 14000 feet.

- a) Special Economic Zone
- b) Regional Rural Bank branch
- c) Aadhaar Enrollment Centre
- d) Krishi Vigyan Kendra
- e) Kendriya Vidyalaya

Nation's highest Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) will be set up at Nyoma, Leh district of Jammu & Kashmir at a height of about 14000 feet. The Nyoma Krishi Vigyan Kendra is likely to bring about substantial change in the lives of people of nearby areas who are mostly nomads and rear Pashmina goats. This region is extremely cold and dry and therefore, it is a challenge to promote stable agriculture there. The KVK will seek to improve fodder production, provide health care to the roaming animals, introduce vegetable production under protected environment and impart training to women on animal care, etc. This was disclosed in a press note by Ministry of Agriculture on June 6, 2013. (D)

567) An Indian police unit in _____ received the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal in May 2013.

- a) Mali
- b) Congo
- c) Somalia
- d) South Sudan
- e) Sierra Leone

An Indian police unit in the Democratic Republic of Congo has received the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal. The 135 Indian Formed Police Unit-2 (FPU) was honoured with the medal as an appreciation for their service in Goma/North Kivu. The medal parade, held at the FPU camp in Goma May 15, 2013 was attended by senior officials, including Jacques Desilets, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) deputy police commissioner, said a statement. The Indian unit has served in Democratic Republic of Congo since November 2005. India Formed Police Unit Commander Sukumar Sarangi expressed special thanks to MONUSCO and said: "UN Peace Medal earned today, will always inspire us to perform our duties with more dedication and devotion and enthusiasm and zeal." (B)

568) The Finance Ministry has launched a one-time scheme called 'Voluntary Compliance Encouragement Scheme' for which category of tax payers in 2013-14?

- a) Corporate tax
- b) Customs duty
- c) Excise duty
- d) Income tax
- e) Service tax

While there are nearly 17,00,000 registered assesseees under service tax, only about 7,00,000 file returns. Many have simply stopped filing returns. To motivate them to file returns and pay the tax dues, the Finance Minister has launched a one-time scheme called 'Voluntary Compliance Encouragement Scheme'. A defaulter may avail of the scheme on condition that he files a truthful declaration of service tax dues since 1.10.2007 and makes the payment in

one or two instalments before prescribed dates. In such a case, interest, penalty and other consequences will be waived. (E)

569) Which of the following statements on the landmark treaty regulating the multibillion-dollar global arms trade in June 2013 is/are correct?

- II. Key arms exporters including Russia and China and major importers including India, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Egypt have not signed the treaty
 - III. The treaty will regulate domestic use of weapons
 - IV. Erkki Tuomioja is the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

More than 65 countries have signed the landmark treaty regulating the multibillion-dollar global arms trade and the United States announced it will sign soon, giving a strong kick-off to the first major international campaign to stem the illicit trade in weapons that fuel conflicts and extremists. As many as 67 countries signed, about one-third of the UN's 193 member states which current UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane called "impressive." The announcement on June 3, 2013 by US Secretary of State John Kerry that the US - the world's largest arms dealer - will sign is critical, but the treaty's ultimate strength rests on support by all major arms exporters and importers.

While the treaty was overwhelmingly approved on April 2 by the UN General Assembly, key arms exporters including Russia and China and major importers including India, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Egypt abstained and have given no indication yet that they will sign it. Signatures are the first step to ratification, and the treaty will only take effect after 50 countries ratify it.

The treaty will require countries that ratify it to establish national regulations to control the transfer of conventional arms and components and to regulate arms brokers, but it will not control the domestic use of weapons in any country.

It prohibits the transfer of conventional weapons if they violate arms embargoes or if they promote acts of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, and if they could be used in attacks on civilians or civilian buildings such as schools and hospitals. (A)

570) Who is only woman among the Indians in the annual list of 'Heroes of Philanthropy' for Asia-Pacific region, unveiled by Forbes Asia magazine in May 2013?

- a) Rajshree Birla
- b) Savitri Jindal
- c) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
- d) Mallika Srinivasan
- e) Kavery Maran

Four Indian business leaders – Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, P.N.C. Menon, Vineet Nayar and Ronnie Screwvala – figure in this year's list of Asia-Pacific's most remarkable "givers" on May 31, 2013. The annual list of 'Heroes of Philanthropy', compiled by Forbes Asia magazine, features a total of 48 persons from the Asia-Pacific region, including countries like China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is Biocon's founder and CEO. P.N.C Menon is Chairman Emeritus of Sobha Developers. Vineet Nayar is Vice-Chairman of HCL Technologies. Rohinton 'Ronnie' Screwvala is co-founder of UTV Group and Walt Disney's India MD. (C)

571) The inventor of computer mouse _____ passed away in July 2013.

- a) Robert Adler
- b) Venton Cerf
- c) Douglas Engelbart
- d) Ray Tomlinson
- e) Eugene Polley

The inventor of the computer mouse, Doug Engelbart, passed away on July 3, 2013 at the age of 88. Engelbart developed the tool in the 1960s as a wooden shell covering two metal wheels, patenting it long before the mouse's widespread use. (C)

572) Which of the following e-commerce companies has launched payment solution PayZippy for sellers in July 2013?

- a) ebay
- b) Flipkart
- c) Jabong
- d) Myntra

e) Snapdeal

India's leading e-commerce company Flipkart on July 3 launched an online payments solution PayZippy for Indian merchants. The company will soon extend the service for customers as well. The payment solution is backed by an indigenously developed advanced fraud detection system. PayZippy aims to partner with 2,000 merchants by March 2014. Sachin Bansal, Co-founder and CEO, Flipkart said, "Flipkart has enabled e-commerce in India over the last six years. Throughout our journey we were always looking to build solutions that could empower the whole ecosystem and not just Flipkart." With that product, consumers will be able to save their card details in their PayZippy account without having to type or share sensitive information. It will also significantly cut down on transaction time and errors, Bansal said. (B)

573) USA has topped the 2013 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, released by global consulting firm _____ in June 2013.

- a) Deloitte
- b) KPMG
- c) PwC
- d) Ernst & Young
- e) AT Kearney

The US reclaimed first place among top executives in a survey on foreign direct investment sentiment, displacing China as it makes progress toward sustainable and steady economic growth, a study showed on June 26, 2013. The US jumped from fourth place in 2012, according to the 2013 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, a survey of more than 300 executives from 28 countries by global consulting firm A T Kearney. The survey, conducted between October and November 2012, highlighted executives' views that US workers are becoming more competitive and, until recently, the weakness in the US dollar helped improve the country's exports profile. The FDI Confidence Index ranks countries on how political, economic and regulatory changes will affect foreign direct investment. Others in top five are Brazil, Canada and India. (E)

574) Which of the following private sector banks launched a credit card named 'Indulge' in June 2013?

- a) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- b) IndusInd Bank
- c) ICICI Bank
- d) HDFC Bank
- e) YES Bank

IndusInd Bank on June 24, 2013 launched a 'no-present-spending-limit' credit card. The card, Indulge, which will be offered only to select customers, comes inlaid with 22-karat gold on the card plastic. It has been designed in a way that allowed layering of a gold leaf within the plastic layers that make a credit card. Indulge will give the cardholders additional spending flexibility over and above his credit limit, depending on his past spends and payment history. The card will be given out only 'by invite'. (B)

575) White-label Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) called 'Indicash' have been launched by which corporate group in June 2013?

- a) Mahindra & Mahindra
- b) AV Birla
- c) Godrej
- d) Bharti
- e) Tata

Tata Communications Payment Solutions Ltd. (TCPSSL), a subsidiary of Tata Communications, on June 27, 2013, rolled out the first-ever white label Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) network under the brand Indicash. In 2012, the Reserve Bank of India, had allowed corporates to set up white label ATMs to increase the penetration of ATMs in several areas of the country. TCPSSL, among others, had bagged a licence for the same. The first Indicash ATM was inaugurated at Chandrapada, a rural village in Thane district of Maharashtra, on June 27 in the presence of senior RBI officials. TCPSSL will deploy 15,000 Indicash ATMs in three years. Nearly 67 per cent of the ATMs will be deployed in semi-urban and rural areas, and the balance in metro and urban markets. TCPSSL will engage with national and regional banks to support its rollout plans. In this front, the company has tied up with Federal Bank, which has been designated as a sponsor bank to take care of cash operations, dispute resolutions and regulatory reporting. The Indicash ATMs will be owned, operated and guarded by TCPSSL. The Indicash ATMs have been designed to eliminate several concerns of cardholders. The Indicash machines are Dip machines, which cannot swallow cards. (E)

576) Which of the following has relaunched its premium banking service Privy League under three segments—Prima, Magna and Optima – in June 2013?

- a) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- b) IndusInd Bank
- c) ICICI Bank

- d) HDFC Bank
- e) YES Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank on June 19, 2013 announced a revamped version of Privy League, its premium banking proposition, meant to cater for the financial planning, banking and investment needs of affluent customers. It consists of three tiers — Prima (for the emerging affluent segment, with a relationship value with the bank of at least Rs 500,000), Magna (for the affluent segment with a relationship value of at least Rs 1,500,000) and Optima (for customers with a relationship value of at least Rs 3,000,000). These will offer customers more banking options and exclusive service. 'Privy League Business Banking' will provide customised financial solutions to current account customers, such as funding solutions, trade and foreign exchange services, and multiple alternate banking channels. (A)

577) Which of the following is the online service launched by Google to assist in tracking those missing in Uttarakhand floods in June 2013?

- a) Google People Finder
- b) Google People Locator
- c) Google Person Finder
- d) Google Person Locator
- e) Google Citizen Finder

Search engine giant Google has launched an application "Person Finder" to offer information on missing people in flood-affected areas in the country, including Uttarakhand. Google Person Finder is a web application that allows individuals to post and search for the status of relatives or friends affected by the disaster, Google said in a blogpost on June 21, 2013. The tool can help trace the missing people in flood-affected regions of Uttarakhand and is available in Hindi and English, it added. All data entered into Google Person Finder is available to the public and searchable by anyone. The programme also lets press agencies, non-governmental agencies and others contribute to the database and receive updates by using Person Finder. (C)

578) The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched OTP (One Time Pin) service for authentication of Aadhaar number holders in May 2013. OTP is based on which of the following?

- a) Bank account
- b) Mobile phone
- c) PAN Card
- d) Driving license
- e) Debit Card

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on May 24, 2013 unveiled three new Aadhaar-Enabled Services and announced the establishment of first set of permanent enrolment centres (Aadhaar Kendras). The services launched are Authentication services using iris, Authentication service using One Time Pin and eKYC (Electronic-Know Your Customer) service.

The UIDAI also announced the establishment of around 300 permanent enrolment centres (Aadhaar kendras). The number of centres will be scaled up to 1,000 by September.

"This is a major step in the direction of enabling Aadhaar holders to avail themselves of various services by using the Aadhaar identity platform. It also makes sense for various user agencies [public or private] as they can identify a beneficiary/customer using a fast, secure, economical and paperless format," said UIDAI chairman Nandan Nilekani.

The iris-based authentication service enables Aadhaar number holders to identify himself/herself using their iris images. India is the first country to offer such a platform that can be used by nearly 350 million people who hold Aadhaar numbers.

The OTP service enables Aadhaar-based authentication of all those who had registered a mobile telephone number during enrolment, using their phone anytime, anywhere on a self-service mode.

The e-KYC service will allow individuals to authorise service providers to receive an electronic copy of their proof of identity and address. It can be used by various agencies to verify a person's identity and address. Additionally, only demographic information (name, address, date of birth, gender and mobile number) that is collected during Aadhaar enrolment shall be shared, at the request of, and/or with the consent of the Aadhaar user, but will be available only for few seconds to eliminate any misuse. (B)

579) The government on May 24, 2013 promulgated an ordinance to extend the term of the Board of Governors of the _____ by six months.

- a) Medical Council of India
- b) Indian Medical Association
- c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences

- d) National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority
- e) Central Drugs Standard Control Organization

The government on May 24, 2013 promulgated an ordinance to extend the term of the Board of Governors of the Medical Council of India (MCI) by six months. The ordinance was promulgated as the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in March this year, could not be taken up for consideration and passing, and the term of the present board ended on May 14, 2013. The provisions of the existing Act have been amended to allow Overseas Citizens of India to practise medicine in the country and the restriction on foreign doctors to practise only for the purpose of teaching, research or charitable work stands removed. The amendments would enable the government to give directions to the Council on policy matters. (A)

- 580)** Which of the following appointed Dr R K Srivastav as its new Chairman in May 2013?
- a) Medical Council of India
 - b) Indian Medical Association
 - c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences
 - d) National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority
 - e) Central Drugs Standard Control Organization

Former director general of health services Dr R K Srivastav will be the new chairman of the board of governors (BoG) of the Medical Council of India. He will replace Dr K. K. Talwar. Two members of that board have been retained in the new BoG which the Health Ministry constituted on May 23, 2013. They include Dr K S Sharma, Director, Academics Tata Memorial Centre and Prof K Mohandas, Vice-Chancellor, Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences, Thrissur. (A)

- 581)** SVEEP programme of the Election Commission stands for – _____ Voters' Education and Electoral Participation.
- a) Senior
 - b) Support
 - c) Systematic
 - d) Segmented
 - e) Statutory

The Election Commission of India and the National Literacy Mission Authority of the HRD Ministry, on May 21, 2013 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Electoral Literacy and Greater Participation for a Stronger and Inclusive Democracy" at the headquarters of the Election Commission in New Delhi. The MOU is the first ever by the Election Commission of India with a Government Department.

The MoU was signed by Akshay Rout, Director General, Election Commission of India and Jagmohan Singh Raju, Director General, NLMA in the presence of M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development and V. S. Sampath, Chief Election Commissioner of India

Under the MoU, NLMA will spread electoral literacy during its mass mobilization campaigns, with specific focus on electoral registration and informed and ethical voting in co-ordination with the Election Commission.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for HRD, described the MOU as a historic beginning and innovative collaboration based on common objectives. He complemented the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Division of the Commission for its impressive achievements in voter participation during the last 2 years. (C)

- 582)** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a proposal by the Department of AIDS Control for the implementation of the NACSP at a cost of Rs. 2,550 crore. NACSP stands for National AIDS Control Project.
- a) Safe
 - b) Saviour
 - c) Support
 - d) Salutary
 - e) System

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a proposal by the Department of AIDS Control for the implementation of the National AIDS Control Support Project (NACSP) at a cost of Rs. 2,550 crore. The NACP is financed by the government and the World Bank in equal proportion. This project would help in providing the desired impetus required for further consolidation of gains made in containing the spread of HIV infection in the country, an official release said in New Delhi on May 24, 2013. The primary objective is to increase safe behaviour among high risk groups in pursuance of the national goal of accelerated reversal of the HIV epidemic by 2017. The focus of the project activities would be strengthening and scaling up of prevention interventions and related BCC strategies for sub-groups of population identified to be most-at-risk by the NACP. The country is on track to meet the Millennium

Development Goal (MDG) for HIV prevention and control. Over the last decade, there has been a reduction of 57 per cent in the new HIV infections and 29 per cent reduction in AIDS-related deaths. (C)

- 583)** The 'Report to the People' was released by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre on May 22, 2013. What was the average annual growth rate in 11th Five Year Plan and what is the target for 12th Plan?
- a) 2.7% & 3.4%
 - b) 3.0% & 3.5%
 - c) 3.7% & 4%
 - d) 3.0% & 4.5%
 - e) 4.0% & 5.0%

The 'Report to the People' was released by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre on May 22, 2013. This Report is last before the next general elections and is an account of the government's achievements in past nine years. Highlights of the observations made by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his speech on the occasion include: **Agriculture and rural development:** Agricultural growth is critical for prosperity in rural areas where most of the poor live. The government achieved 3.7 percent growth per year in agriculture during the Eleventh Plan compared with only 2.4 percent in the Tenth Plan. The target is 4 percent in the Twelfth Plan. Efforts at increasing food grain production are working as also efforts to diversify our agriculture. (C)

- 584)** The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Indian National Defence University (INDU) in Haryana in May 2013. Which of the following statements regarding INDU is/are correct?
- I. It will be set up as a fully autonomous institution to be constituted under an Act of Parliament.
 - II. The President of India would act as the Visitor
 - III. The Defence Minister will be its Chancellor
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on May 23, 2013 laid the foundation stone for the Indian National Defence University (INDU) at Binola, Gurgaon in Haryana. The event was attended among others by the Governor of Haryana Jagannath Pahadia, Defence Minister AK Antony, Minister of External Affairs Salman Khurshid, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Selja Kumari, Minister of State for Defence Jitendra Singh, Chief Minister of Haryana Bhopinder Singh Hooda and the three Services Chiefs.

The proposed Indian National Defence University spread over more than two hundred acres of land which will be fully functional in 2018 will be set up as a fully autonomous institution to be constituted under an Act of Parliament. While the President of India would act as the Visitor, the Defence Minister will be its Chancellor.

It may be recalled that after the Kargil conflict, the government had set up a Review Committee, headed by eminent strategic expert K Subrahmanyam, which had recommended the establishment of a university to exclusively deal with defence and strategic matters.

The think tanks of the University would provide inputs for policy formulation. The university would prepare officers for high level leadership, Staff & Policy responsibilities. National College of Defence Studies (NCDS), Indian Institute of Defence Technology (IIDT), Indian Institute of Defence Management (IIDM) and Defence Institute of Distance & Open Learning (DIDOL) would be the constituent colleges and institutions of the INDU. (E)

- 585)** BrahMos missile was test fired successfully from Indian Navy's Talwar Class frigate in May 2013. Which was the first frigate of this class to be commissioned?
- a) Tarkash
 - b) Teg
 - c) Trikand
 - d) All the above commissioned simultaneously
 - e) None of the above

India on May 22, 2013 successfully test fired the 290-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Navy's missile frigate INS Tarkash off the coast of Goa.

The Missile is manufactured by Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited. The BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and Russian government-owned NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia.

Sivathanu Pillai, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited, said the launch was carried out by the Navy as part of Acceptance Test Firing (ATF) of the ship.

INS Tarkash, which is an advanced Talwar Class frigate, was commissioned in November 2012. The warship, along with two other frigates of the class - INS Teg and INS Trikand - have been built as part of an over Rs.8000-crore contract signed between India and Russia in July 2006. INS Teg was commissioned on April 27, 2012 and the commissioning of INS Trikand is expected soon. INS Tarkash was commissioned in November 2012.

The vertical launch configuration of the supersonic missile enhances the stealth capabilities of the ship as the missiles are under the deck and not exposed. Jointly developed by India and Russia, the BrahMos is capable of carrying a **conventional warhead** of 300 kg. The missile can cruise at a maximum speed of 2.8 Mach (or 2.8 **times the speed of sound**). India is readying several different versions of the missile which includes land attack, anti-ship and submarine - launched versions.

An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) is a ballistic missile with a range of more than 5,500 kilometres typically designed for nuclear weapons delivery (delivering one or more nuclear warheads). (B)

586) The government notified the formation of a supervisory committee on sharing of waters of Cauvery River in May 2013. Which of the following states is not represented in this committee?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka
- e) Puducherry

In a major step towards implementation of the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT), 2007, the Union government on May 22, 2013 notified Cauvery Water (Implementation of the Order of 2007) Scheme, 2013. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Water Resources notified the formation of a supervisory committee headed by the Water Resources Secretary, with Chief Secretaries of the Cauvery basin States/Union Territory (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry and Kerala) as members. The Central Water Commission (CWC) chairman shall also be a member, while the CWC's chief engineer will be the Member Secretary. The scheme — notified as a "purely temporary measure" — will be in place until the Cauvery Management Board, as envisaged in the award, is constituted. As per the notification of the final award in February 2013, the Cauvery River Authority (CRA), headed by the Prime Minister, and the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC), chaired by the Water Resources Secretary, ceased to exist. Both were formed on the Supreme Court's orders to monitor the implementation of the interim orders of the tribunal. (C)

587) The Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram was launched in:

- a) 2009
- b) 2010
- c) 2011
- d) 2012
- e) 2013

The launch of Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram on June 1, 2011 signals a huge leap forward in the quest to make "Health for All" a reality. It invokes a new approach to healthcare, placing for the first time, utmost emphasis on entitlements and elimination of out of pocket expenses for both pregnant women and neonates. The initiative entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no-expense delivery.

All expenses relating to delivery in a public institution are borne by the government. Under this initiative, a pregnant woman is entitled to free transport from home to the government health facility. Entitlement includes free drugs and consumables, free diagnostic, free blood, free diet for the duration of a woman's stay in the facility. Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick newborns accessing public health institutions for healthcare till 30 days after birth. They are entitled to free treatment besides free transport, both ways and between facilities in case of a referral.

JSSK is estimated to benefit more than one crore pregnant women and newborns every year both in urban and rural areas. It supplements the cash assistance given to a pregnant woman under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). JSSK will encourage pregnant women to deliver at public health institutions. It will help in reducing both maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. While Rs. 1437 crores were allocated to the states for implementation of free entitlements under JSSK during 2011-12, a total of Rs. 2050.78 crores were allocated during 2012-13. The above information was given in a press note issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on May 24, 2013. (C)

588) The term 'Demographic Dividend' refers to advantage enjoyed by a country because of:

- a) higher share of retired people in total population
- b) higher share of working-age people in total population

- c) low per capita medical expenditure and high life expectancy
- d) benefits from investments in knowledge based industries made over a long period of time
- e) a higher share of workforce in knowledge based industries such as software and biotechnology

India is a vast country with a population of about 1.21 billion and a labour force of around 475 million. About 6% of the total work force in India is employed in organised sector while remaining 94% are in the unorganised sector. Scope of additional employment generation in the organized sector for additional wage employment is less.

India has a younger population not only in comparison to advanced economies but also in relation to large developing countries. As a result, the labour force in India is expected to increase by 32 per cent over the next 20 years, while it will decline by 4.0 per cent in industrialised countries and by nearly 5.0 per cent in China. We are, therefore, endeavouring to reap this 'demographic dividend' by providing for higher levels of health, education and skill development. This will create an environment where in the economy not only grows rapidly, but also enhances good quality employment and livelihood opportunities to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth.

The Government has been making constant efforts for reducing unemployment through normal growth process and implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) also assures every rural household at least 100 days of manual work at minimum wages. (B)

589) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has removed which of the following as an eligibility parameter for benefits under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) in May 2013?

- a) Age of mother
- b) Income of the family
- c) Number of children already born
- d) (a) & (c)
- e) (a), (b) & (c)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has relaxed eligibility parameters for the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), which provides financial assistance to mothers for institutional deliveries. Now, Below Party Line (BPL) women can access JSY benefits irrespective of their age and number of children. All women from BPL category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all States and Union Territories will be eligible for JSY benefits if they have given birth in a government or private accredited health facility. BPL women who prefer to deliver at home can also get JSY benefits.

"The decision was taken after it was realised that a majority of women, who needed JSY benefits, remained out of the purview of the scheme because they had to prove they were 19 years of age and had no more than two children," Anuradha Gupta, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), said on May 21, 2013. The highest maternal mortality is reported among girls aged 14-15; the majority of these were out of the purview of the JSY as they were unable to produce proof of age or verify the number of children they had.

Till now, the scheme provided assistance for institutional delivery to all pregnant women who give birth in a government or private accredited health facility in Low Performing States (those with bad health indicators, such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Assam). A woman gets Rs.1,400 for delivery in a government facility or accredited private facility and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) gets Rs. 600 in rural areas. In the urban areas, the amounts paid are Rs.1,000 and Rs. 400 respectively.

In High Performing States (those with good health indices, such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), assistance for institutional delivery was available to women from BPL/SC/ST households, aged 19 or above and only up to two live births for delivery in a government or private accredited health facility. The financial entitlement was Rs. 700 to the mother and Rs. 600 for the ASHA in rural areas and Rs. 600 and Rs. 400 in urban settings.

Further, in all States/Union Territories, the scheme provided Rs. 500 to BPL women — aged 19 or above and who deliver up to two live births — who prefer to deliver at home. With the amendments, all women who deliver at home will be entitled to this amount, basically for nutrition. (D)

590) Which of the following statements on criteria to determine the eligibility of language to be considered for classification as "classical language" is/are not correct?

- a) The classical language and literature should not be distinct from modern
- b) High antiquity of its early texts/ recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years
- c) A body of ancient literature/ texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers
- d) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community
- e) None of the above

The Union Cabinet on May 23, 2013 approved classifying Malayalam as a 'Classical Language' subject to the outcome of a writ petition in the High Court of Judicature at Madras (Chennai). The Government had earlier notified Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada as Classical Languages.

Government has laid down the following criteria to determine the **eligibility** of language to be considered for classification as "classical language":

- High antiquity of its early texts/ recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/ texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

The **benefits** which are extended to Classical Languages are as follows:

- Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages
- A 'Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages' be set up
- The University Grants Commission be requested to create a certain number of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages in the Central Universities (A)

591) IMLB in shipping parlance stands for:

- a) International Median Boundary Line
- b) International Meridian Boundary Line
- c) International Maritime Boundary Line
- d) Intercontinental Meridian Boundary Line
- e) Intercontinental Maritime Boundary Line

Indian Coast Guard Ship Vaibhav, the 3rd in the series of 90 metres class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) was commissioned on May 21, 2013 at Tuticorin by Vice Admiral Anurag G Thapliyal, Director General Indian Coast Guard. This 90 metres OPV has been designed and built indigenously by M/s GSL (Garden Reach Shipbuilding) and is fitted with the state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries. The ship is designed to carry one Helicopter and five high speed boats for Search and Rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. The ship on joining Coast Guard Fleet will be deployed extensively for the EEZ surveillance and such other duties as enlisted in Coast Guard Charter. The vessel will be exploited extensively in the Eastern region, more so, in the sensitive Gulf of Mannar and up to the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) with Sri Lanka, to safeguard the maritime interests of India. (C)

592) The foundation stone for the National Institute of Design (NID) was laid at Hyderabad by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles, Anand Sharma on May 25, 2013. Which are the locations of the three existing campuses of NID?

- a) Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai
- b) Ahmedabad, Delhi, Gurgaon
- c) Ahmedabad, Chennai, Lucknow
- d) Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Mysore
- e) Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Gandhinagar

The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles, Anand Sharma laid the foundation stone for the National Institute of Design (NID), in the presence of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, M.M. Pallam Raju and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, at Hyderabad on May 25, 2013. This will be the fourth campus of NID after Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Bengaluru. (E)

593) President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Maharaja _____ University at Solan, in Himachal Pradesh on May 25, 2013.

- a) Ranjit
- b) Jhulelal
- c) Agrasen
- d) Harisingh
- e) Yadavindra

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Maharaja Agrasen University at Solan, in Himachal Pradesh on May 25, 2013 in the presence of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Urmila Singh and the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Virbhadra Singh. Maharaja Agrasen University is established by Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society to promote quality technical and professional education. (C)

594) President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Tagore Centre for the study of culture and civilization, at _____ on May 24, 2013

- a) Center for Civil Society, New Delhi

- b) Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla
- c) Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- d) India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- e) Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Tagore Centre for the study of culture and civilization, at Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, in Himachal Pradesh on May 24, 2013. (B)

595) Whose death anniversary was observed as Anti Terrorism Day on May 21, 2013?

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Rajiv Gandhi
- c) Indira Gandhi
- d) Mahatma Gandhi
- e) None of the above

Anti-Terrorism Day was observed on May 21, 2013. May 21 is observed as Anti-Terrorism day to commemorate the death anniversary of ex Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. (B)

596) What is the theme for International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) observed in May 2013?

- a) Avian Biodiversity
- b) Water and Biodiversity
- c) Ecology and Biodiversity
- d) Humans and Biodiversity
- e) Development and Biodiversity

May 22, 2013 was observed as the International Day for Biological Diversity. The theme for 2013 is 'Water and Biodiversity', both of which represent essential building blocks of life on Earth. The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity every year affirms our resolve and responsibility to safeguard the precious heritage of bio-resources for the future generations. Having hosted the Eleventh Conference of Parties (CoP-11) to the CBD in Hyderabad in October 2012, India is presently the President of CoP. (E)

597) 100th Birth Anniversary of which former President of India was observed on May 19, 2013?

- a) V.V. Giri
- b) Zakir Hussain
- c) K.R. Narayanan
- d) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
- e) Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy

N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh issued a Special India Post cover brought out on the occasion of the 100th Birth Centenary celebrations of former President of India Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy on May 19, 2013 in Hyderabad. (E)

598) Who among the following was appointed the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India in May 2013?

- a) T. N. Chaturvedi
- b) Shashi Kant Sharma
- c) Gian Prakash
- d) C. G. Somiah
- e) K. Shunglu

Shashi Kant Sharma took over as the 12th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in New Delhi on May 23, 2013. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. Sharma has wide experience in the fields of Public Administration, Financial Services and Infrastructure Development. He was serving as Defence Secretary from July 2011 before joining this constitutional post. (B)

599) Vinod Rai retired as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on May 22, 2013. Which of the following statements on service conditions of CAG is/are correct?

- I. CAG is paid a salary which is equal to the salary of the Chief Justice of a High Court
 - II. The CAG holds office for a term of six years or till he attains the age of sixty-five years whichever is earlier
 - III. The CAG can be removed from office in the same way as a judge of the Supreme Court
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Vinod Rai retired as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on May 22, 2013.

"Comptroller and Auditor-General" means the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India appointed under article 148 of the Constitution

Functions: The CAG audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. The CAG is also the external auditor of government-owned companies.

Salary: There shall be paid to the Comptroller and Auditor-General a salary which is equal to the salary of the Judge of the Supreme Court:

Term of Office: The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall hold office for a term of six years from the date on which he assumes such office provided that where he attains the age of sixty-five years before the expiry of the said term of six years, he shall vacate such office on the date on which he attains the said age.

Removal: The CAG shall only be removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. (C)

600) Which of the following statements on Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India is/are correct?

- I. It completed 150 years of its establishment in 2012
- II. Sir Edmund Drummond was its first head
- III. Narahari Rao was its first Indian head

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

The office of CAG had completed 150 years of its establishment in November 10, 2010. Sir Edmund Drummond was appointed as the first Auditor General on 16th November, 1860 and V. Narahari Rao was appointed as the first CAG of independent India in 1948. (B)

601) R. K. Mathur took over as the new _____ Secretary on May 25, 2013.

- a) Revenue
- b) Defence
- c) Finance
- d) Home
- e) Cabinet

R. K. Mathur took over as the new Defence Secretary on May 25, 2013 in New Delhi. He belongs to the 1977 Batch of the Indian Administrative Service of Manipur-Tripura Cadre. He did his B.Tech from IIT Kanpur, M. Tech from IIT Delhi and MBA from International Centre for Public Enterprises, Ljubljana. (B)

602) India's Tashi and Nancy _____ became the first twins ever to conquer Mount Everest in May 2013.

- a) Sharma
- b) Razdan
- c) Verma
- d) Malik
- e) Yadav

Two 21-year-old Indian sisters have made history, becoming the first twins ever to conquer Mount Everest. Tashi and Nancy Malik from Dehra Dun brought off the feat by successfully reaching the world's highest peak at 8,848 metres, an official of Nepal's Ministry of Tourism and Culture said. The duo was among the other record-makers, including the first women from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan (Samina Baig) who climbed the mountain on May 19, 2013. (D)

603) Usha Rani Hooja, who passed away at the age of 90 in May 2013, was an acclaimed:

- a) Sculptor
- b) Dancer
- c) Vocalist
- d) Journalist
- e) Photographer

Renowned sculptor Usha Rani Hooja, known for her artistic skills in sculpting the statues installed at several public places in Rajasthan, passed away in Jaipur on May 21, 2013 at the age of 90. Born in 1923, Hooja studied sculpture at the Regent Street Polytechnic in London. One of the landmarks of Hooja's public works is the Police Memorial in

Jaipur, where she sculpted the statues of police men who sacrificed their life while on duty. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had inaugurated the memorial in 1962. (A)

604) For which pilgrimage has China announced further improvements in facilities during the New Delhi visit of China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang in May 2013?

- a) Buddhist circuit
- b) Amarnath Yatra
- c) Kanchenjunga Yatra
- d) Nanda Devi Yatra
- e) Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has said India and China must "improve mechanisms" to settle a long-running border dispute, pledging his commitment to "peace and tranquility" during his three-day visit to India from May 19 to 21, 2013. The two sides discussed trade ties and other bilateral issues and signed eight agreements. **Highlights of the visit are:**

India's concerns over China's dams on Brahmaputra: India expressed its concern at the proposed seven dams on the main channel of the Brahmaputra, particularly the 510 MW Zangmu project over which there are apprehensions that water may be diverted. If water is diverted, then the Indian projects on the Brahmaputra, particularly the Upper Siang and the Lower Subhansiri projects in Arunachal Pradesh, will be affected. China says Zangmu is a run-of-the-river (no permanent storage) dam and will not affect downstream flows.

Sharing of water flow data: Under an MoU signed between the two countries on May 20, China will provide information of water level, discharge and rainfall twice a day from June 1 to October 15 each year in respect of three hydrological stations on the mainstream Brahmaputra River.

Trade imbalance: India and China have set a target to increase two-way trade 47 per cent in two years - from \$68 billion in 2012-13 to \$100 billion by 2015. Bilateral trade rose from \$2.09 billion in 2001-02 to \$67.83 billion in 2012-13 while India's trade deficit increased from \$1.08 billion in 2001-02 to \$10.77 billion in 2012-13. Li said that China was willing to facilitate greater access to Indian goods. MoUs to boost trade in buffalo meat, fish and pharmaceuticals signed. The pact will also provide for regulatory requirements with respect to safety, hygiene and quarantine of such products.

MoUs to facilitate trade: Three MoUs facilitating Indian exports to China in buffalo meat, fish and pharmaceuticals were signed during their visit. These are: The MoU for the export of buffalo meat from India to China was signed between Chinese General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and AQSIQ also signed an MoU on co-operation for import and export of fishery products. An MoU was also signed between the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) and the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products (CCCMHPIE).

Working groups to boost trade: To enhance trade, both the sides decided to set up three working groups under the Joint Economic Group. The three groups are Services Trade Promotion Working Group, Economic And Trade Planning Cooperation Group and Trade Statistical Analysis Group.

Better facilities for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrims: China will make further improvements to the existing facilities for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrims including providing them with wireless sets and local SIM cards.

Urban development: MoU was also signed between the Ministry of Urban Development and National Development & Reform Commission of China on cooperation in sewage treatment, and areas of interest in the urban sector.

Literature: MoU signed to coordinate translation and publication of 25 books of classic and contemporary works of each side over a period of five years into Chinese and Indian languages, respectively.

People-to-people contacts: MoU was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate cooperation and linkages between cities and provinces of the two countries. Both sides agreed to identify "sister cities" and "sister states/ provinces" in India and China with a view to establish relationships between them in areas of mutual interest for enhancing greater people-to-people contacts. (E)

605) Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde visited the US to attend Indo-American Homeland Security Dialogue in May 2013. Which of the following pairs of persons and their designations is/are matched correctly?

- V. Janet Napolitano – Secretary for Homeland Security
 - VI. Eric Holder – Attorney General
 - VII. Robert Muller – Federal Bureau of Investigation Director
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only

- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde went on a visit to the US from May 19 to 23, 2013 to attend Indo-American Homeland Security Dialogue. Shinde met senior US Government functionaries including Secretary for Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Attorney General Eric Holder and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert Muller during his visit. (E)

- 606)** The Monument of Independence and Humanism is in which Central Asian capital?
- a) Astana
 - b) Bishkek
 - c) Dushanbe
 - d) Ashgabat
 - e) Tashkent

India and Uzbekistan shared the view that any outside interference in internal affairs of Afghanistan could prove to be counter-productive, in the backdrop of the proposed withdrawal of the U.S. forces by 2014. Vice-President Hamid Ansari and Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov met and discussed a variety of issues on May 22, 2013. They signed a MoU for upgrading the Jawaharlal Nehru India-Uzbekistan Centre for Information Technology in Tashkent. The work is slated to be completed by 2014. Ansari laid a wreath at the monument of Independence and Humanism at Independent square in Tashkent. Ansari paid tributes by laying a wreath at the statue of the former Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, who died in Tashkent on January 11, 1966, a day after he signed a 'no-war' agreement with Pakistan. (E)

- 607)** Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Britain's Jeremy Richard Hunt?
- a) Kapil Sibal
 - b) Ghulam Nabi Azad
 - c) Anand Sharma
 - d) M. Veerappa Moily
 - e) Salman Khurshid

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare India, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Secretary of State for Health, UK, Jeremy Richard Hunt signed an MOU on cooperation in the field of health sector on May 19, 2013 at Geneva between India and the United Kingdom. Azad stated that the agreement between India and UK will promote wide-ranging cooperation in the health sector between the two countries and spur the exchange of information and expertise for the common good of people. The areas identified for cooperation in the MOU include: i) Promoting exchange on healthcare policy in India and the UK; ii) Human resources for Health; iii) Regulatory issues; iv) Health technology development; v) Primary healthcare; vi) Strengthening of public infrastructure and capacity; vii) Health security, including cooperation on infectious diseases, emerging infections and drug resistance. India has been a recipient of UK's bilateral assistance in the form of grants since 1975. The aid agency of the UK is Department for International Development (DFID). The priority for the DFID (UK)- Government of India partnership has been improvement of maternal & child health and reducing the burden of communicable diseases. (B)

- 608)** Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Switzerland's Alain Berset?
- a) Kapil Sibal
 - b) Ghulam Nabi Azad
 - c) Anand Sharma
 - d) M. Veerappa Moily
 - e) Salman Khurshid

With the aim of giving further impetus to cooperation in the field of healthcare, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Minister of Health Switzerland, Alain Berset held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of World Health Assembly at Geneva on May 20, 2013. An MOU in the field of health was signed to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The major areas of cooperation will be: i) Non-Communicable Diseases including controlling the associated risk factors of tobacco use, harmful alcohol use, unhealthy diet, etc. ii) Communicable Diseases and Anti- Microbial resistance iii) Universal Health Coverage iv) Maternal & Child health v) Sexual & Reproductive Health vi) Health & Medical Research vii) Therapeutic Products viii) Electronic Medical Records ix) Global Health Governance. (B)

- 609)** The Indian government has provided \$ 270 million for housing project in which neighbouring country?
- a) Nepal
 - b) Bhutan
 - c) Sri Lanka
 - d) Myanmar
 - e) Bangladesh

India was one of the first countries to extend help to Sri Lanka and relationship between the two countries continued to grow, said Sri Lanka's Minister of Economic Development Basil Rajapaksa in Batticaloa on May 22, 2013 during the launch of an Indian housing project in the Eastern Province. A total of 4,000 homes will be constructed in the Eastern Province under this initiative, which is part of the second phase of the owner-driven housing scheme to help build 50,000 homes, at a cost of \$ 270 million, for those displaced during the war. Rajapaksa acknowledged India's faith in his country's ability to carry out rehabilitation and reconciliation. Commending the work of the High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Ashok K. Kantha, who completed his term on May 22, Rajapaksa said: "His involvement throughout his stint here ensured that the projects aided by the Indian government commenced and proceeded at a fast pace." (C)

- 610)** Which country inaugurated its third consulate in India at Bangalore after New Delhi and Mumbai on May 20, 2013?
- a) UK
 - b) Iran
 - c) Canada
 - d) Israel
 - e) Australia

Israel's third consulate in India — the other two being in New Delhi and Mumbai — was inaugurated in Bangalore on May 20, 2013. Speaking on the occasion, which also marked the 65th anniversary of the founding of Israel, Israel's Ambassador to India Alon Ushpiz said that only three other countries in the world have more than three Israeli missions. This, he said, indicated the extent to which his country values ties with India. (D)

- 611)** In which state has the BSF inaugurated a war memorial at Kilapara Border outpost (BOP) along the India-Bangladesh border on May 25, 2013 to commemorate the bravery of its troops in the India-Pakistan war of 1971?
- a) Sikkim
 - b) Assam
 - c) Manipur
 - d) Meghalaya
 - e) Arunachal Pradesh

About 42 years after the India-Pakistan war of 1971, the Meghalaya Frontier of the Border Security Force (BSF) paid a befitting tribute to some of the bravehearts, who had laid down their lives while defending their position against the advancing Pakistani forces. The Director General of the BSF inaugurated a war memorial at Kilapara Border outpost (BOP) along the India-Bangladesh border in West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya on May 25, 2013 to pay tribute to the nine BSF men who had made the supreme sacrifice while defending their position against the Pakistani forces. (D)

- 612)** Where was the second Asia Pacific Water Summit organised in May 2013?
- a) Phuket
 - b) Lampang
 - c) Chiang Mai
 - d) Khon Kaen
 - e) Laem Chabang

Underlining the importance of water conservation, India on May 20, 2013 said achieving food and energy security for economic development would not be possible without ensuring water security. "Sensitising all the stakeholders, for the imperative need for water conservation and its efficient use, and building consensus on the path to be followed, to achieve water security is an important challenge," Union Minister for Water Resources Harish Rawat told the Second Asia Pacific Water Summit organised in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The minister reiterated India's commitment to provide clean and safe water for drinking and sanitation. The two-day summit was attended by Heads of Governments, policy makers, researchers, scientists, NGOs and entrepreneurs among others. It had the theme "Water security and Water-related Disasters Challenges: Leadership and Commitment". (C)

- 613)** A poll released in Melbourne by the Australia India Institute (AII) in May 2013 revealed that Indians were "deeply apprehensive" of China's ambitions in Asia and its policy towards the country. Who among the following is the Director of AII?
- a) Jasjit Singh
 - b) Dipankar Saha
 - c) Amitabh Mattoo
 - d) Muchkund Dubey
 - e) Manish Atmaprakash Mamtani

A new poll released in Melbourne on May 20, 2013 found Indians were "deeply apprehensive" of China's ambitions in Asia and its policy towards the country. A large majority of 83 percent Indians considered China a security threat, said the poll, jointly conducted by the Lowy Institute and Australia India Institute (AII). The poll was supported by MacArthur Foundation. 'India Poll 2013: Facing the Future', which surveyed 1233 Indians, was carried out in 2012. "It found that

a big majority of Indians surveyed in a new opinion poll see China as a security threat," said Amitabh Mattoo, the director of All. Mattoo He concurrently serves as Professor of Disarmament Studies at the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. Professor Mattoo has been a Member of the National Knowledge Commission, a high-level advisory group to the Prime Minister of India and the National Security Council's Advisory Board.

The Australia India Institute (AII) is a leading centre for the study of India. Through its teaching, research, public policy and outreach programs, it is building Australia's capacity to understand India. All is also a hub for dialogue, research and partnerships between India and Australia. Based at the University of Melbourne, the Institute hosts a growing range of programs that are deepening and enriching the relationship between the two countries.

The University of Melbourne established the Australia India Institute in October 2008. In 2009, funding for the Institute was provided by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. (C)

614) Alexander Lukashenko is the President of:

- a) Georgia
- b) Armenia
- c) Moldova
- d) Belarus
- e) Ukraine

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Meira Kumar called on the President of Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, at Minsk, Belarus on May 20, 2013. (D)

615) Vice President, M. Hamid Ansari attended the _____ Anniversary celebrations of African Union on May 25, 2013.

- a) 25th
- b) 50th
- c) 60th
- d) 75th
- e) 100th

The Vice President, Mohd. Hamid Ansari met the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chairperson of African Union, Hailemariam Desalegn, during 50th Anniversary of African Union/OASU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on May 25, 2013.

(B)

616) Which of the following statements on African Union (AU) is/are correct?

- I. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is the Chairperson of the African Union Commission
 - II. AU was earlier known as Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
 - III. An Ethiopian is the Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The African Union (AU) is a union consisting of 54 African states. The only all-African state not in the AU is Morocco. The AU was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The most important decisions of the AU are made by the Assembly of the African Union, a semi-annual meeting of the heads of state and government of its member states.

The Assembly of the African Union is chaired by Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

The AU's secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AU Commission is chaired by Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma of South Africa. (B)

617) Mullock's, which is based in Ludlow, England, specialises in which of the following?

- a) Audit
- b) Lobbying
- c) Art auctions
- d) Legal services
- e) Management Consulting

Mahatma Gandhi's last will and testament has sold at auction for £55,000 at auction house Mullock's in Ludlow, England on May 21, 2013. The two-page document, written in Gujarati, was one of 50 items of Gandhi memorabilia, including a blood sample and his sandals up for sale. His sandals sold for £19,000. A "rare British Parliament paper declaring Gandhi a terrorist" from 1932, went for £260. A printed illustration showing Gandhi shaking hands with George V sold for £25. Other lots include Gandhi's bed linen and his prayer beads. Last year a pair of Gandhi's

glasses sold for £34,000. At numerous Gandhi auctions around the world over the past decade, the Indian government has insisted it should have the right of first refusal because the artefacts are a national treasure. (C)

618) Laxman Singh Rathore is the Director General of which of the following?

- a) India Meteorological Department
- b) Archaeological Survey of India
- c) Geological Survey of India
- d) Indian Standards Institute
- e) Survey of India

Dr Laxman Singh Rathore, Director General of India Meteorological Department was elected as Member of Executive Council of WMO during the 65th Executive Council of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organised in Geneva on May 20, 2013. The Executive Council is the executive body of the Organization, which meets annually, implements decisions of Congress, coordinates the programmes, examines the utilization of budgetary resources, considers and takes action on recommendations of Regional Associations and Technical Commissions and guides their work programme, provides technical information, counsel and assistance in the fields of activity of the Organization and studies and takes action on matters affecting international meteorology and related activities. (A)

619) Who among the following was conferred the Degree of Doctorate-Honoris Causa at the Annual Convocation of Lovely Professional University in Phagwara, Punjab in May 2013?

- a) Premier Le Keqiang
- b) President Ahmed Karzai
- c) President Mahinda Rajapaksa
- d) Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed
- e) Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley

President Pranab Mukherjee attended the 3rd Annual Convocation of Lovely Professional University on May 20, 2013 at Phagwara, Punjab. Degree of Doctorate-Honoris Causa was conferred on President Ahmed Karzai of Afghanistan during the ceremony. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Shivraj V. Patil, Governor of Punjab and Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab. (B)

620) The _____ session of the World Health Assembly was organised in Geneva, Switzerland from May 20 to 28, 2013.

- a) 36th
- b) 46th
- c) 56th
- d) 66th
- e) 76th

The Sixty-sixth session of the World Health Assembly was organised in Geneva, Switzerland from May 20 to 28, 2013. The World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the WHO. The main functions of the Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies and, review and approve the proposed programme budget. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, in his address to the Plenary Session, highlighted India's achievements in the health sector in recent times. (D)

621) President _____ on May 20, 2013 became the first leader of his country to visit the White House in nearly half a century.

- a) Thein Sein
- b) Jacob Zuma
- c) Xi Jinping
- d) Evo Morales
- e) Mahinda Rajapaksa

Myanmar's President Thein Sein on May 20, 2013 became the first leader of his country to visit the White House in nearly half a century, as Washington offers a strong symbolic gesture to back his reforms. Sein, who took office as a nominal civilian in 2011, freed hundreds of political prisoners, easing censorship and letting long-detained opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi enter Parliament. Sein called on Obama for a complete end to the economic sanctions on Myanmar imposed during its military rule. The most critical test of reform will come in 2015, when Myanmar is scheduled to hold elections — testing whether the military and its allies would be willing to cede power, potentially to Suu Kyi. A recent Human Rights Watch report accused Myanmar of a "campaign of ethnic cleansing" against the Rohingya, a mostly Muslim minority who are not even considered citizens of the predominantly Buddhist nation. (A)

622) Which country was the largest exporter of drones in the past eight years according to a study by the business consultancy Frost and Sullivan released in May 2013?

- a) USA

- b) Italy
- c) Israel
- d) France
- e) Russia

Israel is the world's largest exporter of drones, mainly to Europe, Asia and Latin America, in a trade worth more than \$4.6 billion over the past eight years. A study by the business consultancy Frost and Sullivan released on May 21, 2013 reveals that unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) account for almost 10 per cent of Israel's military exports. Sales have declined from a peak in 2010, but Israel has recently signed a \$100-million deal, not included in the figures, with India to upgrade its drones. Israel is considered at the forefront of military technological development. It regularly uses drones to monitor activity in Gaza and carry out targeted assassinations. The use of drones by the United States to carry out military strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan has attracted widespread criticism. UAVs are controlled remotely by military personnel. (C)

623) Which Central Asian country has decided to end the use of its Manas airbase by the US from July 2014?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Kyrgyzstan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Turkmenistan
- e) Uzbekistan

Kyrgyzstan will shut a key United States airbase in 2014. The Kyrgyz government is sending a closure motion to Parliament, said an announcement posted on the cabinet website on May 21, 2013. The Pentagon has been using the airbase, which sits at Kyrgyzstan's main civilian airport Manas in the capital Bishkek, since 2001 as a major supply centre for Afghanistan. (B)

624) Morgan Tsvangirai is the Prime Minister of which African country, in news for a new Constitution in May 2013?

- a) Togo
- b) Zaire
- c) Kenya
- d) Zambia
- e) Zimbabwe

President Robert Mugabe signed Zimbabwe's new Constitution into law on May 22, 2013 in Harare. Presidents will now be limited to two five-year terms and the post of Prime Minister will be scrapped when a new government is voted in. Mugabe (89), who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980, signed the document two months after it was overwhelmingly approved by Zimbabweans at a referendum. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai also welcomed the Constitution's passage into law. (E)

625) Chimborazo is the highest mountain in _____ and the farthest point from the Earth's centre.

- a) Peru
- b) Chile
- c) Brazil
- d) Ecuador
- e) Honduras

Indian-American Sathwik Karnik (12) on May 25, 2013 won the prestigious National Geographic Bee contest after getting all five questions right as the children of community members continue to dominate the geography bee and the spelling bee competitions in the U.S. To clinch the title, Karnik correctly named Chimborazo as the mountain in Ecuador that represents the farthest point from the Earth's centre. With a peak elevation of 6,268 metres, it is also the highest mountain in Ecuador. (D)

626) India-born Srikanth Srinivasan (46) was in news in May 2013 for a high profile appointment in which of the fields in the US?

- a) Law
- b) Education
- c) Economics
- d) Diplomacy
- e) Journalism

Srikanth "Sri" Srinivasan (46), Chandigarh-born Obama nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, received bipartisan confirmation in a 97-0 vote by the Senate in Washington on May 23, 2013. Srinivasan would be the first-ever person of South Asian origin to serve as a circuit court judge. His family migrated to the U.S. in the late 1960s. Harvard-educated Mr. Srinivasan has a stellar academic record with a JD/MBA from Stanford University also under his belt. (A)

627) Who among the following became the oldest person to scale Mount Everest in May 2013?

- a) Koto Okubo
- b) Yuichiro Miura
- c) Yasushi Nakayama
- d) Min Bahadur Sherchan
- e) Venere Pizzinato

An 80-year old Japanese mountaineer has reached the summit of Mount Everest, making him the oldest man to scale the world's highest peak. Yuichiro Miura reached the peak on May 23, 2013. He replaces Nepal's Min Bahadur Sherchan, who was 76 when he conquered Everest in 2008, as the record holder. (B)

628) Ray Manzarek, who passed away at the age of 74 in Germany on May 20, 2013, was known for achievements in:

- a) Music
- b) Poetry
- c) Painting
- d) Science
- e) Astronomy

Ray Manzarek, a founding member of the 1960s rock group 'The Doors' passed away at the age of was 74 in Germany on May 20, 2013. The Doors' original lineup, which also included drummer John Densmore and guitarist Robbie Krieger, was only together for a few years and they only made six studio albums. But the band has retained a large and obsessive following, decades after Morrison's death in 1971. The Doors have sold more than 100 million records and songs such as "Light my fire" and "Riders of the storm" are still "classic" rock favourites. (A)

629) Richard Wagner, whose 200th birth anniversary was observed in May 2013, was known for achievements in:

- a) Music
- b) Poetry
- c) Painting
- d) Science
- e) Astronomy

The musical world marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer Richard Wagner with a series of programmes and events on May 22, 2013. The controversial German musician is considered to one of the most revolutionary musical thinkers of the 19th Century. (A)

630) The winner of the 2013 Man Booker International Prize is a/an _____ author.

- a) Irish
- b) Israeli
- c) US
- d) Indian
- e) Canadian

American writer Lydia Davis was on May 22, 2013 awarded the Man Booker International prize for her "achievement in fiction on the world stage". She beat nine other nominees to take home the £60,000 biennial award. Davis, the fifth recipient of the prize, is currently professor of creative writing at the University at Albany in New York State. Her work includes one novel, The End of the Story (1995), and seven story collections, including Break It Down (1986), Almost No Memory (1997), Samuel Johnson is Indignant (2002) and Varieties of Disturbance (2007). She has translated a number of French philosophy and literature works, most notably Swann's Way by Marcel Proust and Flaubert's Madame Bovary. A new collection, 'Can't and Won't', is due to be published in 2014. An offshoot of the more famous annual Man Booker Prize, the Man Booker International prize recognises a writer for his or her continued creativity, development and overall contribution to fiction on the world stage. The last recipient of the honour, 2011 winner Philip Roth, was also American. (C)

631) Taylor Swift is well-known for achievements in:

- a) Films
- b) Music
- c) Poetry
- d) Painting
- e) Cooking

Taylor Swift has won eight awards at this year's US Billboard Music Awards on May 20, 2013 in Las Vegas, US. The country pop singer won categories that included, Top Female Artist, Top Digital Songs Artist and Top Country Artist. Other winners included Justin Bieber for Top Male Artist and Top Social Artist and One Direction won Top Duo/Group and Top New Artist. Nominees are based on fan interactions with music. This includes album and digital singles sales,

radio airplay, touring, streaming and social interactions on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Vevo, Spotify and other popular online destinations for music. (B)

- 632)** Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik won the grand prize at the prestigious _____ International Sand Sculpture festival for his sculpture on environment on May 21, 2013.
- Oslo
 - Helsinki
 - Stockholm
 - Copenhagen
 - St. Petersburg

Internationally acclaimed Indian Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the grand prize at the prestigious Copenhagen International Sand sculpture festival in Denmark for his sculpture on environment on May 21, 2013. Pattnaik, who is from Orissa, won the prize for his sand sculpture 'Go Green, Save Earth'. He created the 15 feet-high sculpture in 7 days for the festival. Sand artists from 17 other countries have participated in the festival. Ghana won the Jury prize and Italy won the Artist prize. In 2012, Pattnaik won the Jury prize in Copenhagen. (D)

- 633)** Who among the following was conferred the prestigious 'New York Citizen's Achievement Award' in May 2013?
- Ashutosh Gowariker
 - Madhur Bhandarkar
 - Dibakar Banerjee
 - Anurag Kashyap
 - Karan Johar

Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar was honoured with the prestigious 'New York Citizen's Achievement Award' on May 22, 2013. Bhandarkar's last film was the Kareena Kapoor-starrer Heroine, which released in September, 2012. (B)

- 634)** Who among the following were conferred the RedInk Lifetime Achievement Award for 2013 by the Press Club Mumbai in May 2013?
- N. Ram & Kuldip Nayar
 - M. J. Akbar & Prannoy Roy
 - Inder Malhotra & B. G. Verghese
 - S. Nihal Singh & Gautam Adhikari
 - Prabhu Chawla & Khushwant Singh

The Press Club Mumbai on May 25, 2013 honoured N. Ram, veteran journalist and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu Group, with its RedInk Lifetime Achievement Award for 2013 for being a fearless crusader of journalism. The lifetime achievement award was also conferred on veteran journalist and columnist Kuldip Nayar. Ram had headed The Hindu Group as Editor-in-Chief for more than two decades. He had also been conferred with the Padma Bhushan and the Sri Lanka Ratna by the Government of Sri Lanka. (A)

- 635)** A mass contact programme started by which state's Chief Minister was declared winner of the 2013 United Nations Public Service Award for the Asia-Pacific zone in May 2013?
- Goa
 - Sikkim
 - Kerala
 - Haryana
 - Rajasthan

A mass contact programme started by Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy mass contact has won the 2013 United Nations Public Service Award for the Asia-Pacific zone. A press note issued by the state government on May 22, 2013 said the Kerala Chief Minister's programme was adjudged the best initiative promoting transparency, accountability and responsiveness of democratic governance, pushing to second place a South Korean initiative. The UN recognises such initiatives in five separate zones that also include Europe-North America, Middle East, Africa and Latin America-Caribbean. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon is slated to distribute the awards on June 27 in Bahrain, where programmes connected with the UN Public Service Day, observed on June 23, are being held this time. (C)

- 636)** Dayamani Barla was presented with the first-ever Ellen L. Lutz Indigenous Rights Award in New York on May 23, 2013 for welfare of tribals in:
- Odisha
 - Tripura
 - Jharkhand
 - West Bengal
 - Chhattisgarh

Jharkhand Adivasi rights activist Dayamani Barla was presented with the first-ever Ellen L. Lutz Indigenous Rights Award by Cultural Survival, an indigenous peoples' rights organisation, in New York on May 23, 2013. (C)

- 637)** Eminent Hindi writers Ramdarash Mishra and Narendra Kohli were on May 24, 2013 awarded the prestigious Vyas Samman for 2011 and 2012 respectively. The award carries a cash prize of _____.
- Rs. 1 lakh
 - Rs. 1.5 lakh
 - Rs. 2 lakh
 - Rs. 2.5 lakh
 - Rs. 5 lakh

Eminent Hindi writers Ramdarash Mishra and Narendra Kohli were on May 24, 2013 awarded the prestigious Vyas Samman for 2011 and 2012 respectively. Instituted by the K. K. Birla Foundation in 1991, the award is given annually for an outstanding literary work in Hindi published during the past 10 years. The award carries a cash purse of Rs.2.5 lakh. Mishra bagged the award for his poetry collection 'Aam K Patte' which was published in 2004 while Kohli was selected for the award for his novel 'Na Bhooto Na Bhavishyati' based on Swami Vivekananda and the era he belonged to. 'Na Bhooto Na Bhavishyati', published in 2004, gives an account of the incredible impression that Vivekananda cast on the history of the country and its culture. (D)

- 638)** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) celebrated its silver Jubilee in May 2013. Who among the following is the Chairman of SEBI?
- Rajeev Kumar Agarwal
 - Anand Sinha
 - Upendra Kumar Sinha
 - Prashant Saran
 - Prakash Chandra

India's capital markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) completed 25 eventful years of existence on May 24, 2013. If India today ranks among the handful of countries considered as having a mature and modern securities market, the credit for this goes in large measure to SEBI.

Before SEBI came into existence, the Controller of Capital Issues decided when companies could raise capital from the market, how much they could raise and at what price. On the other, there were the stock exchanges, run as virtually closed shops by powerful cartels of brokers. Information systems were primitive, disclosures to investors minimal or non-existent, and price and market manipulation rampant.

Upendra Kumar Sinha was appointed chairman on 18 February 2011 replacing C. B. Bhave. S. A. Dave served as the first Chairman from April 1988 to August 1990.

- 639)** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) celebrated its Silver Jubilee in May 2013. Which of the following hears complaints against orders passed by SEBI?
- Reserve Bank of India
 - Competition Appellate Tribunal
 - Securities Appellate Tribunal
 - National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
 - Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission

Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body established under the provisions of Section 15K of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India or by an adjudicating officer under the Act and to exercise jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on the Tribunal by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force. (C)

- 640)** Who among the following was appointed new Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) in June 2013?
- Justice Aftab Alam
 - Justice Arun Kumar
 - Justice D.P. Wadhwa
 - Justice Suhas C. Sen
 - Justice N. Santosh Hegde

Aftab Alam, who recently retired as the Justice of the Supreme Court of India, was on June 17, 2013 appointed the new Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). The top post at TDSAT fell vacant on November 2, 2012, after its previous chief, S B Sinha, completed his tenure. According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, the chairperson of TDSAT should be appointed by the Centre, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The TDSAT head has to be a judge or a former judge of the Supreme Court, or a chief justice or a former chief justice of a high court. (A)

- 641)** According to the guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), life insurance companies should have a minimum net worth of Rs 500 crore and a minimum of _____ years of operation to be eligible to apply for opening offices overseas.
- Three
 - Four
 - Five
 - Seven
 - Ten

Indian insurance companies can now go global. They require a minimum of three years of operation, among other criteria, to be eligible to apply for opening offices overseas. According to the guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), the life and general insurers should have a net worth of Rs 500 crore and Rs 250 crore respectively. In the case of reinsurers, the minimum net worth required has been fixed at Rs 750 crore. They should be in good financial health and should have posted profits for three years in the last five years from the date of application to the regulator, with prescribed solvency ratios. The applicants "should not suffer from any adverse report of the Authority on its track record of regulatory compliances, for three years out of the last five years," T.S. Vijayan, Chairman, IRDA, said in a circular issued on May 24, 2013. **(A)**

- 642)** Which country's people trust their banks the most according to a survey conducted by Gallup in May 2013? India has been ranked 24th among 134 countries in the survey.
- France
 - Rwanda
 - Finland
 - Iran
 - Canada

Banks in India enjoyed the confidence of customers in 2012, says a survey by strategic consultant, Gallup, which was released in Washington on May 20, 2013. The survey said 70 per cent respondents in India said 'yes' when they were asked, "In India, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? How about financial institutions or banks?" A total of 18 per cent said 'no', and 13 per cent either said 'don't know' or refused to answer. The survey was conducted in India and 134 other countries in 2012. India is at the 24th place in the 'trust' list in which top five positions are occupied by Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia. A whopping 91 per cent of respondents in Rwanda trusted their banks. **(B)**

- 643)** Annual Day of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was observed on May 22, 2013. Which of the following ceased to exist with the establishment of CCI in 2003?
- Securities Appellate Tribunal
 - Competition Appellate Tribunal
 - The Central Consumer Protection Council
 - National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
 - Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission

Union Finance Minister P.Chidambaram delivered the annual day lecture of Competition Commission of India (CCI) in New Delhi on May 20, 2013. CCI Chairman Ashok Chawla articulated the Mission 2020 for the CCI and stressed that CCI has set on itself the vision of establishing a robust Competitive environment. The CCI was established in 2003 to replace the erstwhile Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. The CCI draws its authority from the Competition Act, 2002, to keep check on unfair practices including M&As that abuse dominant position by market players. **(A)**

- 644)** Which of the following has launched a Engineering Council chaired by Vijay Ratnaparkhe of Robert Bosch in May 2013?
- Indian Banks' Association
 - Electronic Industries Association of India
 - Society of Industrial Automobile Manufacturers
 - Automobile Companies Manufacturers Association
 - National Association of Software and Services Companies

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) on May 22, 2013 announced the formation of Engineering Council 2013-15 which envisions enabling India as a global and competitive engineering destination in coming years. Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions President and MD Vijay Ratnaparkhe was announced as the chairman of the NASSCOM Engineering Council. The Council will lay emphasis on strengthening the current engineering ecosystem, build centres of excellence and position India as a preferred global destination for engineering services and solutions. **(E)**

- 645)** INSTAL scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports refers to:

- Indian School Sports Talent
- Integrated Nurturing of Sports Talent
- Identification of School Sports Talent
- Identification of National Sports Talent
- Identification & Nurturing Sports Talent

The two day conference of Ministers of States/UTs in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports concluded in New Delhi on May 25, 2013. The Conference was chaired by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sport, Jitendra Singh. During the conference several new initiatives were discussed. Under a new initiative called "Identification & Nurturing Sports Talent (INSTAL)", each district will have a special school meant for young sport persons in the age group of 6-10 years who have shown talent in sports. 100 talented young boys and girls in this age group will be selected through the PYKKA (Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan) rural competitions. Such selected students will be admitted in the District Level Sports Schools (DLSS) with facilities of boarding, lodging, special diet, sports kit, school fees and other expenses being met by govt. through a stipend. There will be a guaranteed job under the sports quota to such selected students both in the Central Government or the State Government. **(E)**

- 646)** The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) has decided to fund the setting up of Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation in:
- Bangalore
 - Itanagar
 - Imphal
 - Kohima
 - Gangtok

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on May 24, 2013 said it has given in-principle approval for a grant of Rs 309.56 Lacs to Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation, Imphal for construction of Gymnasium Hall and procurement of Gym equipments for the Foundation. The Foundation proposes to set up the facilities at the new site allotted by the State Government of Manipur. Earlier NSDF had released an amount of Rs 492.00 Lacs to the Usha School of Athletics, Kozhikode, Kerala, for laying an 8 Lane Synthetic Track of international standard with supporting facilities. **(C)**

- 647)** Ravi Sawani is the Chief of Anti-Corruption Unit at which sports organisation?
- PGTI
 - AIFF
 - BCCI
 - SAI
 - BAI

BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief Ravi Sawani on May 20, 2013 held a meeting with the top Delhi police officials, who are investigating into the spot-fixing scandal that has rocked the Indian Premier League (IPL). Sawani, who has been appointed by the BCCI as commissioner of inquiry to probe spot-fixing allegations, said the Cricket Board has assured the Delhi police of providing all possible assistance in their investigation. Sawani said the Delhi police have been apprised of Rajasthan Royals' intention to file a criminal complaint against its three cricketers arrested for spot-fixing. Sawani said the BCCI has initiated an internal inquiry to probe into the allegations of spot-fixing but refused to set any deadline for the submission of his report. **(C)**

- 648)** David Richardson is the Chief Executive at which international sports organisation?
- Formula One
 - International Cricket Council (ICC)
 - International Hockey Federation (FIH)
 - International Badminton Federation (IBF)
 - Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

ICC on May 19, 2013 assured "full support" and welcomed the steps announced by the BCCI to deal with the spot-fixing issue that has rocked the Indian Premier League (IPL) following the arrest of three cricketers including pacer S. Sreesanth. "The ICC offers its full support to the BCCI's in its efforts to quickly complete the enquiry against the accused players," ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said in a statement. FINA – Fédération Internationale de Natation (translation: International Swimming Federation) **(B)**

- 649)** Pune Warriors India (PWI) announced withdrawal from the Indian Premier League in May 2013. Which corporate group is the owner of PWI?
- Sun
 - Sahara
 - CK Birla
 - Murugappa

e) Amalgamations

Pune Warriors India (PWI) on May 21, 2013 withdrew from the Indian Premier League over financial differences with the BCCI. PWI had failed to pay the full franchise fee for the current year. With the Board encashing the bank guarantee, the Sahara group, which owns the franchise, decided to pull out of the league. PWI, one of the nine IPL teams, is learnt to have paid only 20 per cent of the franchise fee for the year. The franchise fee of Rs. 170 crore was to be paid by May 19 and the Board moved when Sahara failed to meet the deadline. This was the third case of the Board encashing the bank guarantee for recovering its dues. It had earlier done so with Kochi Tuskers and Nimbus. The Sahara group also announced that it would also end its sponsorship of the Indian cricket team from the end of the year. Sahara had bought the franchise for Rs 1,700 crore in 2010. (B)

- 650) Which of the following titles at the World Table Tennis Championships in Paris in May 2013 was not won by China?
- Men's Singles
 - Women's Singles
 - Men's Doubles
 - Women's Doubles
 - None of the above

Defending champion Zhang Jike of China retained his **Men's Singles** title at the World Table Tennis Championships in Paris on May 19, 2013 after defeating compatriot Wang Hao in the final. Zhang prevailed 4-2 (11-7, 11-8, 6-11, 14-12, 5-11, 11-7). **Men's Doubles** was won by Taiwan's Chen Chien-An & Chuang Chih-Yuan who beat China's Hao Shuai & Ma Lin 4-2. **Women's Singles** was won by Li Xiaoxia of China who defeated her teammate Liu Shiwen 4-2 on May 19. **Women's Doubles** was won by Li Xiaoxia & Guo Yue with a 4-1 win over Liu Shiwen & Ding Ning in another all-Chinese encounter on May 19. Kim Hyok Bong & Kim Jong of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) won the **Mixed Doubles** title defeating Lee Sang Su & Park Young Sook of South Korea 4-2 in the final. (C)

- 651) Which of the following statements on 2013 Sudirman Cup Badminton organised in May 2013 is/are correct?
- It was organised in Indonesia
 - India lost in the quarter-final
 - Malaysia was the losing finalist
 - All the above
 - None of the above

China won the 2013 Sudirman Cup world mixed team badminton championships after beating South Korea 3-0 in the final of the Sudirman Cup at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on May 26, 2013. China won the first match of the tie when Xu Chen-Ma Jin got won the Mixed Doubles match by defeating Korean pair Ko Sung-hyun-Kim Ha-na 21-13, 21-15. Chen Long then made it 2-0 to China as he made quick work of Lee Dong-keun in the men's singles with a 21-15, 21-10 victory. China won the third match and the final 3-0 when its Men's Doubles pair of Liu Xiaolong-Qiu Zihan beat Ko Sung-hyun-Lee Yong-dae 21-19, 21-17. This is China's ninth and fifth-straight Sudirman Cup win. Meanwhile India failed to make the quarterfinals after suffering a 1-4 thrashing at the hands of Indonesia in their second group match. (E)

- 652) Who among the following won the Norway Chess 2013 Super Tournament in May 2013?
- Veselin Topalov
 - Magnus Carlsen
 - Hikaru Nakamura
 - Sergey Karjakin
 - Viswanathan Anand

Sergey Karjakin sealed victory in the Norway Chess 2013 Super Tournament with final round draw against Veselin Topalov at Stavanger, Norway on May 18, 2013. Magnus Carlsen, the world's top-rated chess player, shared second place with the American Hikaru Nakamura. India's Viswanathan shared fourth place with Levon Aronian of Armenia and Peter Svidler of Russia. (D)

- 653) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 3, 2013 issued clarifications to queries on new banking licenses. Corporate groups and other entities can promote a bank through a Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC). The NOHFC will have a controlling stake in the new bank. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- The CEO of the new bank cannot hold equity in the NOFHC.
 - NOHFC will have at least 60 per cent equity in the bank.
 - NOHFC cannot have any credit/investment exposure on Promoter Company
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only

- III and I only
- I, II and III

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 3, 2013 issued clarifications to queries on new banking licenses. The RBI had released guidelines for licensing of new banks in the private sector in February 2012.

The queries received from applicants brought out several complex issues pertaining to the re-organisation of the existing corporate structure, restructuring of businesses and meeting the regulatory requirements.

The clarifications issued are as follows:

Applicants getting permits to set up new banks would have to do so within 18 months, after which the in-principal approval would lapse.

There will be no relaxation on meeting priority-sector obligations.

Track record of all group companies, including non-financial ones, would be considered while vetting the applications.

Individuals could not form a holding company structure to launch a bank, as the final guidelines clearly specified that an entity must have a successful track record of 10 years.

An existing non-banking financial company (NBFC), if it was granted a banking licence, would have to transfer all its lending activities to the new bank.

An entity could form a non-financial holding company (NOHFC) after receiving an in-principle approval.

NOHFC must be wholly owned by a single promoter group.

Promoters of the new Bank disallowed from getting into any other financial services business for three years from getting the license

The CEO, who could be an Overseas Citizenship of India, could not have stake in the NOHFC.

NOHFC will have at least 40 per cent stake in the bank

NOHFC cannot have any credit/investment exposure on Promoter Company

New banks will be allowed to use the promoter group's brand name or logo (D)

- 654) The government constituted a Standing Council of Experts in June 2013 to assess the international competitiveness of the Indian financial sector. Which of the following pairs of members and their organisations is/are matched correctly?
- Prithvi Haldea – National Stock Exchange
 - Nachiket Mor – Prime Database
 - Ravi Narain – CARE India
 - India Development Foundation – Shubhashis Gangopadhyay
 - All the above

The government on June 7, 2013 constituted a Standing Council of Experts under the chairmanship of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Secretary to assess the international competitiveness of the Indian financial sector. The council will examine various pecuniary and non-pecuniary transaction costs and burdens of doing business in the Indian market and make recommendations for enhancing its competitiveness.

Members: Apart from the Economic Affairs Secretary as Chairperson, the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) in the Finance Ministry as member and alternate chair, and DEA Joint Secretary (Capital Markets) as Convener-Member Secretary, other members of the council include Prime Database Chairman Prithvi Haldea, GTI Group board member Madhav Dhar, CARE India Chairman Nachiket Mor, Booz and Company ex-CEO Shumeet Banerji, Jahangir Aziz of JP Morgan, NSE Vice-Chairman Ravi Narain, VSG Capital Advisors CEO Vikram Gandhi, Susan Thomas of IGDR, Shubhashis Gangopadhyay of India Development Foundation, and V. Ravi Anshuman of IIM Bangalore. The Chairperson may also invite any such person for any of the meetings of the council "whose presence is deemed necessary for achieving the objectives of the council."

Terms of Reference

To analyse the international competitiveness of the domestic financial sector and comprehensively examine various pecuniary and non-pecuniary costs of doing business through Indian capital/financial markets. These include transactions costs such as brokerage fee, applicable tax rates and documentation requirements as compared to other competing destinations and accordingly make recommendations aimed at achieving competitiveness.

To examine related policy and operating frameworks and the performance of various segments of the Indian capital and financial markets, and make its recommendations aimed at improving competitiveness and efficiency, as also the completeness of these markets in terms of fully meeting client needs as per global standards through provision of requisite services and financial instruments.

To suggest reform measures aimed at enhancing transparency, promoting development of and strengthening governance in the Indian capital markets and the financial sector while ensuring that risks are contained and investor interests are protected. (D)

- 655)** What penalties has SEBI announced against companies not meeting minimum public shareholding norms with the expiry of deadline on June 3, 2013? These penalties will be withdrawn as and when the norms are met.
- I. Voting rights of their Promoters and Directors will be suspended
 - II. Their Promoters and Directors will not be allowed to trade in capital markets
 - III. Their Promoters and Directors will not be allowed to hold new positions on the boards of listed entities
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

SEBI on June 4, 2013 ordered the freezing of voting rights and corporate benefits of promoters of over 100 private sector companies who have failed to attain a minimum 25 per cent public holding. The promoters and directors of non-compliant companies have also been barred from dealing in the market and holding new positions on the boards of listed entities till the time these firms comply with the minimum public shareholding requirements. In a 13-page order, SEBI warned of further actions including the levy of monetary penalties, initiation of criminal proceedings, restricting the trading activities of related stocks and other possible directions. SEBI said a total of 105 companies failed to meet the norms within the stipulated deadline of June 3, despite repeated reminders and various relaxations provided to the companies to help them meet the requirements. (E)

- 656)** The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on June 6, 2013 issued clarification on the government's FDI policy for multi-brand retail trading (MBRT). At least 50% of the total FDI in MBRT should be invested in back-end infrastructure. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- I. Investment in the equity of the existing infrastructure company will not be treated towards the fulfilment of the conditionality of 50 per cent investment in back-end infrastructure.
 - II. Investment in the equity of the existing infrastructure company will be treated towards the fulfilment of the conditionality of 50 per cent investment in back-end infrastructure.
 - III. FDI in creating back-end infrastructure in states that have not allowed MBRT will be counted for the compulsory 50 per cent investment norm provided it is used to create new assets
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) I and III only
 - d) III only
 - e) II only

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on June 6, 2013 issued clarification on queries from global retailers, including Wal-mart, Tesco and Carrefour, on FDI policy for multi-brand retail trading (MBRT).

Foreign retailers entering India's multi-brand segment will not be allowed to franchise their stores, and will have to put 50 per cent of their investments in back-end infrastructure specifically for the chain they are setting up.

The clarifications made by DIPP are as follows:

Front-end stores:

The "front-end stores set up by MBRT entity will have to be company-owned and company operated only." These cannot be franchisee-owned ones.

The front-end retail stores must also be set up as an additionality, and not through acquisition of existing stores.

Sourcing norms:

Retailers have to source at least 30 per cent of their products from small and medium enterprises that are defined as enterprises having \$1-million investment in plant and machinery.

The mandatory 30 per cent sourcing from small industries would be counted only for sales through the front-end stores; not for cash-and-carry outlets and exports.

The mandatory sourcing condition pertains only to manufactured and processed products. Procurement of fresh produce is not covered by this condition.

Back-end infrastructure:

Retailers have to bring in a minimum capital of \$100 million, of which 50 per cent has to be invested in back-end infrastructure

Any amount spent in acquiring front-end retail stores would not be counted towards back-end infrastructure.

Investment in the equity of the existing infrastructure company will not be treated towards the fulfilment of the conditionality of 50 per cent investment in back-end infrastructure.

Foreign direct investment in non-FDI MBRT approved States in back-end infrastructure will be counted for the compulsory 50 per cent investment norm provided it is an additionality. (C)

- 657)** Which of the following is a new entity set up by the government in June 2013 for coordinating the skill development efforts of the Centre and the private sector?
- a) National Skill Development Agency
 - b) Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development
 - c) National Skill Development Coordination Board
 - d) None of the above

The government, on June 7, 2013, constituted the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) for coordinating and harmonising the skill development efforts of the Centre and the private sector to achieve the skill targets of the XII Plan and beyond.

The NSDA, set up by subsuming the Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development (PMNCSD), the National Skill Development Coordination Board (NSDC), and the Office of the Adviser to the PM on Skill Development, will strive to ensure that the disadvantaged groups are able to bridge the gaps in their skill requirements. To function as an autonomous body, the NSDA will be chaired by a person of the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister supported by a Director General and other support staff.

While the Central ministries and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will continue to implement schemes in their remit, the NSDA will develop and monitor an overarching framework for skill development, anchor the national skills qualifications framework and facilitate the setting up of professional certifying bodies in addition to the existing ones. (C)

- 658)** The Union Cabinet cleared the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill for introduction in Parliament in June 2013. Which of the following statements regarding provisions of the Bill is/are correct?
- I. Real Estate Regulatory Authorities will have to be constituted by the government of each state and Union Territory
 - II. Developers issuing misleading advertisements on projects could face jail-term for repeat offences
 - III. Developers will have to create a separate bank account for every project
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The Union Cabinet on June 4, 2013 cleared the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, which is expected to protect buyers from erring developers and usher in an era of transparency through a regulatory process, once passed by Parliament.

It has proposed stringent penalties and even a jail term for a maximum of three years for developers convicted of malpractice.

The Bill seeks to make it mandatory for developers to launch projects only after acquiring all the statutory clearances from the relevant authorities.

Within a year of the Act coming into place, Real Estate Regulatory Authorities will have to be constituted by the government of each state and Union Territory. More than one authority in a state is permissible. At the central level, a Real Estate Appellate Tribunal has been proposed.

There are provisions to deter builders from issuing misleading advertisements on projects. A first-time breach would attract a penalty which could be up to 10 per cent of the project cost. A repeat offence could land the developer in jail for up to three years.

It also aims to make it mandatory for a developer to set aside 70 percent (or such lesser percent as notified by the Appropriate Government) of the money collected from buyers to a separate bank account for every project, to ensure money raised for a particular task is not diverted. It provides for a clear definition of 'carpet area' and would prohibit private developers from selling houses or flats on the basis of the ambiguous 'super area'. (E)

- 659)** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 7, 2013 approved the start of preparatory work for developing the Amritsar – _____ – Kolkata Industrial Corridor project patterned on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).
- Guwahati
 - Delhi
 - Lucknow
 - Bhubaneswar
 - Hyderabad

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 7, 2013 approved the start of preparatory work for developing the Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (ADKIC) project. The ADKIC is patterned on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). The ADKIC will benefit cities like Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Ambala, Saharanpur, Delhi, Roorkee, Moradabad, Bareilly, Aligarh, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Asansol, Durgapur and Kolkata. The Prime Minister has set up a six-member high-level inter-ministerial group to study the feasibility of AKDIC project and outline structural and financial arrangements needed to operationalise the project at the earliest. The committee is headed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Secretary. (B)

- 660)** The _____ Conference on Internal Security was organised in New Delhi on June 5, 2013.
- State Governors'
 - State Home Ministers'
 - Chief Ministers
 - Directorate Generals' of Police

In a major setback to the Centre's ambitious plan to set up the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) based on a diluted draft, at least two Congress Chief Ministers — Maharashtra's Prithviraj Chavan and Karnataka's K. Siddaramaiah — voiced their concerns over certain provisions of the anti-terror agency at the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security on June 5, 2013. While Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde did not mention the NCTC in their addresses, they called for better coordination between the Centre and States on issues of internal security. (C)

- 661)** What is the elite police commando force raised by Andhra Pradesh (AP) to tackle Left Wing Extremism (LWE) known as? Other LWE-affected States are planning to raise similar forces based on the AP model?
- Cobras
 - Cheetahs
 - Panthers
 - Anacondas
 - Greyhounds

Stunned by the massacre of senior Chhattisgarh Congress leaders by Maoists in May 2013, the Centre has decided to help all Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected States to raise 'Greyhounds,' after the Andhra Pradesh model of an elite police commando force. It also planned to take a uniform approach under a national policy to deal with this growing menace. At a special session on LWE at the Chief Ministers' Conference on internal security in New Delhi on June 5, 2013, the LWE-affected States agreed to adopt a joint strategy and intensify operations, which include cross-border raids. The States that would raise the 'Greyhounds' are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. They will adopt the Andhra Pradesh model, which, besides Greyhounds, includes strengthening the intelligence-gathering mechanism, enhancing the role of local police stations in operations, and making efforts to infiltrate the Maoist hierarchy. (D)

- 662)** Which of the following is the placement-oriented skill development scheme for tribal youth in the country's 24 most critical Left-Wing-Extremism-affected districts launched in June 2013?
- Himayat
 - Subah
 - Unnati
 - Roshni
 - Ummeed

In a bid to further reach out to rural youth in the country's 24 most critical Left-Wing-Extremism-affected districts, the Centre has introduced a placement-oriented skill-development scheme targeting 50,000 persons, mostly tribals. Minister for Rural Development Jairam Ramesh launched Roshni, an initiative by the Centre to provide job-specific skill development in areas worst-hit by Maoists, in New Delhi on June 7, 2013.

Ramesh said at least 50 per cent of the candidates covered under the scheme would be women and extra efforts would be made to proactively cover Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) on a priority basis. The programme entails providing beneficiaries aged between 18-35 years with requisite training for the trade or job chosen as per the Participatory Identification of Poor.

Ramesh said the employment programme would be on the lines of 'Himayat', being run in Jammu and Kashmir, and two pilot projects being run in Jharkhand's west Singhbhum and Chhattisgarh's Sukma districts. The training will be imparted through public-private and public partnerships. Four training modules of durations ranging from three months to one year shall be taken up to meet the diverse needs of the youth, depending on their entry-level qualifications.

The projects will be funded jointly by the Central and State governments in the ratio of 75:25. (D)

- 663)** The Central Information Commission (CIC) on June 3, 2013 said political parties are answerable under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Who among the following is the Chief Information Commissioner?
- Narayanasamy
 - Satyanand Mishra
 - Annapurna Dixit
 - M.L. Sharma
 - Deepak Sandhu

The Central Information Commission (CIC) on June 3, 2013 said political parties are answerable under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. A full bench of the Commission, comprising Chief Information Commissioner Satyananda Mishra and Information Commissioners M L Sharma and Annapurna Dixit ruled that six parties - the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPI(M), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Banujan Samaj Party (BSP) - to whom RTI queries were directed, fulfil the criteria of being public authorities under the RTI Act.

"The presidents and general secretaries of these parties are hereby directed to designate CPIOs (central public information officers) and appellate authorities at their headquarters in six weeks. The CPIOs so appointed will respond to the RTI applications extracted in this order in four weeks time," the bench said. It also directed the political parties to comply with the provisions of mandatory proactive disclosures clauses given under the RTI Act and put those details on their websites.

The case relates to RTI queries from activists of the Association of Democratic Reforms, who had sought to know the finances of and voluntary financial contributions received by these six parties and the names and addresses of the donors, besides other details which the parties refused to make public saying they were not coming under the RTI Act. During the hearing, the activists raised three principal points justifying his arguments that parties were coming under the RTI Act -- indirect substantial financing by the central government, performance of public duty and Constitutional and legal provisions vesting them with rights and liabilities. (B)

- 664)** As the part of the World Environment Day celebrations in June 2013, five publications – 'Animal Discoveries-2012', 'Plant Discoveries 2012', 'Coastal Zones of India', 'National Wetland Atlas: High Altitude Lakes of India' and 'National Wetland Atlas: Wetlands of International Importance Under _____Convention' were released for spreading awareness and sensitizing the citizens
- Mehran
 - Ramsar
 - Natanz
 - Khorashad
 - Piranshahr

World Environment Day was observed on June 5, 2013. The theme for this year's World Environment Day celebrations is "Think, Eat, Save Reduce Your Foodprint". Think, Eat, Save Reduce your food print is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your food print. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted.

As the part of the celebrations, five publications namely, Animal Discoveries- 2012, Plant Discoveries 2012, Coastal Zones of India, National Wetland Atlas: High Altitude Lakes of India and National Wetland Atlas: Wetlands of International Importance under Ramsar Convention were released for spreading awareness and sensitizing the citizens.

On the occasion, Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister for Environment & Forests, presented this year's "Young Environmentalist of the Year Award - 2013" to Arundhati Srivastava, from New Delhi. She has been selected for this year award by conducting a National Level Poster Making Competition on the occasion of Earth Day on the theme: Face of Climate Change. (B)

- 665)** Which of the following pairs of Lok Sabha byelections and their states organised in June 2013 is/are matched correctly?
- Banaskantha – Gujarat
 - Maharajganj – Uttar Pradesh
 - Handia – Bihar
 - All the above
 - None of the above

The BJP wrested six seats from the Congress in Gujarat in the Lok Sabha, Assembly by-elections results announced on June 6, 2013. The party won Lok Sabha by-elections in Porbandar and Banaskantha — with margins of over 1.28 lakh and 71,000 votes respectively — as well as the Assembly seats of Limbadi, Morva Hadaf, Jetpur and Doraji. Other results: Rashtriya Janata Dal won the Maharajganj Lok Sabha seat; the Trinamool Congress won the Howrah Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal; the Samajwadi Party won the Handia Assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh; Congress won the Yavatmal Assembly by-election in Maharashtra. (A)

- 666)** The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) was extended to cover four new categories of unorganised sector workers in June 2013. Which of the following statements regarding RSBY is/are correct?
- Maternity benefits are not covered under the scheme
 - Families eligible under the scheme get a cover of Rs. 30,000 per annum
 - A family under RSBY means a unit of five persons
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the health insurance scheme — Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) — to over 88.57 lakh unorganised workers including rickshaw pullers, rag pickers, mine workers and auto/taxi drivers. This was announced by Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Labour and Employment Minister on June 4, 2013. In **January 2012**, the RSBY was extended to (i) Building and other Construction Workers; (ii) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) beneficiaries; (iii) Street Vendors; (iv) Beedi Workers; (v) Domestic Workers

Important features of the scheme are as follows:

The scheme is being implemented since April 1, 2008 in 28 States and the Union Territories. The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing RSBY. The scheme provides for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per annum to BPL families (a unit of five persons) in the unorganized sector. Government of India contributes 75% of the annual premium. State Governments contribute 25%. In case of North-East region and Jammu & Kashmir, the premium is shared in the ratio of 90:10. The beneficiary family pays Rs. 30 per annum per family as registration/renewal fee. Administrative cost is borne by the State Governments. Beneficiaries are entitled to smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per family per annum on a family floater basis. Upto five members of a family are covered per annum. Coverage of all pre-existing diseases. Coverage of hospitalisation expenses, including maternity benefit. Transportation costs are covered under the scheme (C)

- 667)** Which of the following will be used as criteria for identification of minority concentrated areas for implementation of welfare programmes of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs from June 2013?
- Municipality
 - Division
 - District
 - Block
 - Tehsil

The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government will spend Rs. 1250 crore, benefiting as many as 710 Minority Concentrated Blocks (MCBs) and 66 towns across the country during 2012-13, Union Minister of Minority Affairs K. Rahman Khan announced on June 5, 2013.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on June 4 cleared the Ministry's proposal to revamp the Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), making blocks instead of districts the criteria of its implementation. It also gave the Ministry the green signal to extend the scheme to cover "other deserving areas" — towns, cities or "clusters of minority-concentration villages."

Due to the change of criteria from districts to blocks, six more States — Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura — now come under the ambit of the scheme. MsDP, which is the national scheme for the development of minority-concentrated areas in the country, was revamped after a parliamentary panel pointed out that the intended beneficiaries were being ignored by the scheme, as several of the 90 districts that had blocks and areas with a high non-minority population were getting the benefits. (D)

- 668)** Residential premises of who among the following in New Delhi saw the launch of a shopping complex in June 2013?
- Prime Minister
 - President
 - Chief Justice of Supreme Court
 - Chief of Army Staff
 - Lok Sabha Speaker

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a renovated shopping complex at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 4, 2013. "The complex responds to a long-standing desire of the Rashtrapati Bhavan employees and their families living in the President's Estate to have a full-fledged shopping complex catering to all their requirements," said Venu Rajamony, Press Secretary to the President. Eight shops in the President's Estate market have been in existence since the pre-independence era, out of which six shops were available for fresh allotment. The complex will include six new shops, including a Safal outlet, a Kendriya Bhandar and a Shakti Haat. (C)

- 669)** Film Director Rituparno Ghosh passed away in Kolkata on June 6, 2013. Which of the following is an award won by him?
- National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali
 - National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi
 - National Film Award for Best Feature Film in English
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

National Film Awards won by Rituparno Ghosh		
Year	Film	Category
1995	<i>Unishe April</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film
1998	<i>Dahan</i>	National Film Award for Best Screenplay
	<i>Asukh</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali
2001	<i>Utsab</i>	National Film Award for Best Direction
2003	<i>Shubho Mahurat</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali
2004	<i>Chokher Bali</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali
2005	<i>Raincoat</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi

National Film Awards won by Rituparno Ghosh

Year	Film	Category
2008	<i>The Last Lear</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film in English
2009	<i>Sob Charitro Kalponik</i>	National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali
2010	<i>Abohoman</i>	National Film Award for Best Direction
		National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali
2012	<i>Chitrangada</i>	National Film Awards - Special Jury Award

Film Director Rituparno Ghosh passed away in Kolkata on June 6, 2013 at the age of 49. Born on August 31, 1963, Ghosh studied economics at Kolkata's Jadavpur University. He learnt the ropes from his documentary filmmaker-father, Sunil Ghosh, before branching out on his own in the world of advertising. Ghosh's directorial debut was the nondescript children's film 'Hirer Angti' ('The Diamond Ring'), made in the early 1990s but released only in 1994. It was with 'Unishe April' (April 19) that he burst on the scene. In less than two decades, Ghosh made nearly 20 films, the last being the incomplete 'Satyanweshi' ('Seeker of Truth'), his take on an adventure of the fictional sleuth Byomkesh Bakshi that he finished shooting days before his death. (E)

670) Atul Chitnis, who passed away at the age of 51 in June 2013, was known for his achievements in which of the following?
 a) Journalism
 b) Shipping
 c) Music
 d) Information technology
 e) Agriculture

Tech evangelist and open source advocate Atul Chitnis passed away on June 3, 2013 at the age of 51. Founder of popular conference FOSS.IN, he was an early champion of the open source movement in India. He was a columnist and consulting editor for PCQuest magazine. Chitnis is recognised for his role in making Linux popular for a range of users: from the military to the small entrepreneur. The Berlin-born technologist, who grew up in Belgaum, Karnataka, was a passionate advocate of open source software, and inspired scores of Linux enthusiasts. (D)

671) 15-year old Raghav Joneja was in news for which of the following in May 2013?
 a) Inventing solar torch
 b) First Indian to discover an asteroid
 c) Youngest Indian to visit Antarctica
 d) Youngest Indian to climb Mount Everest
 e) Youngest Indian to sail solo around the world
 f) First Indian to win gold medal in Physics Olympiad

At the age of 15 years and seven months, Raghav Joneja from Moradabad became the youngest Indian to scale the Mount Everest when he along with his five schoolmates summited the highest peak in the world. According to information disclosed on June 4, 2013, Raghav surpassed the record set by Arjun Vajpai by a week. A student of Lawrence School, Sanawar, Raghav achieved the remarkable feat on May 21 after embarking on an arduous 56 day-long journey. (C)

672) Competition Commission of India (CCI) _____ Competition and Consumer Commission signed a MOU to facilitate sharing information on significant developments in competition policy and enforcement developments in the respective jurisdictions in June 2013.
 a) British
 b) German
 c) Canadian
 d) Australian
 e) European Union

Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation at Canberra, Australia. The MOU was signed by Ashok Chawla, Chairperson, CCI and Rod Sims, Chairman, ACCC on June 3, 2013. The MOU provides for sharing information on significant developments in competition policy and enforcement developments in the respective jurisdictions. If MOU is expected to further strengthen existing cooperation between CCI and ACCC. (D)

673) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Australian Minister Stephen Smith?

- a) Kapil Sibal
- b) AK Antony
- c) Anand Sharma
- d) M. Veerappa Moily
- e) Salman Khurshid

India and Australia have agreed to hold joint naval exercise in 2015 to raise their defence cooperation initiatives to a higher level and strengthen their strategic partnership. Defence Minister A.K. Antony, who went on a two-day visit to Australia, met his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith in Perth on June 4, 2013. They travelled together to Canberra on June 5 to discuss shared strategic and security interests, including maritime security and bilateral defence cooperation. A joint statement issued at the conclusion of Antony's visit, the first by an Indian Defence Minister, stressed that both countries had agreed to continue Naval exchanges to build confidence and familiarity between the two Navies and work towards a bilateral maritime exercise in 2015. India and Australia had participated together in multilateral maritime exercises in Malabar in 2007 and in Milan in 2012. (B)

674) India has decided to participate in the prestigious International Fleet Review (IFR) to be held in _____ in October 2013.
 a) Tangerine
 b) Singapore
 c) Honolulu
 d) Istanbul
 e) Sydney

India and Australia acknowledged that maritime security and freedom of navigation in accordance with principles of international law were critical for the growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Antony accepted Smith's invitation for Indian naval ships' participation in the prestigious International Fleet Review (IFR) to be held in Sydney this October. The Indian Navy will get an opportunity to showcase its growing military capability at the IFR, where when mighty navies are expected to line up about 40 top-end warships. The Indian Navy's participation is being seen as part of a big strategy unfolding in the Indian Ocean region to contain the ever-growing presence of China's People's Liberation Army Navy. (E)

675) According to the report "Australia's Migration Trend 2011-12" released in June 2013, India was the _____ source of migrants to Australia.
 a) Biggest
 b) 2nd biggest
 c) 3rd biggest
 d) 4th biggest
 e) 5th biggest

A report titled "Australia's Migration Trend 2011-12" said that India was the biggest source of migrants to Australia. The report released on June 7, 2013 by the immigration minister Brendan O' Connor said the number of permanent migrants from India stood at 29,018 during 2011-12 which was an increase of 12.7 per cent on the previous year. (A)

676) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Singapore Minister Ng Eng Hen?
 a) Kapil Sibal
 b) AK Antony
 c) Anand Sharma
 d) M. Veerappa Moily
 e) Salman Khurshid

India and Singapore have signed a new agreement to extend the use of training and exercise facilities in India by the Singapore Army for five years from August 2013. Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur and Singapore Permanent Secretary of Defence Chiang Chie Foo signed the agreement in Singapore on June 3, 2013 in the presence of Defence Minister A.K. Antony and his Singaporean counterpart Ng Eng Hen. Antony was on visit to Singapore, Australia and Thailand from June 3-5, 2013. Antony's visit to Australia was the first ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister during which he held talks with his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith and Prime Minister Julia Gillard. During his visit to Thailand, the Indian Defence Minister held talks with his counterpart Air Chief Marshal Sukampol Suwanat and Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. (B)

677) India is the fourth largest trading partner of which neighbouring country after Thailand, Singapore and China?
 a) Nepal
 b) Bhutan
 c) Sri Lanka

- d) Myanmar
- e) Bangladesh

Setting a bilateral trade target of \$3 billion, India and Myanmar on June 7, 2013 discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation in sectors such as textiles, infrastructure, oil and gas. Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, who was on a three-day visit to Myanmar, met Energy Minister U Than Htay and conveyed the interest of Indian banks in setting up their branches in Myanmar. In 2012, trade between the countries stood at \$1.87 billion. India is the fourth largest trading partner of Myanmar after Thailand, Singapore and China. (D)

- 678)** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) established a fellowship in the honour of who among the following at the California Institute of Technology, USA, in June 2013?
- a) C. V. Raman
 - b) Satish Dhawan
 - c) Vikram Sarabhai
 - d) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar
 - e) Homi Jehangir Bhabha

The Department of Space/Indian Space Research Organisation on June 3, 2013 established an endowed fellowship at the Graduate Aerospace Laboratories of the California Institute of Technology, California, USA. This fellowship is established in honor of Prof. Satish Dhawan, who was the former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation during its formative period 1972-1984. Prof. Satish Dhawan was an alumnus of the Graduate Aerospace Laboratories at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and obtained his PhD in aerospace in 1951. He was serving as Distinguished Visiting Professor during 1971-72 at Caltech, immediately preceding his assumption of the Chairmanship of ISRO in 1972. The Government of India honoured Prof. Satish Dhawan by awarding him Padma Vibhushan in the year 1981. The fellowship provides an excellent opportunity every year starting from the winter session of the academic year 2013-14 to one meritorious graduating student from the Aerospace Department of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram to be sponsored by the Department of Space, to pursue Masters in Aerospace Engineering at Caltech. (B)

- 679)** Which country's Supreme Constitutional Court declared its Shura Council and Constituent Assembly as illegal in June 2013?
- a) Iran
 - b) Turkey
 - c) Egypt
 - d) Tunisia
 - e) Afghanistan

Supreme Constitutional Court, Egypt's highest court, ruled on June 2, 2013 that the nation's Islamist-dominated legislature – Shura Council and Constituent Assembly were illegally elected, dealing a serious blow to the legal basis of the Islamists' hold on power. Presiding Judge Maher al-Beheiry said the Shura Council that was thrust into a legislative role when Parliament was dissolved, would maintain its powers until a new lower house was elected later this year. As for the constitution, it would remain in place because it was adopted by a popular referendum, it said. The constitution was adopted in a nationwide vote in December 2012 with a relatively low turnout of about 35 per cent. (C)

- 680)** Rial is the currency of:
- a) Iran
 - b) Turkey
 - c) Egypt
 - d) Tunisia
 - e) Afghanistan

The Obama administration imposed new sanctions on June 3, 2013 on Iran and its nuclear programme, targeting the country's currency and auto industry. The executive order from President Barack Obama broadened a sanctions campaign aimed at crippling Iran's economy, to force it to comply with international demands that it prove its nuclear programme is peaceful. The new sanctions marked the first time Iran's currency, the Rial, has been targeted directly with sanctions, said the White House. (A)

- 681)** Who among the following is the whistleblower who exposed the phone & internet surveillance program of the US government's National Security Agency (NSA) in June 2013?
- a) Daniel Ellsberg
 - b) Aaron Swartz
 - c) Julian Assange

- d) Edward Snowden
- e) Bradley Manning

USA's National Security Agency (NSA) has gained direct access to the servers of nine prominent tech companies, enabling the spy agency to gather e-mails, videos, and photographs, among other digital communications, according to a report in the Washington Post on June 6, 2013. The revelations say that the anti-terror agents from the FBI and National Security Agency (NSA) were tapping servers of nine Internet giants — including Apple, Facebook, Microsoft, YouTube and Google. The Washington Post reported that the NSA had direct access to Internet firm servers, to track an individual's web presence via audio, video, photographs and emails. The anti-terror program is aimed only at non-Americans who are not on US soil. Some of the biggest firms in Silicon Valley were caught up in the program, known as PRISM, including Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, Apple, AOL, Skype and YouTube, the report said. Internet giants however have denied opening their doors for US spy agencies to snoop in on customers. Edward Joseph Snowden, a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), had leaked the details about PRISM to the Press. (D)

- 682)** National Council is the Lower House of Parliament in which European country?
- a) France
 - b) Norway
 - c) Germany
 - d) Switzerland
 - e) United Kingdom

The Lower House of the Swiss Parliament on June 5, 2013 refused to debate a government deal settling a dispute with Washington over the alleged complicity by Swiss banks in tax evasion by Americans. With 100 votes opposed and 90 votes in favour, the National Council decided to freeze its urgent handling of the settlement until it has more information about the conditions demanded by Washington. Washington has repeatedly accused Swiss banks of complicity in tax evasion, since they hold billions of dollars belonging to American citizens that are not declared to U.S. tax authorities. (D)

- 683)** NetTraveler, which was in news in June 2013, is a/an:
- a) Travel portal
 - b) Internet virus
 - c) Web browser
 - d) Domain name registration agency
 - e) Location finder mobile phone application

India has been a prime target of a Chinese cyber-espionage campaign that has been active for at least eight years, according to Russia's leading IT security provider. A report released by the Kaspersky Global Research and Analysis Lab unveiled on June 6, 2013 said an ongoing hacking attack dubbed "NetTraveler" has hit hundreds of victims in 40 countries since 2005 or 2004, "with the highest number in Mongolia, India and Russia". The "medium-sized threat actor group from China", estimated to comprise about 50 individuals has focused on stealing data on space research, nanotechnology, energy production, nuclear power, laser technology, medicine and communications. The Lab described NetTraveler as "a malicious data exfiltration tool" that takes advantage of old flaws in Microsoft Office to deliver spear-phishing emails. Kaspersky Lab is best known for uncovering Flame and Stuxnet spyware, which targeted Iran's nuclear programme. (B)

- 684)** Which African country was in June 2013 awarded £20 million in compensation by Britain for rights abuses in curbing the Mau Mau rebellion in 1960s?
- a) Togo
 - b) Kenya
 - c) Nigeria
 - d) Zimbabwe
 - e) South Africa

Britain is to pay £20 million in compensation to Kenyans tortured by its colonial forces for alleged role in the Mau Mau rebellion in the 1950s and 1960s opening the door for similar payouts to victims of the "raj". It has also acknowledged for the first time that Kenyans were "subject to torture, and other forms of ill-treatment at the hands of the colonial administration", and apologised for the abuses. The move, announced by Foreign Secretary William Hague on June 6, 2013, follows a High Court verdict allowing three elderly Kenyans to go ahead with legal action demanding compensation. The verdict led to a settlement between the government and the victims' lawyers. Hague said 5,228 victims would receive £19.9 million. (B)

685) What is the global unemployment today according to the World of Work Report unveiled by the International Labour Organisation in June 2013?

- a) 100 million
- b) 150 million
- c) 200 million
- d) 250 million
- e) 300 million

The potential for social unrest in European Union countries is higher than anywhere else in the world and the already yawning gaps between rich and poor, a major trigger, are likely to widen globally, the International Labour Organisation said on June 3, 2013. In its annual World of Work Report, the ILO said social unrest - strikes, work stoppages, street protests and demonstrations - had increased in most countries since the economic and financial crisis that began in 2008. 'Repairing the economic and social fabric' was the theme of World of Work Report 2013. Major issues discussed in the report are as follows:

The employment and social outlook differs considerably both across countries and within them. Over the past three years, the majority of emerging and developing economies have posted positive employment gains. In addition, they have managed to reduce income inequalities somewhat - albeit from relatively high levels. The result is a growing middle-income group, with particularly encouraging progress in some Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as in parts of Asia and some sub-Saharan countries.

The situation among advanced economies, however, is more complex. In the aftermath of the global financial crisis which erupted in 2008, some advanced economies have managed to recover some of the jobs lost. This is particularly the case in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. More recently, encouraging signs of recovery have also been observed in the United States and in Japan. Europe, by contrast, is still confronted with significant challenges and in many respects its labour market and social outlook continues to deteriorate.

On the present course, global unemployment is expected to approach 308 million in 2015, up from 200 million today. And long-standing labour market imbalances - such as high levels of labour market informality in developing countries and long-term unemployment in advanced economies - will remain acute.

This report highlights the crucial role of well-designed employment and social policies both in consolidating the gains where a recovery is underway and in kick-starting job creation in countries still severely affected by the crisis. **(C)**

686) According to the 2013 Data Breach Investigations Report unveiled by _____ in June 2013, China is the "most active source" of national and industrial cyber espionage in the world.

- a) Norton
- b) McAfee
- c) Verizon
- d) Kaspersky
- e) Ernst & Young

China is the "most active source" of national and industrial cyber espionage in the world, a report by US-based telecom major Verizon alleged on June 3, 2013. The 2013 Data Breach Investigations Report analyses more than 47,000 reported security incidents and 621 confirmed data breaches from the past year. "96% of espionage cases were attributed to threat actors in China and the remaining 4% were unknown. "This may mean that other threat groups perform their activities with greater stealth and subterfuge. But it could also mean that China is, in fact, the most active source of national and industrial espionage in the world today," the report said. On financially motivated cyber crimes, the report said: "The majority of financially motivated incidents involved actors in either the US or Eastern European countries (Romania, Bulgaria, and the Russian Federation)." **(C)**

687) The Romanian village of Clinceni created the record for the world's largest _____ in June 2013, according to Guinness World Records.

- a) Cake
- b) Kite
- c) Shirt
- d) Chair
- e) Flag

A Romanian village on June 3, 2013 unfurled what is the largest flag ever made, according to Guinness World Records. It took about 200 people several hours to roll out the flag, which measured about 349 metres by 227 metres, said the adjudicator for Guinness World Records who measured the flag before pronouncing it the biggest flag in the world. He said Romania's red, yellow and blue flag covers an area of about 79,290 square metres, downing Lebanon

which had held the previous record. The five-tonne flag was displayed in Clinceni, 35 kilometres southeast of Bucharest. **(E)**

688) World Anti-_____ Day was observed on June 8, 2013.

- a) Counterfeiting
- b) Corruption
- c) Terrorism
- d) Racism
- e) Piracy

World Anti-Counterfeiting Day was observed on June 8, 2013. Established in 1998 by the Global Anti-Counterfeiting Group (GACG), this day is held every year at the end of June to raise awareness of the international costs of counterfeiting and piracy. **(A)**

689) According to a report unveiled by the _____ in June 2013, obesity costs the global economy \$1.4 trillion a year in terms of lost productivity and spiralling health care bills.

- a) World Bank
- b) UNICEF
- c) FAO
- d) WHO
- e) ILO

The U.N.'s food agency has said obesity and poor nutrition weigh heavily on the global economy and told governments that investing in food health would bring big economic as well as social returns. Lost productivity and spiralling health care bills linked to obesity cost the world economy around \$1.4 trillion a year, said the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome on June 6, 2013. Some 1.4 billion people in the world are now overweight and a third of them are obese. FAO said rising urbanisation, sedentary lifestyles and the increased availability of packaged foods meant policy-makers faced significant challenges in bettering nutrition and reversing obesity. **(C)**

690) Who among the following was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Palestine on June 2, 2013?

- a) Mahmoud Abbas
- b) Sadeq Larijani
- c) Rami Hamdallah
- d) Manouchehr Mottaki
- e) Mohammad-Reza Rahimi

Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, a little-known academic and political independent, looks set to follow closely in the footsteps of his Western-backed predecessor Salam Fayyad in a move likely to be welcomed by the international community. Hamdallah, named to the post on June 2, 2013 in Ramallah by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, is a linguist who heads one of the top universities in the West Bank but is completely unknown overseas. Hamdallah said he would leave the government lineup largely unchanged and will step aside in the summer after the formation of a government of national unity comprising Abbas's Fatah party and its Islamist rival, Hamas. The appointment was welcomed by Fatah, which dominates the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA), but rejected by Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. Reaction in Israel and abroad was more positive, with Washington welcoming his appointment, and Israeli pundits describing him as "a good man" and a moderate pragmatist vis-à-vis the Jewish state. **(C)**

691) The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) is based in Paris, France, and _____, Germany, with subsidiaries in Singapore and India.

- a) Leipzig
- b) Frankfurt
- c) Hamburg
- d) Darmstadt
- e) Nuremberg

Tomas Brunegard, chairman of Sweden's Stampen Media Group, is the new president of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). He was elected to a two-year term during WAN-IFRA's annual general meeting in Bangkok on June 5, 2013. He succeeds Jacob Mathew of the Kerala-based Malayala Manorama. The 65th World Newspaper Congress, the 20th World Editors Forum, and the 23rd World Advertising Forum were held in Bangkok from June 2 to 5. WAN-IFRA, based in Paris, France, and Darmstadt, Germany, with subsidiaries in Singapore and India, is the global organisation of the world's newspapers and news publishers. It represents more than 18,000 publications, 15,000 online sites and over 3,000 companies in more than 120 countries. Its core mission

is to defend and promote press freedom, quality journalism and editorial integrity and the development of prosperous businesses. (D)

692) Where was the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia organised in June 2013?

- Manila
- Bangkok
- Vientiane
- Nay Pyi Taw
- Ho Chi Minh City

Suu Kyi to contest Myanmar Presidential elections: Myanmar's opposition leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on June 6, 2013 declared her intention to run for President in 2015 and sought amendment to the country's Constitution under which she is not eligible to contest. The veteran democracy activist made this declaration at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia organised at capital Nay Pyi Taw. Suu Kyi is the Chairperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD). The session themed 'Myanmar: What Future?' also saw participation of Union Minister, Office of the President of Myanmar Soe Thane. Over 1,000 participants from 55 countries are participated in the WEF on East Asia. The meeting saw over 100 public figures representing 15 countries, including heads of state or government from Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam. (D)

693) Whose trial began in the US in June 2013 for leaking classified US government data to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks in 2007?

- Daniel Ellsberg
- Aaron Swartz
- Julian Assange
- Edward Snowden
- Bradley Manning

U.S. Army Private First Class Bradley Manning faced life in prison as his trial began on at Fort Meade, Maryland on June 3, 2013, three years after he was charged with providing teams of highly-sensitive material to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. Manning (25), a former intelligence analyst, has admitted to giving troves of information to WikiLeaks, but military prosecutors want to prove he aided the enemy, which carries a potential life sentence. They said they would present evidence that former al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden asked for and received information WikiLeaks published. Manning's supporters hail him as a whistleblowing hero and political prisoner. Others say he is a traitor who endangered lives and national security. Defence attorney David Coombs said Manning selectively leaked material he believed could make the world a better place, mentioning an unclassified video of a 2007 U.S. Apache helicopter attack that killed civilians, including a photographer from Reuters. (E)

694) The 100,000 Euro International Impac Dublin Literary Award was conferred on an Irish author in June 2013 for which of the following novels?

- The End of the Story
- Almost No Memory
- City of Bohane
- Varieties of Disturbance
- Let the Great World Spin

Irish author Kevin Barry has won the 100,000 euros International Impac Dublin Literary Award. Barry won the award on June 6, 2013 for his debut novel, 'City of Bohane'. "Kevin Barry's Ireland of 2053 is a place you may not want to be alive in, but you'll certainly relish reading about," commented the judges. The Impac Dublin prize is open to novels in any language which have been published in, or translated into, English. The prize is organised by Dublin city libraries on behalf of Dublin City Council. Other previous winners include Even the Dogs by Jon McGregor in 2012, Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann in 2011 for and The Twin by Gerbrand Bakker 2010. (C)

695) 86-year old Mel Brooks of the US is well-known for achievements in:

- Films
- Music
- Sports
- Painting
- Journalism

Comic film director Mel Brooks was honoured with a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles on June 7, 2013. Robert DeNiro and David Lynch were among those who attended the Hollywood ceremony to pay tribute to the 86-year-old, whose films include Young Frankenstein and The Producers. Past recipients of the prize include Martin Scorsese, Elizabeth Taylor, Kirk Douglas, Spielberg and George Lucas. In 1969,

Brooks won an Oscar for writing The Producers, a comedy about two schemers who figure out how to make money by producing a sure-fire Broadway flop - a musical about Adolf Hitler. (A)

696) Who among the following won the £30,000 annual Women's Prize for Fiction for her novel 'May We Be Forgiven' in June 2013?

- AM Homes
- Zadie Smith
- Kate Atkinson
- Maria Semple
- Barbara Kingsolver

AM Homes has won the £30,000 annual Women's Prize for Fiction for her novel 'May We Be Forgiven', a dark satire of contemporary America. Homes picked up her prize at an awards ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall in London on June 5, 2013. (A)

697) Mohammed Shafique Khan (Sagar, Madhya Pradesh), Gandhi Vidya Mandir (Churu, Rajasthan), R. Ravi Kannan (Silchar, Assam), Sushila Bohra (Jodhpur, Rajasthan) were conferred the "16th _____ Awards for Excellence in Human Endeavour" in June 2013.

- Buddha
- Mahaveer
- Ambedkar
- Mother Teresa
- Satya Sai Baba

The Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari presented "16th Mahaveer Awards for Excellence in Human Endeavour" instituted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation in New Delhi on June 4, 2013. These awards were presented to four distinguished awardees who have made remarkable contribution to society in their respective fields - (i) Mohd. Shafique Khan, of Sagar, Madhya Pradesh for Excellence in the sphere of 'Non-violence & Vegetarianism'; (ii) Gandhi Vidya Mandir, of Churu, Rajasthan for Excellence in the sphere of 'Education'; (iii) Dr. R. Ravi Kannan of Silchar, Assam for Excellence in the sphere of 'Medicine'; and (iv) Smt. Sushila Bohra of Jodhpur, Rajasthan for Excellence in the sphere of 'Community & Social service'. These awards carry a cash component of Rs. 10 Lakhs, a Citation and a Memento each. (B)

698) Who among the following was conferred with "Legend of Planet" award in Paris in June 2013 for work in the field of affordable sanitation in India?

- Jai Prakash
- Ganga Charan
- Mahendra Mohan
- Bindeshwar Pathak
- Veerpal Singh Yadav

Environmentalist Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of the famed Sulabh project that provides basic and affordable toilet access to India's poor, has been presented with the "Legend of Planet" award in Paris on June 3, 2013. As the founder of Sulabh International, he pioneered a "toilet revolution" in India using indigenously-developed, cheaper and eco-friendly toilet technology. The award coincided with the launch of the first-ever Green Games organised at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, bringing together environmentalists from all over the world to discuss burning environmental issues and mark World Environment Day on June 5. Six other environmentalists from across the world were also presented with the award at a private reception hosted by the President of French Senate, Jean Pierre Bel. (D)

699) The first issue of the inflation-indexed bonds (IIBs) by the Reserve Bank of India on June 4, 2013 received good response from investors. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Banks' investment in IIBs will be eligible for statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirements
- Minimum investment in IIBs was Rs. 10000
- Interest income in IIBs will be tax exempt from taxation

- I only
- I and II only
- II and III only
- III and I only
- I, II and III

The first issue of the 10-year inflation-indexed bonds by the Reserve Bank of India on June 4, 2013 was subscribed four times on the back of a strong response from institutional investors such as banks and insurance companies. The bonds will mature in 2023.

The rate of return on these bonds would be calculated by using the rate of wholesale price index-based inflation four months ago. Therefore, for this issue, the return will be calculated on the basis of January's WPI number, which stood at 7.31 per cent.

The bonds are structured in such a way that the interest rate, or the coupon rate, will be fixed throughout their tenure. However, the principal value will be adjusted against inflation and coupon payments will be paid on this adjusted principal.

By way of illustration, let's say that the bonds are issued at a face value of Rs.1000 and a coupon of 5 per cent. If the indexed-inflation rate is 5 per cent, the interest will be calculated on Rs.1050 for that year. If inflation climbs to 10 per cent, the 5 per cent coupon pay-out will be on an adjusted principal of Rs.1155. Thus the IIBs will give protection to both principal and interest.

On maturity, the adjusted principal or the face value, whichever is higher, is paid to the investors.

The inflation-indexed bonds will be a part of the government's borrowing programme for the first half of this fiscal.

In May 2013, the government had announced plans to issue inflation-indexed bonds with a 10-year maturity worth Rs 12,000-15,000 crore in the current fiscal.

While the first series of the bonds will be open to all class of investors, the second series to be issue from October 2013 will be reserved for retail investors.

The bonds present a reasonably good option to investors seeking regular return, and also reasonable protection from inflation.

The government expects the IIBs to wean the retail investors away from their preference for gold. The insatiable demand for gold has driven up imports and created a huge current account deficit.

Gold, especially, has scored over other investment avenues for many reasons: it has consistently beaten inflation, gives capital gains, requires no documentation, no TDS or capital gains and, most importantly, confers anonymity.

The first series of these bonds (issued on June 4, 2013) are called Capital Indexed Bonds (CIBs) and were offered primarily to institutional investors. The IIBs will be part of public debt. Banks can invest in them to meet their statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirements.

Individual investors can invest from Rs.10000 to Rs.2 crore. Interest will be paid half-yearly. There are no tax concessions for investing in these bonds. (B)

700) The government on June 4, 2013 announced its decision to start non-binding conciliation process to settle its \$2 billion tax dispute with which multinational company?

- Posco
- Boeing
- Walmart
- Vodafone
- General Electric

The Union Cabinet on June 4, 2013 approved conciliation process with British telecom giant Vodafone in the \$2-billion (Rs. 11200 crore) tax dispute case, originating from its 2007 acquisition of Hutchison's stake in Hutchison Essar. However, the outcome of the case would have to be ultimately be approved by Parliament. The Vodafone case had almost become a trendsetting issue as the decision to make retrospective tax claims drew strong criticism from global corporate groups and led to virtual intervention by the British government at the highest level. The case led to a negative sentiment among the foreign investors. Briefing journalists after the Cabinet meeting, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said: "We have just accepted a proposal for a non-binding conciliation. If the outcome is acceptable to the government then it will go to Cabinet and thereafter to Parliament for approval." Chidambaram said there was no time frame for the conciliation and the government would communicate it to Vodafone in a day or two. He made it clear that the proposal was for conciliation under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and said it was not arbitration. (D)

701) The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to install more than two thousand mobile towers in nine Left-Wing-Extremism-affected states on June 2013. These will be financed by:

- Wireless Development Fund
- Telecom Service Obligation Fund
- Universal Service Obligation Fund
- Backward Area Development Fund
- Internal Security Development Fund

The Union Cabinet on June 4, 2013 cleared a proposal to install 2,199 mobile towers in nine Left-Wing-Extremism-affected States at a cost of over Rs.3,000 crore. The towers will come up in locations identified by the Home Ministry in the next 15 months. "The project would be executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. BSNL has already installed towers at 363 locations. Universal Service Obligation Fund would fund the capital expenditure and operational expenditure net of revenue for five years. Maximum outgo from the USO Fund is estimated to be Rs.3046 crore," an official release said. (C)

702) The _____ annual general meeting (AGM) of the Indian Banks' Association was organised in Mumbai in June 2013.

- 66th
- 67th
- 68th
- 69th
- 70th

Finance Minister P Chidambaram on June 6, 2013 said a committee had been appointed to "identify and help" re-start as many as 215 large projects worth Rs 7 lakh crore which have been stalled for years and assured each of these projects would be off the ground at the earliest. Chidambaram said the Prime Minister approved the appointment of Anil Swarup from the Cabinet Secretariat as the head of a panel to identify and help restart the 215 large projects that have been stalled for one reason or other for years. The Finance Minister made this announcement at the 66th annual general meeting of the Indian Banks' Association in Mumbai. Giving a break-up of the stalled projects, he said while 215 are large projects worth Rs 7 lakh crore, 126 stuck projects are medium worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore. Chidambaram said these projects are stalled due to a host of reasons such as forest clearance issues and pollution concerns. (A)

703) Union Ministries and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are required to make a minimum of 20% of their annual purchase from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) sector. A minimum of _____ of this purchase has to come from MSEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs.

- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5%

Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram on June 7, 2013 launched the first social impact fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Called the DICCI (Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry) SME Fund, it is a venture capital corpus. Initiated by the Dalit chamber, it aims to raise Rs 500 crore over 10 years and finance dalit entrepreneurs to set up businesses. The fund was launched with an initial contribution of Rs 10 crore by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director Sushil Mhnot handed over a commitment letter to Milind Kamble, Chairman of DICCI (Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry) contributing Rs. 10 crore to the corpus of DICCI SME Fund.

Chidambaram said the newly announced Public Procurement Policy mandates 20 per cent of all government and public procurement to be made from the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) sector. It further stipulates four per cent of all purchases be made from firms run by SC/ST entrepreneurs. The Government, in 2012, had approved a policy under which Ministries and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are required to make a minimum of 20% of their annual purchase from MSEs. At least 4% of this purchase should be made from MSEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs. (D)

704) Cost Inflation Index, announced by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in June 2013, is used in computing which of the following?

- Wealth Tax
- Education Cess
- MGNREGA Wages
- Long-term Capital Gains Tax
- Commodities Transaction Tax

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on June 7, 2013 specified a value for the cost inflation index for 2013-14. A cost inflation index helps reduce the inflationary gains, thereby reducing the long-term capital gains tax payout for a taxpayer. In 2012-13, the index was '852', and this year it is '939'. This means there has been a 10.2 per cent rise in the cost inflation index for 2013-14. The index is useful for income-tax assesses in the computation of tax on long-term capital gains (for indexation purposes). In the previous year (2011-12), the cost inflation index increased 8.5 per cent. Currently, the income-tax law allows long-term capital gains to be computed after adjusting for inflation. The cost of acquisition as well as the cost of improvement is adjusted for inflation between the date of purchase and date of sale (through the cost inflation index) before the long-term capital gain is ascertained. The income-tax law requires the CBDT to specify the cost inflation index for a financial year after factoring in 75 per cent of average rise in consumer price index for urban non-manual employees for the immediately preceding financial year. (D)

- 705)** The government hiked the import duty on gold to _____ on June 5, 2013.
- 6 per cent
 - 8 per cent
 - 10 per cent
 - 12 per cent
 - 14 per cent

With spiralling gold imports putting huge pressure on the current account deficit, the government on June 5, 2013 hiked the import duty on gold to 8 per cent, up by 2 percentage points, in a bid to rein in demand. "The import duty on gold has been increased from 6 per cent to 8 per cent," said Revenue Secretary Sumit Bose. This is the second hike in the duty in six months as gold imports touched an alarming 162 tonnes in May. (B)

- 706)** India is expected to face an energy shortage of _____ in 2012-13 according to a projection from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in June 2013.
- 4.7%
 - 6.7%
 - 8.7%
 - 10.7%
 - 12.7%

The country is expected to experience energy shortage of 6.7% and peak shortage of 2.3% in the current financial year with the southern region expected to be the worst hit. The latest projections from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the planning body for the Indian power sector, come at a time when acute coal shortages, environmental hurdles and transmission woes are hurting electricity generation. CEA in its report said released on June 7, 2013, "The country is expected to experience energy shortage of 6.7 per cent and a peak shortage of 2.3 per cent with very high shortages to be experienced by the southern region. This is due to transmission constraints between Northern-North Eastern-Eastern-Western-Southern Regional Grid, which restricts flow of power to the southern region". Energy shortfall is expected to be 70,232 million units (MU), resulting in a deficit of 6.7 per cent. The requirement would be 10,48,533 MU whereas the availability is pegged at 9,78,301 MU. The projections have been made after taking into consideration power availability from operating stations, fuel and water availability at hydro electric plants. (B)

- 707)** Which multinational bank publishes the monthly Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) that tracks the growth of manufacturing sector in India?
- HSBC
 - Citibank
 - Barclays Bank
 - Stanchart Bank
 - Bank of America

India's manufacturing output in May 2013 fell for the first time since March 2009 according to HSBC's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), released on June 4, 2013. In May, the PMI fell to a 50-month low of 50.1 points, from a 17-month low of 51 the previous month (a reading above 50 points indicates growth, while that below 50 signifies a contraction in industry). Markit Economics, the financial information firm that compiles PMI, attributed the output contraction to persistent power outages and a reflection of weaker orders. (A)

- 708)** Which of the following in its report titled 'Capital for the Future: Saving and Investment in an Interdependent World', released in June 2013, said China and India will account for 38 per cent of the global gross investment in 2013?
- World Bank
 - World Economic Forum
 - Asian Development Bank

- World Trade Organisation
- International Monetary Fund

China and India will be the largest investors among developing countries in 2030, accounting for 38 per cent of the global gross investment, says a World Bank report released on June 3, 2013. The two countries will also account for almost half the global manufacturing investment, it says. The report, titled 'Capital for the Future: Saving and Investment in an Interdependent World', said India's share in global investments is expected to almost double by 2030. (A)

- 709)** India was the world's _____ producer of steel in 2012-13, World Steel Association (WSA) said on June 5, 2013.
- largest
 - second largest
 - third largest
 - fourth largest
 - fifth largest

India, the world's fourth largest steel maker, logged 5.86 per cent growth in production in 2012-13 - the highest among major global producers, World Steel Association (WSA) said on June 5, 2013. According to WSA, India produced 78.12 million tonne (MT) steel during the fiscal as against 73.39 MT in 2011-12. China had produced the maximum steel during the fiscal at 726.33 MT, almost half of the world's total output of 1,521 MT; but India outpaced the neighbour in the rate of growth. Production in China grew by 5.39 per cent during 2012-13 over 689.192 MT in 2011-12. Global production grew by 1.59 per cent during the fiscal. World's second largest steel maker Japan produced 107.30 MT in 2012-13 while the US, the world's third largest steel producing nation, produced 86.94 MT in 2012-13. (D)

- 710)** Where was an "Integrated Shipbuilding Facility" inaugurated by Minister of State for Defence Jitendra Singh on June 6, 2013?
- ABG Shipyard
 - Pipavav Shipyard
 - Mazagaon Dock
 - Hindustan Shipyard
 - Garden Reach Shipbuilding

"The time taken by our ship building companies to deliver on orders for warships does not match the Indian Navy's induction plans for maintaining optimum fleet level," said Minister of State for Defence Jitendra Singh at Kolkata on June 6, 2013. Singh, who inaugurated the "Integrated Shipbuilding Facility" at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Main Works, said that implementing modular shipbuilding technology would enhance the capability of GRSE to deliver modern warships to the Navy on time. The facility would cost about Rs. 500 crore. (E)

- 711)** Where was the 7th International Banking & Finance Conference organised in June 2013?
- New Delhi
 - Mumbai
 - Bangalore
 - Chennai
 - Kolkata

The Governor, RBI, D. Subbarao addressed the inaugural function of the 7th International Banking & Finance Conference, in Mumbai on June 5, 2013. (B)

- 712)** Which state/union territory launched India's first Seaplane Tourist Service in June 2013?
- Goa
 - Kerala
 - Odisha
 - Karnataka
 - Lakshadweep Islands

Kerala on June 2, 2013 launched the country's first tourist seaplane service to provide easy connectivity to distant backwater destinations. The amphibian service was flagged off by chief minister Oommen Chandy amid protest by traditional fishermen who claimed that it could pose a threat to their livelihood and marine ecology. The maiden service of a six-seater Cessna 206 floatplane will run between Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam and Punnamada in Alappuzha. The service in due course envisages connecting the entire stretch of Kerala with Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode airports, being base stations. (B)

- 713)** Which of the following is the location of the proposed Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University, whose foundation stone was laid by the President on June 6, 2013?
- Dehradun
 - Shimla
 - Raipur
 - Bhopal
 - New Delhi

President Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University on June 6, 2013 at Bhopal. A newsletter 'Atal Samvad' was released on the occasion and its first copy was presented to the President. **(D)**

- 714)** Which country received the ICC Shield and a cheque for USD 175,000 on June 3, 2013 for finishing on top of ICC Championship Table for One Day Internationals (ODIs) in the cricketing year ended April 1, 2013?
- South Africa
 - England
 - Australia
 - India
 - West Indies

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on June 3, 2013 received the ICC Shield for finishing as the No. 1 ODI team in the Championship table on the April 1, 2013 cut-off date. Former ICC president David Morgan presented Dhoni a silver salver and a cheque for USD 175,000 at Cardiff. India (119 points) are followed by Australia (116) and South Africa (113) are No. 2 and No. 3, respectively. This is the first time since the current ranking system was introduced in 2002 that India have finished as the number-one ranked ODI side on April 1 cut-off date. India had claimed the number-one spot from England after winning the series 3-2 in January 2013, and, in the 12-month period between April 1, 2012 and April 1, 2013, they won eight out of 13 ODIs while losing five ODIs. **(D)**

- 715)** Who among the following has launched a badminton academy at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh in June 2013?
- Pullela Gopichand
 - Chetan Anand
 - Jwala Gutta
 - Parupalli Kashyap
 - Saina Nehwal

International shuttler B. Chetan Anand launched his academy named Chetan Anand Badminton Foundation at the Dandamudi Rajagopala Rao Municipal Corporation indoor stadium in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on June 2, 2013. **(B)**

- 716)** Neymar of Brazil is known for achievements in which sport?
- Cycling
 - Football
 - Volleyball
 - Basketball
 - Formula One

Brazilian sensation Neymar signed with Spanish powerhouse Barcelona for five years in a deal worth 57 million euros on June 3, 2013 making it the eighth most expensive signing in football history. **(B)**

- 717)** Election for the post of President of the International Olympic Committee will be held in September 2013. Who among the following contenders for the post of IOC President is an Olympic gold medallist and world record holder in athletics?
- Thomas Bach
 - Ser Miang Ng
 - Sergey Bubka
 - Richard Carrion
 - Denis Oswald

The International Olympic Committee on June 7, 2013 officially declared its presidential election a six-man race to succeed Jacques Rogge in September. They are: IOC vice presidents Thomas Bach of Germany and Ser Miang Ng of Singapore; executive board members Sergey Bubka of Ukraine and C K Wu of Taiwan; and former board members Richard Carrion of Puerto Rico and Denis Oswald of Switzerland. The election is scheduled for September 10 at the

IOC annual assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The six will pitch to 100-plus IOC members at closed-door meetings in Lausanne on July 3-4. Rogge is stepping down after completing the maximum 12-year mandate. Sergey Bubka is an Olympic gold medallist and the Men's world record holder in Pole Vault. **(C)**

- 718)** India-born Amol Rajan was in news June 2013 for his appointment as Editor of which newspaper in United Kingdom?
- The Sun
 - The Times
 - New Statesman
 - The Guardian
 - The Independent

Indian-born Amol Rajan (29) has been appointed editor of the London morning daily The Independent, making him Fleet Street's first non-white editor, the newspaper reported on June 17. Evgeny Lebedev is the owner of The Independent, The Independent on Sunday, i and The London Evening Standard. Rajan moved to Britain at the age of three and grew up in London where he attended a comprehensive secondary school. He went on to read English at Cambridge University and edited the prestigious student magazine Varsity. Before joining The Independent as a reporter, he worked briefly for the London Evening Standard and Channel 5. **(E)**

- 719)** Which of the following had the highest number of high-networth individuals (HNIs) in 2012 according to the World Wealth Report 2013, released by Capgemini and RBC Wealth Management in June 2013?
- Australia
 - Europe
 - Asia-Pacific
 - North America
 - Africa

The World Wealth Report 2013 was released by Capgemini and RBC Wealth Management on June 19, 2013. India clocked 22.2 per cent growth in its population of high-networth individuals (HNIs), or those with \$1 million or more in investable assets, in the 2012 calendar year. The rate was the second-highest, next only to Hong Kong, which saw 35.7 per cent growth. India, which had 125500 HNIs in 2011, had 153360 HNIs in 2012. USA is at the top with 3436000 while Japan comes second at 1007000 HNIs in 2012. As many as one million individuals joined the global HNI population, reflecting an increase of 9.2 per cent in 2012, North America's population of 3.73 million HNIs surpassed Asia-Pacific's 3.68 million, while its HNI wealth reached \$12.7 trillion, above Asia-Pacific's \$12.0 trillion. **(D)**

- 720)** TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people was released in New York on April 18, 2013. The 100 people are selected under the categories artists, leaders, pioneers, titans and _____.
- Gurus
 - Icons
 - Tycoons
 - Dons
 - Athletes

Finance Minister P Chidambaram and actor Aamir Khan have been named by Time magazine among the 100 most influential people in the world in its annual list of global achievers released in New York on April 18, 2013. TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world comprises artists, leaders, pioneers, titans and icons

Titans • Jay Z • Valerie Jarrett • Elon Musk • Oh-Hyun Kwon • Scooter Braun • Kevin Systrom • Michael Kors • Palaniappan Chidambaram • Ren Zhengfei • Ted Sarandos • Gina Rinehart • Markus Persson and Jens Bergensten • Igor Sechin • Tadashi Yanai • Sam Yagan • Shonda Rhimes • LeBron James • David Einhorn • Magnus Carlsen • Sheryl Sandberg

Leaders: • Rand Paul • Noynoy Aquino • Barack Obama • Chris Christie • Hassan Sheik Mohamud • John Brennan • Park Geun-hye • Yair Lapid • Wayne LaPierre • Kamala Harris • Fethullah Gulen • Xi Jinping • Wilfredo De Jesús • Tom Coburn • Kim Jong Un • Abdullah Ocalan • Enrique Peña Nieto • Elena Kagan • Joe Biden • Susana Martinez • Mario Draghi • Joyce Banda • Pope Francis

Artists: • Jennifer Lawrence • Christina Aguilera • Steven Spielberg • Jonathan Ive • Alex Atala • Ed Ruscha • Miguel • Mindy Kaling • Jenna Lyons • Bryan Cranston • George Saunders • Jimmy Kimmel • Wang Shu • Hilary Mantel • Frank Ocean • Jimmy Fallon

Pioneers: • Aamir Khan • Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller • Marissa Mayer • Hannah Gay, Katherine Luzuriaga and Deborah Persaud • Bassem Youssef • Joaquim Barbosa • Vrinda Grover • Perry Chen • Roya Mahboob • David Coleman • Travis Tygart • Eric Greitens • Andrew Sheng • Don Yeomans • Jared Cohen • Moncef Marzouki • Christopher Fabian and Erica Kochi • Kimberly Blackwell • Kai-Fu Lee • Mary Nichols • Peter Theisinger and Richard Cook

Icons: •Malala Yousafzai •Lena Dunham •Mario Balotelli •Peng Liyuan •Aung San Suu Kyi •Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde •Lindsey Vonn •Justin Timberlake •Gabrielle Giffords •Beyoncé •Daniel Day-Lewis •Kate Middleton •Michelle Obama •Li Na (B)

721) _____ figures among the top three most admired leaders of the world, said a global survey of CEOs conducted by accountancy firm PwC in April 2013.

- Mahatma Gandhi
- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Swami Vivekananda
- Rabindranath Tagore
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Mahatma Gandhi figures among the top three most admired leaders of the world, said a global survey of CEOs conducted by accountancy firm PwC. While Winston Churchill tops the list of 10 most admired leaders, Gandhi figures in the third position after Steve Jobs (co-founder of Apple), said the 16th Annual Global CEO Survey whose findings were released on April 16, 2013. As part of its annual survey, PwC said it recently asked 1,400 CEOs from around the world "which leaders they most admired, and what they most admired about their actions". (A)

722) Who among the following was appointed new President of Bangladesh in April 2013?

- Shawkat Ali
- Hanif Basit
- Abdul Hamid
- Jamiruddin Sircar
- Mohammed Akhtar Hameed Siddiqui

Abdul Hamid was on April 24, 2013 sworn in as Bangladesh President to replace Zillur Rahman, who died in March 2013. Acting Speaker of Parliament Shawkat Ali administered the oath at the Bangabhaban Presidential Palace, two days after election authorities declared Hamid as elected unopposed as the country's 20th President. The political veteran would hold the ceremonial position for a five-year term. Rahman died on March 20 at the age of 84. A former lawyer, Hamid was elected to Parliament seven times from the Kishoreganj Constituency, 100 km north-east of Dhaka, and served his second mandate as Speaker until he became President. He is a member of the Awami League. (C)

723) Which multinational company has launched 'Kick for Hope' is a campaign to promote football in India in partnership with Asian Football Development Project (AFDP) In April 2013?

- Nestle
- Pizza Hut
- Coca Cola
- McDonalds
- PepsiCo

Global food and beverage major PepsiCo on April 8, 2013 announced that it has entered into a one-year strategic partnership with the Asian Football Development Project (AFDP). Under the theme 'Kick for Hope', the partnership will cover over 40 countries with a special focus on West Asia and India. (E)

724) Match the following people who passed away in April 2013 with their field.

Person	Field
T K Ramamurthy (91)	Music composer
K P Bhaskar (88)	Classical dance pioneer
III. P B Sreenivas (82)	3. Playback singer

- I-1, II-2, III-3
- I-1, II-3, III-2
- I-2, II-3, III-1
- I-2, II-1, III-3

Veteran Tamil film music composer **T K Ramamurthy** (91), credited with producing timeless tunes in the company of fellow-composer M S Viswanathan in the 1960s, passed away in Chennai on April 17, 2013. Singapore's Indian classical dance pioneer, **KP Bhaskar**, passed away on April 17, 2013 at the age of 88. The lilting bass voice of playback singer **Prathivathi Bayangaram Sreenivas**, which rendered with equal and mellifluous ease a whole range of human emotions from melancholy to romance and happiness, fell silent on April 14, 2013. P.B. Sreenivas was 82. Chief Minister Jayalalithaa said PBS had sung in 12 languages and his voice added further mellifluousness to film songs. "PBS can also mean Playback Singer. His death is an irreparable personal loss to me and to the film world as a whole," she said. (A)

725) Match the following people who passed away in April 2013 with their field.

Person	Field
E. L. Konigsburg (83)	Former New York Times reporter and columnist whose work won two Pulitzer Prizes
George Lowe (89)	Last surviving member of the team that first conquered Everest in 1953
III. Anthony Lewis (85)	3. Children's author and illustrator

- I-1, II-2, III-3
- I-1, II-3, III-2
- I-3, II-1, III-2
- I-3, II-2, III-1

E. L. Konigsburg, a children's author and illustrator who twice received the nation's highest award in children's literature — she won it in 1968 for her second book, edging out the runner-up, which was her own first book — died on April 19, 2013 at the age of 83. Konigsburg was the only author to have won the American Library Association's John Newbery Medal for distinguished children's literature, considered the most prestigious in the field, and been the runner-up in the same year. She received the 1968 medal for "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," a story about a sister and brother from the suburbs who run away from home and surreptitiously camp out at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan.

George Lowe, 89, the last surviving member of the team which first conquered Everest in 1953, passed away on March 22, 2013 in England. Lowe, who was born in New Zealand, was part of the team that helped Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to become the first to reach the top of the world's highest peak on May 29, 1953.

Anthony Lewis, a former New York Times reporter and columnist whose work won two Pulitzer Prizes and transformed American legal journalism, died on Monday at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts on March 25, 2013 at the age of 85. Lewis brought passionate engagement to his two great themes: justice and the role of the press in a democracy. His column, called "At Home Abroad" or "Abroad at Home" depending on where he was writing from, appeared on the Op-Ed page of The Times for more than 30 years, until 2001. His voice was liberal, learned, conversational and direct. Lewis started covering the Supreme Court, press reports on its decisions were apt to be pedestrian recitations by journalists without legal training, rarely examining the court's reasoning or grappling with the context and consequences of particular rulings. Mr. Lewis's thorough knowledge of the court's work changed that. His articles were virtual tutorials about currents in legal thinking, written with ease and sweep and an ability to render complex matters accessible. (D)

726) Who among the following was appointed as President of ICC India – the Indian affiliate of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in April 2013?

- Kumar Mangalam Birla
- Harsh Pati Singhania
- Rajan Bharti Mittal
- Malvinder Singh
- Sunil Munjal

Bharti Enterprises Vice Chairman and Managing Director Rajan Bharti Mittal has been appointed the President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) India. "Mr. Mittal has been appointed as the President of ICC India at the conclusion of 82nd Annual General Meeting of ICC India," Bharti Enterprises said in a statement on March 31, 2013. ICC India is the Indian affiliate of the Paris-based ICC, the world business organisation with presence in over 90 countries. Bharti Airtel, a group company of Bharti Enterprises, is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 20 countries across Asia and Africa. (C)

727) Who is the author of 'The League' a novel on Cricket, loosely based on Indian Premier League, released in April 2013?

- Anand S Krishnan
- Rajiv Rajendra
- Suresh Menon
- Boria Mazumdar
- Rohit Brijnath

The timing of the release of Rajiv Rajendra's second novel 'The League' is perfect considering it falls bang in the middle of the Indian Premier League, on which, it is loosely based. With a story that pans out more like a Bollywood film, Rajendra is ready turn his main protagonist star cricketer Tarun Krishnan's adventures into a franchise after his debut novel Doosra. The tale about a billion-dollar cricket league in a fictitious island called Palmyra and run by a filthy rich Arab sheikh called Abdel Rafter al Rafter, the tome is not a production from the "whodunit" stable. Rather it reads more like an edge-of-the-seat thriller with detailed account of how the guilty will be nabbed. (B)

- 728)** An amended version of the National Food Security Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ministry on May 2, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Prices of foodgrains will be subject to revision after three years of implementation of the Act
 - Central Government will provide assistance to the States towards cost of intra-State transportation and handling of foodgrains
 - Elderly male of eighteen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest female member is to be the head of the household.
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution K.V.Thomas on May 2, 2013 introduced amendments in the National Food Security Bill in the Lok Sabha and placed the amended Bill for consideration and passing by the House.

Main amendments to the Bill are as under:

Targeted Public Distribution System: Upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population will have uniform entitlement of 5 kg foodgrains per person per month at prices of Rs. 3, Rs 2, Rs 1 per kg for rice, wheat, coarse grains respectively under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). There would be only one category of beneficiaries. The original Bill had two categories of priority and general households with different entitlements and issue prices.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households: The entitlement of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor, will continue to get 35 kg per household per month at prices of Rs. 3, Rs 2, Rs 1 per kg for rice, wheat, coarse grains respectively.

Allocation for states: It is also proposed to protect the existing allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs, subject to it being restricted to average annual offtake during last three years.

State-wise coverage: Corresponding to the coverage of 75% rural and 50 % of urban population at all India level, State wise coverage will be determined by the Planning Commission.

Identification of beneficiaries: The work of identification of eligible households is proposed to be left to the States/UTs, which may frame their own criteria or use the Social Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data.

Subsidized Prices under TPDS and their revision: Uniform prices of Rs. 3, Rs 2, Rs 1 per kg for rice, wheat, coarse grains respectively will be applicable to all eligible beneficiaries. It is proposed to fix these prices for the first three years of implementation of the Act, and thereafter link the same suitably to MSP.

States to get assistance for intra-State transportation and handling of foodgrains: In order to address the concern of the States regarding additional financial burden, Central Government will provide assistance to the States towards cost of intra-State transportation, handling of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin. This will ensure timely transportation and efficient handling of foodgrains.

Elderly women will be Head of the household: Elderly woman of eighteen years of age or above will be head of the household for issue of ration card, and if not available, the eldest male member is to be the head of the household. **(B)**

- 729)** The Primary Census Abstract-Data Highlights of Census 2011 were released in New Delhi on April 30, 2013. Which of the following statements on Population Density is/are correct?
- Among the Major States, West Bengal has highest population density
 - Among States & Union Territories, Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest population density
 - Among States & Union Territories, Delhi has the highest population density
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

Sushil Kumar Shinde, Union Home Minister released the Primary Census Abstract-Data Highlights of Census 2011 at the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India in New Delhi on April 30, 2013.

Highlights are as follows:

- **Growth in population:** Total population of the country is 1.21 billion showing an increase of 181.96 million persons in absolute numbers of population in India during the decade 2001-2011. During this decade, population of India grew by 17.7% as against 21.5% in the previous decade. There was an increase of 90.97 million males and increase of 90.99 million females. Among the major states, highest growth in population has been recorded in Bihar (25.4 per cent) while 14 states and Union Territories have recorded population growth above 20 per cent. Nagaland is the only state to have seen a decline in population.
- **Sex ratio** in Census 2011 is 943 females per 1000 males as against 933 in 2001 Census.
- Population of **Scheduled Castes** in this Census is 201.4 million as against 166.6 million in 2001 registering an increase of 20.8% whereas **Scheduled Tribes** population increased to 104.3 million in 2011 from 84.3 million in 2001.
- **Rural-Urban:** As many as 833.5 million persons live in rural areas as per Census 2011 while 377.1 million persons live in urban areas. Urban proportion has gone up from 17.3 per cent in 1951 to 31.2 per cent in 2011. Highest proportion of urban population is in NCT Delhi (97.5 per cent). Top five states in share of urban population are Goa (62.2 per cent), Mizoram (52.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (48.4 per cent), Kerala (47.7 per cent) and Maharashtra (45.2 per cent).
- **Literacy rate** in India in 2011 has increased by 8 per cent to 73 per cent in comparison to 64.8 per cent in 2001. While male literacy rate stands at 80.9 per cent - which is 5.6 per cent more than the previous census, the female literacy rate stands at 64.6 per cent - an increase of 10.9 per cent than 2001. Top five states and UTs, where literacy rate is the highest, are Kerala (94 per cent), Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent), Mizoram (91.3 per cent), Goa (88.7 per cent) and Tripura (87.2). The bottom five states and UTs are Bihar (61.8 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (65.4 per cent), Rajasthan (66.1 per cent), Jharkhand (66.4 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (67 per cent).
- The **density of population** in the country has also increased from 325 in 2001 to 382 in 2011 in per sq km. Among the major states, Bihar occupies the first position with a density of 1106, surpassing West Bengal which occupied the first position during 2001. Delhi (11,220) turns out to be the most densely inhabited followed by Chandigarh (9,258), among all states and UTs, both in 2001 and 2011 Census. The minimum population density works out in Arunachal Pradesh (10) for both 2001 and 2011 Census. **(C)**

- 730)** The Union Cabinet on May 1, 2013 approved the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- NUHM will be introduced as a sub-mission under the National Health Mission (NHM)
 - Objectives of NUHM include reduction of the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and universal access to reproductive health care
 - National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

The Union Cabinet on May 1, 2013 approved the Rs. 22,507-crore National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) that seeks to address healthcare challenges in towns and cities with focus on urban poor.

- The Central government is to provide a share of Rs. 16,955 crore toward the estimated cost of NUHM for five years — Rs. 22,507 crore. While the Centre will fund 75 per cent of the mission and the State 25 per cent, the funding ratio for North Eastern States and special category States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand will be 90:10.
- The scheme will be introduced as a sub-mission under the National Health Mission (NHM). The mission will be implemented in 779 cities and towns, each with a population of more than 50,000, and cover over 7.75 crore people.
- The NUHM aims to improve the health status of the urban population in general, and the poor and other disadvantaged sections in particular, by facilitating equitable access to quality health care through a revamped primary public health care system, targeted outreach services and involvement of the community and urban local bodies.
- The NUHM will be on the lines of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry's flagship National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in 2005 to address the health challenges of rural India.

– The interventions under this sub-mission will aim to result in the reduction of the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), universal access to reproductive health care and the convergence of all health-related interventions

– Under the scheme, the government proposes to set up one Urban Primary Health Centre for a population of 50,000-60,000, one Urban Community Health Centre for five to six Urban Primary Health Centres in big cities, an Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANM) for a population of 10,000 and an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) (community link worker) for 200 to 500 households. (E)

731) The Union Cabinet on May 1, 2013 gave its consent to the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. Vending certificates can be transferred to the spouse or a dependant kin in case of death
- II. The Bill has provision of upto Rs. 2,000 penalty for each offence of violating the terms of vending certificates

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I and II
- d) Neither I nor II

The Union Cabinet on May 1, 2013 gave its consent to the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2013. The Bill, which is aimed at regulating street vending and shielding the vendors from harassment by the law enforcement agencies and local bodies, will put an end to the practice of giving out licences for vending, instead certificates will be issued to bona fide vendors.

According to the Union Ministry for Housing and Poverty Alleviation (HUPA), the Bill will see certificates being issued to at least 1 crore vendors across the country. It will also regulate the entire process, starting with surveys, identifying the vendors to laying down the rules that will have to be followed for grant or confiscation of vending certificates.

As per the Bill, town vending committees will have to conduct a survey every five years to identify the vendors. These committees will have 40 per cent representation from elected representatives of vendor organisations, 10 per cent representatives from among hawkers, while the rest would be town planners, administrators, police and elected peoples representatives.

The town vending committees have been mandated to ensure that all existing street vendors with certificates are accommodated in the identified vending zones subject to a norm conforming to 2.5 per cent of the population of the ward or the zone in a town or city.

Delhi for instance can have vending certificates issued to up to 2.5 per cent of the entire population. The vending certificates can be transferred to the spouse or a dependant kin in case of death.

The Bill also lays out in detail the reasons for denying vending certificates and selecting vending zones and prohibits operations from non-vending zones.

While it will protect the vendors from excesses by the police or the local municipal bodies, it also lays down conditions for vendors to follow. All vendors will be bound to maintain cleanliness and public hygiene, civic amenities and public property in the vending zone; they will also have to pay periodic maintenance charges for the amenities and facilities.

For dispute redressal, concerned governments will have to constitute one or more committees comprising a chairperson, who can be a retired judge or judicial magistrate, and two other professionals for the purpose.

Preparation plans for street vending will have to be prepared every five years by the local authority in consultation with the planning authority and on the recommendation of the town vending committee.

The Bill also lays out penal provisions of up to Rs. 2,000 for each offence of violating the terms of vending certificates. (C)

732) 100 years of Indian Cinema were completed on May 3, 2013. Which of the following is/are matched correctly?

- a) Invention of Cinema in Paris – 1905
- b) India's first silent feature film – 1913
- c) India's first talking feature film – 1927
- d) All the above
- e) None of the above

Bollywood turned 100 on May 3, 2013. Six months after their Paris debut in 1895, the Lumiere brothers came to Bombay's (now Mumbai) Watson Hotel and displayed their new invention. India's first feature film (silent) was 'Raja Harishchandra' (1913) while the first talking feature film was 'Alam Ara' (1933). (B)

733) President Pranab Mukherjee on May 3, 2013 released postal stamps of _____ iconic personalities of Indian Cinema to commemorate 100 years of Indian Cinema.

- a) 10
- b) 20
- c) 30
- d) 40
- e) 50

President Pranab Mukherjee on May 3, 2013 released postal stamps of 50 iconic personalities of Indian Cinema to commemorate 100 years of Indian Cinema. The film personalities depicted in stamps released by the President include Ashok Kumar, Bhalji Pendharkar, Durga Khote, Dev Anand, Yash Chopra, Smrita Patil, Rajesh Khanna, Shammi Kapoor, Suraiya, Geeta Dutt, Sohrab Modi, Tapan Sinha, C.V. Sridhar, Bhanumathi etc. The President also conferred the film awards for the year 2012 in various categories at the 60th National Film Awards Function held at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. As a tribute to Indian film making, Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Manish Tewari announced that the Government was instituting a "Centenary Award" that would be given every year starting this year, recognising a paradigm transformation in film making and honouring individuals or films that had profoundly influenced contemporary, socio cultural evolution. (E)

734) Who among the following journalists was in news in May 2013 for the release of his/her documentary on paid-news titled 'Is the Indian Media in a Self Destruct Mode'?

- a) Bobby Ghosh
- b) Satish Jacob
- c) Alka Dhupkar
- d) Prabhjot Singh
- e) Sandipan Deb

At a time when the media's credibility is in question and the controversial paid-news phenomenon is being debated in various public forums, veteran journalist Satish Jacob has made a documentary titled 'Is the Indian Media in a Self Destruct Mode'. The seasoned journalist, who has had a long association with the BBC, has raised relevant questions about the media's role in the country. The documentary, which was screened at the India International Centre, New Delhi on May 2, 2013, will also be aired by the national broadcaster. (B)

735) 'Sea of Innocence' is a recently released book of fiction authored by:

- a) Kishwar Desai
- b) Nadeem Aslam
- c) Manil Suri
- d) Amit Chaudhuri
- e) Anjali Joseph

Recent books:

The Namo Story — A Political Life: Kingshuk Nag

A Delicate Truth by John le Carre

Fida-e-Lucknow – Tales of the City and its People by Parveen Talha

Sea of Innocence by Kishwar Desai (winner of Britain's prestigious Costa Prize for a first book in 2010 for her novel 'Witness the Night') (A)

736) The UPSC on May 3, 2013 declared the final results of Civil Services Examination, 2012. Female candidates have bagged top positions in which of the following categories?

- a) General
- b) Scheduled Caste
- c) Scheduled Tribe
- d) All the above
- e) None of the above

The UPSC on May 3, 2013 declared the final results of Civil Services Examination, 2012. Top position has been taken by Haritha V. Kumar. She has done B.Tech (E&C) from Kerala University. 2nd rank is of V. Sriram who is MBBS from Kerala University. 3rd position is bagged by another Stuti Charan who has done B.Sc from Jodhpur University and PG Diploma in Personnel & Marketing Management from IIPM, Delhi. TOP positions in GENERAL, ST and SC categories have been secured by Female candidates. Amongst top 25 candidates there are 13 Male and 12 Female candidates. (D)

- 737)** External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid went on an official visit to Kazakhstan in April 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Nursultan Nazarbayev is President of Kazakhstan
 - Kazakhstan has given India a stake in Dauletabad gas fields
 - Kazakhstan has given India a stake in the Caspian Sea block of Satpayev
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Both (a) and (c)

India's decade-long quest for a bigger slice of the hydrocarbons pie in Central Asia got a boost, thanks to a positive response from Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, said External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid who called on the long-serving leader in capital Almaty on April 26, 2013. On top of its agenda was a minor stake in the Kashagan oilfield, which could herald a firmer Indian foothold. The Kashagan field, located in the shallow waters (5m to 8m) of the Kazakh North Caspian Sea, is the world's largest current development project. Nazarbayev reminded the Indian Minister and accompanying officials, India (ONGC Videsh) has already been allotted a quarter of the stake in the Caspian Sea block of Satpayev without going through tender formalities. (E)

- 738)** With which country has the US conducted a military exercise code-named 'Foil Eagle' in April 2013?
- Iraq
 - China
 - Turkey
 - South Korea
 - Pakistan

The US and South Korea on April 30, 2013 wrapped up joint military drills that took place amid high tensions with North Korea. Pyongyang has been angered by the two-month annual exercise, known as "Foil Eagle", which began shortly after its third nuclear test in February. "Foil Eagle" involved around 10,000 US troops and their South Korean counterparts. The drills were thought to include ground, air, naval, expeditionary and special operations training exercises. (D)

- 739)** Which European country's Parliament approved an agreement normalising relations with Kosovo to improve its prospects of membership of the European Union in April 2013?
- Serbia
 - Bosnia
 - Croatia
 - Slovenia
 - Macedonia

Serbian lawmakers, on April 26, 2013, overwhelmingly supported an agreement normalising relations with breakaway Kosovo, a potentially landmark deal that could end years of tensions between the Balkan antagonists and put them both on a path to European Union (EU) membership. Parliament backed the deal in a 173-24 vote. Serbia has rejected Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence — recognised by more than 90 countries including the U.S. and 22 of the EU's 27 members — but must improve ties with the former province to advance its bid to join the EU. The deal will give Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leadership authority over rebel Kosovo Serbs, ending Serbia's control in northern Kosovo. The Kosovo-Serbs, in return, will be granted wide-ranging autonomy. Serbia's Prime Minister Ivica Dacic reiterated that Serbia will never recognise Kosovo's statehood. (A)

- 740)** Who among the following was appointed new Prime Minister of Iceland following victory in elections organised in April 2013?
- Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
 - Johanna Sigurðardóttir
 - Arni Pall Amason
 - Valgerður Sværissdóttir
 - Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson

Results of Parliamentary elections in Iceland were declared on April 28, 2013. The election was won by the two centre-right opposition parties, Independence Party and Progressive Party. **Vote-shares:** Independence party 26.7% share of vote (19 seats); Progressive Party 24.4% (19 seats); Social Democratic Alliance 12.9% (9 seats); Left Green Movement 10.9% (7 seats); Bright Future 8.2% (6 seats); Pirates Party 5.1% (3 seats). President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson appointed Progressive Party's Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson as the new Prime Minister on May 23, 2013. (E)

- 741)** The United Nations has appointed a three-member panel comprising Michael Kirby, Marzuki Darusman and Sonja Biserko in May 2013 to investigate human rights issues in:
- Syria
 - Mali
 - North Korea

- Somalia
- Afghanistan

The UN has named the three panel members for its first-ever human rights investigation into North Korea. Retired Judge Michael Kirby will chair the inquiry, working with UN special rapporteur Marzuki Darusman, and human rights activist Sonja Biserko. The panel will examine reports of prison camps, torture and food deprivation, reporting back in March 2014, a UN statement said on May 8, 2013. It is highly unlikely that North Korea will give access to the investigators, so the panel will have to rely on satellite imagery and testimony from defectors. (C)

- 742)** Willem-Alexander was sworn in as the new monarch of which European country on April 30, 2013?
- Netherlands
 - Luxembourg
 - Hungary
 - Denmark
 - Norway

Willem-Alexander was sworn in as the monarch of Netherlands on April 30, 2013 after his mother, Queen Beatrix, abdicated the throne. She will now be referred to as Princess Beatrix (75) signed the act of abdication at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam, witnessed by Willem-Alexander (46) his Argentine-born Queen Maxima (41) and members of the government. (A)

- 743)** Bangladesh appointed Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury as the first woman _____ in April 2013:
- Ambassador to the UN
 - Defence Minister
 - Chief Justice of Supreme Court
 - Speaker of Parliament
 - Governor of Central Bank

Bangladesh got its first woman Speaker with the election of Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury by the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka on April 30, 2013. Chaudhury, State Minister in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, was nominated by the ruling Awami League's parliamentary party. Born in 1966, Dr. Chaudhury is also the country's youngest Speaker. She will succeed Abdul Hamid who assumed presidency following the death of President Md. Zillur Rahman recently. Women now occupy many of the top posts, with the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of Parliament, Foreign Minister and Agriculture Minister, all being women. A lawyer by profession, Dr. Chaudhury holds a Ph.D. from Essex University in the United Kingdom. (D)

- 744)** According to the RBI's Annual Monetary Policy Statement 2013-14 released on May 3, 2013, Banks have been barred from disbursing loans against gold coins weighing more than _____.
- 10 grams
 - 20 grams
 - 25 grams
 - 50 grams
 - 100 grams

The Reserve Bank of India announced a 25 basis point cut in the repo rate in its Annual Monetary Policy Statement 2013-14 on May 3, 2013 but cautioned that there was little scope for a further reduction in key interest rates this year. Governor Duvvuri Subbarao cut the **Repo Rate** to 7.25 per cent but left the **Cash Reserve Ratio** (CRR) unchanged at 4 per cent of the net demand and time liabilities (NDTL). The repo is the rate at which the RBI provides short-term liquidity to banks; the CRR is the portion of bank deposits that must be maintained with the RBI. The **Reverse Repo Rate** under the LAF, determined with a spread of 100 basis points below the repo rate, stands adjusted to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect. The **Marginal Standing Facility** (MSF) rate, determined with a spread of 100 basis points above the repo rate, stands adjusted to 8.25 per cent with immediate effect. The **Bank Rate** stands adjusted to 8.25 per cent with immediate effect. The Monetary Policy Statement 2013-14 also decided to restrict the facility of advances against the security of gold coins per customer to gold coins weighing up to 50 grams. (D)

- 745)** The limit of bank loans to Micro and Small Service Enterprises (MSEs) engaged in providing or rendering of services has been increased to _____ per borrower/unit, according to the revised priority sector lending norms effective from April 1, 2013.
- Rs. 1 crore
 - Rs. 2 crore
 - Rs. 3 crore
 - Rs. 4 crore
 - Rs. 5 crore

The RBI revised following limits under Priority Sector Loans with effect from April 01, 2013. This was announced by the RBI in its Annual Monetary Policy Statement 2013-14 on May 3, 2013.

Agriculture

The limit of loans to farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce (including warehouse receipts) for a period not exceeding 12 months stands increased from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh both under direct and indirect agriculture.

The limit of loans to dealers/sellers of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, cattle feed, poultry feed, agricultural implements and other inputs has been raised to Rs. 5 crore per borrower from Rs. 1 crore.

Micro and Small Enterprises

The limit of bank loans to Micro and Small Service Enterprises (MSEs) engaged in providing or rendering of services has been increased from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore per borrower/unit, provided they satisfy the investment criteria for equipment as defined under MSMED Act, 2006. (E)

746) The government on May 3, 2013 announced payment of a commission of ___ to banks on the total amount transferred under the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme.

- a) 0.25%
- b) 0.5%
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%
- e) 1.25%

The government has decided to pay a commission of 1% to banks on the total amount transferred under the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme. It is being paid to compensate Banking Correspondents (BCs) who would help implement the scheme. In a memorandum issued on May 3, 2013, the Department of Expenditure said the government considered issues related to payment of commission BCs for transactions carried out by them under DBT and decided to pay a flat rate of 1% to banks. It said a viable BC network and a reasonable recompose to banks are a pre-requisite to successful implementation of the scheme. (D)

747) Withholding tax is the tax rate levied on interest income of _____ from investments in government bonds.

- a) RBI
- b) Retail Investors
- c) Foreign Investors
- d) Public sector companies
- e) Banks & Financial Institutions

The Lok Sabha on April 30, 2013 passed Budget 2013-14 with some amendments.

The finance minister cut the **withholding tax** (tax rate applicable to foreign investors on interest from government and corporate bonds) to 5 per cent from 20 per cent. The new rate of taxation on interest income from bonds will be effective for a two-year window from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015. It is meant for foreign institutional and individual investors in government securities and rupee-denominated government and corporate bonds. (C)

748) The government approved the setting up of an exchange-traded fund (ETF) comprising shares of _____ on May 2, 2013.

- a) Infrastructure companies
- b) Banks & Financial Institutions
- c) Central public sector enterprises
- d) Information Technology companies
- e) Indian units of Multinational companies

The Cabinet on May 2, 2013 approved the setting up of a central public sector enterprises (CPSE) exchange-traded fund (ETF), which is expected to speed up the disinvestment programme, check volatility in share price movement and encourage retail participation. "(The ETF) comprises CPSE stocks (from among the listed CPSE stocks). Each stock would have a fixed weightage in the basket," a statement said. The proposal was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by the Prime Minister.

The composition of the basket, the launch of the New Fund Offer (NFO), the discount to be provided and other issues relating to contribution and pricing of the ETF would be decided by an empowered group of ministers (EGoM), it added. "This will help in minimising market disruptions seen in public offerings of listed CPSEs; increase ability of the government to monetise partial stakes in listed CPSEs, some of which have low liquidity and free float; broadbase retail participation of shares of CPSEs," it said. The ETF is also expected to deepen the equity market and will be beneficial to the government from a pricing perspective.

The Department of Disinvestment in the finance ministry has already appointed global investment banker Goldman Sachs for setting up and managing the PSU ETF. The government is planning to raise Rs 40,000 crore through disinvestment in the current financial year and has lined up a host of companies, including Indian Oil, Engineers India, Coal India and Hindustan Aeronautics, for divesting minority stake. (C)

749) Which of the following has awarded a grant of \$100,000 each to 20 organisations working in the sectors of financial inclusion, health, education and livelihood in India under its Development Marketplace programme in May 2013?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) International Finance Corporation
- d) International Monetary Fund
- e) U.S. Agency for International Development

The World Bank Institute awarded \$2 million (\$ 100,000 per project) to 20 organisations working in the sectors of financial inclusion, trafficking, health, education and livelihood. The grant of \$ 100,000 per project is to help these social enterprises expand in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The awards were given by World Bank's country director Onno Ruhl and Programme Lead (Development Marketplace) Drew von Glahn, at the 2013 India Development Marketplace (INDIA DM) held at the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal on May 1, 2013.

The 2013 winners include successful social sector endeavours like Operation ASHA, which uses technology and a network of health workers with minimum education to ensure that tuberculosis patients take the full course of medicines and are healed. Embrace Innovation, which supplies low-cost infant warmers in public hospitals, also won a grant to collect data and educate new mothers in Jharkhand.

The key factors that the World Bank looks for in such projects is whether they can be replicated and scaled up, the degree of entrepreneurial ability and the use of technology. All projects have been operating for at least two years. They are mentored for 18 months after the project commences. The selected 20 are among 195 applicants.

The list of 20 award grantees for 2013 INDIA DM are:

Name of the organisation	Name of the Project	Target States
Rang De	Rang De	Madhya Pradesh
Operation ASHA	Implementing e-Compliance in Jharkhand's Tribal Regions to treat and prevent normal tuberculosis and turn the tap off on Multi-Drug Resistant TB.	Jharkhand
SMV WHEELS PVT. LTD	APNA RICKSHAW	Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
Under The Mango Tree Society	Replicating Bees for Poverty Reduction in Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
Dimagi Social Innovations	Replication and Scale-Up of CommCare in Jharkhand	Jharkhand
BILT TREE TECH LTD	Changing Lives of Tribal Farmers of Chattisgarh through sustainable Agro Forestry	Chhattisgarh
ACCESS Development Services	UDAAN (MP) – A Rural Productivity Hub for small and marginal farmers in Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
Micro Insurance Academy	Facilitating self-reliant community based health insurance schemes of and for low income communities in remote regions of India.	Chhattisgarh
Kherwadi Social Welfare Association	Reaching 1 million youth – tackling the unemployment problem	Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
Waterlife India	Community Water Systems in Jharkhand and Orissa	Jharkhand
Alternative for India	Women led pathway for change through SHG run kiosk banking	Jharkhand

Name of the organisation	Name of the Project	Target States
Development	and financial services for women, Jharkhand	
Agastya International Foundation	Agastya Science Center & Mobile Science Lab to facilitate hands on education	Madhya Pradesh
Real Medicine Foundation	Eradicate Malnutrition Program	Madhya Pradesh
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)	Amrit Krishi: Reducing the cost of cultivation at mass scale	Madhya Pradesh
Vigyan Ashram (part of Indian Institute of Education)	Human Powered Generator + Solar hybrid lighting and laptop charging system	Chhattisgarh
South Vihar Welfare Society for Tribal	Combat Trafficking & Empowerment of Adolescent girls with improvement of Health status	Jharkhand
Embrace Innovations	Deployment of Embrace infant warmers in low-resource government hospitals in Jharkhand and measurement of impact	Jharkhand
iMerit Technology Services	IT-based Livelihoods for Empowerment of Marginalized Women in Jharkhand	Jharkhand
Vrutti	Agriculture Enterprise Facilitation Centre – Achieving Accelerated Growth in Agriculture and Incomes of Small holders, through a Social Enterprise	Chhattisgarh
ESAF	Replicating and Scaling Up MicroEnergy Credits Program	Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh

Development Marketplace: The World Bank's Development Marketplace (DM) is a competitive grant program that surfaces and funds innovative, development projects with high potential for development impact that are scalable and/or replicable. The grant beneficiaries are social enterprises with projects that aim to deliver a range of social and public services to the most underserved low-income groups. Since the launch of the Development Marketplace, an estimated 20,000 entrants, and 1,000 finalists have been vetted by thousands of expert jurors and assessors, resulting in 220 global DM projects. In India, over the last 10 years, the World Bank Development Marketplace has recognized and supported several breakthrough social enterprises working in rural India, such as Goonj (waste resource management), Akash Ganga (potable drinking water), Dristee (Rural Kiosks for access to public services) and Gram Vikas (Biogas electricity for tribal communities in Odisha). (A)

750) The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Railways for setting up of an Electric Locomotive Factory and a Diesel Locomotive Factory in which state in May 2013?
 a) Goa
 b) Bihar
 c) Rajasthan
 d) Jharkhand
 e) Karnataka

The Union Cabinet on May 1, 2013 approved the proposal of the Ministry of Railways for setting up of an Electric Locomotive Factory at Madhepura, Bihar and a Diesel Locomotive Factory at Marhowra, Bihar, to start afresh the bidding processes for these projects. Estimated costs for setting up the Electric Locomotive Factory and Diesel Locomotive Factory, as approved by CCEA and included in the Railway Budget are Rs. 1293.57 crore and Rs. 2052.58 crore respectively, with limited equity contribution by Ministry of Railways. The two factories shall be set up in Joint Venture (JV) with locomotive manufacturers to be selected through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). JV partners will be selected through a two stage ICB process. The bids will be finalized within three months of receipt of the Cabinet's approval. (B)

751) The Ministry of Railways has decided that the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for booking reserved train tickets will be reduced to _____ (excluding the date of journey) from May 1, 2013.
 a) 30 days
 b) 45 days
 c) 60 days
 d) 90 days

e) 100 days

The Ministry of Railways has decided that the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for booking reserved train tickets will be reduced from existing 120 days to 60 days (excluding the date of journey) from May 1, 2013. However, all the bookings done upto 30.4.2013 under the ARP of 120 days will remain intact. Cancellation of the booking made beyond the ARP of 60 days will be permitted. There will be no change in the case of certain day time express trains like Taj Express, Gomti Express etc. where lower time limits for advance reservations are at present in force. There will also be no change in the case of limit of 360 days for foreign tourists. (C)

752) Which of the following growth forecasts for Indian economy made in May 2013 is/are correct?
 a) The IMF has forecast 5.8 per cent growth in 2012-13
 b) The IMF has forecast 6.3 per cent growth in 2013-14
 c) The World Bank has forecast 6.1% per cent growth in 2012-13
 d) All the above
 e) None of the above

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on May 2, 2013 pegged the country's gross domestic product growth at 5.8 per cent during the current financial year and 6.3 per cent in 2014-15. The IMF pegged world growth to be around 3.3% in 2013, and 4% in 2014 backed mainly by faster pace of growth in emerging economies like India. The World Bank scaled down its growth projection for India for the current financial year from 7 per cent to 6.1 per cent, in its latest India development update released on May 1, 2013. (D)

753) Which of the following has praised Indian government's Direct Benefits Transfer scheme, stating it could save the exchequer up to 0.5 per cent of GDP, besides better targeting of subsidies, in its 'Asia and Pacific: Regional Outlook' released on April 30, 2013?
 a) World Bank
 b) Asian Development Bank
 c) International Finance Corporation
 d) International Monetary Fund
 e) U.S. Agency for International Development

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on April 30, 2013 praised the Direct Benefits Transfer scheme, stating it could save the exchequer up to 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), besides better targeting of subsidies. "If the direct cash transfer and Aadhaar are integrated, eliminating the estimated 15 per cent leakage due to problems in identification, the savings could be around 0.5 per cent of GDP." IMF said in its 'Asia and Pacific: Regional Outlook'. Half a per cent of GDP means saving of Rs 56,854 crore in terms of estimated GDP for 2013-14 (Rs 1,13,718,86 crore). IMF said it was estimated that the elimination of the leakages due to outdated biographical information, ghost identification, double registration, and other losses from having a nationally uniform, biometric database would be 15-20 per cent of total spending. The report added the direct cash transfers that entail direct payments to recipients from the government could cut costs and eliminate diversion by phasing out the middlemen and bureaucratic constraints. (D)

754) Which of the following appointed Rajiv Lall as Executive Chairman and Vikram Limaye as the new managing director and CEO in May 2013?
 a) PFC
 b) SIDBI
 c) IFCI
 d) IDFC
 e) NABARD

After leading Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) as non-executive chairman for 15 years, veteran banker Deepak Parekh on May 1, 2013 stepped down from the post. Rajiv Lall, vice chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of the company, has taken over as executive chairman while Vikram Limaye will be the new managing director and CEO. (D)

755) Arunendra Kumar was appointed as Member of which of the following in May 2013?
 a) UPSC
 b) Railway Board
 c) Planning Commission
 d) Central Information Commission
 e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Arunendra Kumar on May 1, 2013 took over as Member (Mechanical) Railway Board and ex officio Secretary to the Government of India. Kumar has featured on National Geographic Channel in the serial "Seven Mega Cities of the World" and holds a record of longest Live TV Interview by a Railway Officer on National TV Channel. (B)

- 756)** Who won the Men's Singles title at the India Open Super Series Badminton in New Delhi on April 28, 2013?
- Qiu Zihan
 - Liu Xiaolong
 - Kenichi Tago
 - Ahmad Tantowi
 - Lee Chong Wei

Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia and Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand emerged champions, in the men's and women's singles finals, respectively, at the India Open Super Series Badminton at the Siri Fort Sports Complex in New Delhi on April 28, 2013. While Lee won 21-15, 18-21, 21-17 against Kenichi Tago of Japan, 18-year-old Intanon won her maiden Super Series crown beating Germany's Juliane Schenk 22-20, 21-14. India's PV Sindhu had lost to Intanon 12-21, 6-21 while Anand Pawar had lost to Tago 21-16, 21-11 in the semi-finals. All results (final): Men's Singles: Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia) beat Kenichi Tago (Japan) 21-15, 18-21, 21-17; Men's Doubles: Liu Xiaolong-Qiu Zihan (China) beat Ko Sung-hyun-Lee Yong-dae (South Korea) 22-20, 21-18; Women's Singles: Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand) beat Juliane Schenk (Germany) 22-20, 21-14; Women's Doubles: Miyuki Maeda-Satoko Suetsuna (Japan) beat Christinna Pedersen-Kamilla Rytter Juhl (Denmark) 12-21, 23-21, 21-18; Mixed Doubles: Ahmad Tantowi-Lilyana Natsir (Indonesia) beat Ko Sung-hyun-Kim Ha-an (South Korea) 21-16, 21-13. **(E)**

- 757)** Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of _____ was voted the new president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on May 2, 2013
- Qatar
 - Oman
 - Dubai
 - Kuwait
 - Bahrain

Bahrain's Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa was voted the new president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on May 2, 2013, replacing disgraced ex-leader Mohamed bin Hammam in Kuala Lumpur. **(E)**

- 758)** Joao Havelange, who resigned in April 2013, was associated with administration of which sport?
- Wrestling
 - Football
 - Swimming
 - Athletics
 - Hockey

Joao Havelange has resigned as honorary FIFA president over claims that he had accepted bribes, world football's governing body announced on April 30, 2013. Havelange stood down after being targeted in the findings of an Ethics Committee set up by FIFA to investigate a scandal involving the now bankrupt Swiss-based marketing agency ISL and World Cup television rights. The Brazilian's conduct was described as "morally and ethically reproachable" in the report into the affair headed by the head of the committee, Hans-Joachim Eckert. **(B)**

- 759)** Who among the following was declared joint winner of Alekhine memorial Chess with Boris Gelfand on May 3, 2013?
- Magnus Carlsen
 - Levon Aronian
 - Vassily Ivanchuk
 - Teimour Radjabov
 - Viswanathan Anand

World champion Viswanathan Anand played out a draw with Boris Gelfand of Israel in the ninth and final round to finish third in the Alekhine memorial chess tournament at St. Petersburg, Russia on May 3, 2013. Gelfand ended as joint first along with Levon Aronian of Armenia. **(B)**

- 760)** Which of the following launched smartphone satellites called "PhoneSats" in April 2013?
- ISRO
 - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
 - NASA
 - Russian Space Agency
 - European Space Agency

NASA on April 21, 2013 successfully launched three smartphones into space to snap images of Earth, and the handsets may prove to be the lowest-cost satellites ever flown into space. Each smartphone is housed in a standard cubesat structure, measuring about four inches square. The smartphone acts as the satellite's onboard computer. Its sensors are used for attitude determination and its camera for Earth observation. The smartphones destined to become low-cost satellites rode to space aboard the maiden flight of Orbital Science Corporation's Antares rocket

from NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia. The trio of "PhoneSats" is operating in orbit, and may prove to be the lowest-cost satellites ever flown in space. The hardware for this mission is the Google-HTC Nexus One smartphone running the Android operating system. **(C)**

- 761)** Which of the following agreed to accept an arrangement that would allow Israelis and Palestinians to go ahead with land swaps to resolve differences in May 2013?
- Organization of the Islamic Cooperation
 - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
 - Gulf Cooperation Council
 - Non-Aligned Movement
 - Arab League

Arab countries have collectively agreed to accept an arrangement that would allow Israelis and Palestinians to go ahead with land swaps to resolve differences, rather than strictly sticking to the pre-1967-war position. Speaking on behalf of the 22-nation Arab League (AL), Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Al Thani on May 1, 2013, appeared to concede land swaps following a meeting in Washington of Arab officials and John Kerry, the U.S. Secretary of State, to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace. The Arab League's proposal in its original form was pegged around a full Arab recognition of an Israeli state, in case it gave up land captured in the 1967 war, and accepted a "just solution" for Palestinian refugees. The Israelis had earlier rejected the plan, which was proposed in 2002 at the Arab League's summit in Beirut. Israel objects to the return to 1967 borders, the return of Palestinian refugees displaced in earlier wars, and the inclusion of East Jerusalem in a future Palestinian state. **(E)**

- 762)** Which country observed the "restoration of sovereignty day" on April 28, 2013 to mark end of the allied occupation following its defeat in World War II?
- Italy
 - Japan
 - Germany
 - Russia

Japan on April 28, 2013 for the first time marked the anniversary of the end of the allied occupation, which followed its defeat in World War II. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the "restoration of sovereignty day" would give Japan hope for the future and help it become "strong and resolute". The event is seen as part of Abe's nationalist campaign. He is also pushing for a revision of Japan's pacifist constitution to ease tight restrictions on the armed forces. It was during last year's election campaign that Abe and his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed the event to mark the day in 1952 when the San Francisco Peace Treaty took effect, formally ending WWII and the allied occupation. **(B)**

- 763)** What were India's gems and jewellery exports in 2012-13 according to the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) on April 30, 2013?
- \$9 billion
 - \$19 billion
 - \$29 billion
 - \$39 billion
 - \$49 billion

India's gems and jewellery exports fell more than nine per cent to \$39.03 billion for the year 2012-13 compared to \$43.09 billion in the previous year. The fall is due to weak demand from the developed world, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said on April 30, 2013. **(D)**

- 764)** The draft report of the 30-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the 2G telecom spectrum scam was in news in May 2013. Who is the Chairperson of the JPC?
- P.J. Kurien
 - P. C. Chacko
 - C.P. Narayanan
 - M.P. Achuthan
 - K.N. Balagopal

Fifteen Opposition members in the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the 2G telecom spectrum scam on May 1, 2013, wrote to the committee secretariat, rejecting the panel's draft report. The 15 members, who had met Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar earlier to express "no-confidence" in panel chief P C Chacko, wrote separate letters, stating they were rejecting the report "in toto". These MPs, constituting half the 30-member panel, belong to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Janata Dal (United), CPI-M, CPI, AIADMK, DMK, the Biju Janata Dal and the Trinamool Congress. BJP member Yashwant Sinha said the members reiterated in their letters their no-trust in Chacko **(B)**

- 765)** The Cabinet on May 2, 2013 cleared a proposal for 839 FM Radio channels in cities across the country to be awarded on e-auction through private agencies. Currently how many cities are covered by FM Radio channels?
- 26

- b) 86
- c) 126
- d) 166
- e) 206

The Cabinet on May 2, 2013 cleared a proposal for 839 channels in 249 cities to be awarded on e-auction through private agencies. The panel, chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, decided that the authority to make any other minor change in the request for proposals would be delegated to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. "The additional channels that may become available due to reduced channels spacing to 400 KHz could be considered subsequently after feasibility studies are completed," said Finance Minister P Chidambaram after the meeting. FM radio operators keen on migrating from Phase-II to Phase-III will have to pay a migration fee. At present, 86 cities are covered by FM radio stations. (B)

- 766)** Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh on April 30, 2013 allowed domestic airlines to un-bundle certain services and charge for those separately. The decision is based on the recommendations of _____ Economic Consultants in its report 'Economic Regulations to Airlines' Ticket Pricing in India'.
- a) KPMG
 - b) Achutan
 - c) Nathan
 - d) Raman
 - e) Bain

Indian airlines, like their peers in the US and Europe, will now be able to charge for check-in baggage and seats of choice. Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh on April 30, 2013 allowed domestic airlines to charge fees for preferential seats and use of lounges, among other things, opening for them additional revenue streams. In its statement, the ministry said it had decided to permit scheduled airlines to un-bundle certain services and charge for those separately. The move was based on the recommendations of Nathan Economic Consultants in its report 'Economic Regulations to Airlines' Ticket Pricing in India'. The report had batted for unbundling of services "since it has become a necessary aspect of exercising more control over operational costs and running a successful airline". The ministry's decision facilitates airlines to offer low base fares for price-sensitive travellers, while offering choice to service seekers at a price. Globally, it is a common practice to charge for extra services. Indian airlines, which at present allow up to 20 kg luggage to be carried without any extra charge, had been considering bringing the free-luggage limit down to 15 kg. (C)

- 767)** Which of the following pairs of world's leading retailing companies and the countries where they are headquartered is matched correctly?
- a) IKEA – Finland
 - b) Metro – France
 - c) Tesco – UK
 - d) Carrefour – Germany
 - e) All the above

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on May 2, 2013 approved Swedish home furnishing major IKEA's Rs 10,500-crore FDI proposal to set up a chain of stores in the country. IKEA plans to set up 25 single-brand retail stores in India through its 100 per cent subsidiary, Ingka Holding Overseas BV. This will be the largest foreign investment in single-brand retail. The Cabinet approval has come 10 months after a deal to bring the Swedish furniture retailer to India was sealed between Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and IKEA President & CEO Mikael Ohlsson during a St Petersburg summit in 2012.

IKEA's application to invest Rs 10,500 crore in setting up stores in India, filed with the government on June 22, 2012, had got clearance from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on January 21, 2013. CCEA had to take up the proposal on May 2, as an investment of more than Rs 1,200 crore is required to be vetted by the Cabinet.

After this clearance, IKEA can set up furniture stores in India, along with restaurants and cafés, in line with its global concept. IKEA's first India store is expected to come up in 2014-15. The company wants to establish 10 stores over the next 10 years and around 25 over a longer period. Each of these is likely to be spread over 100,000 sq ft.

Metro – Germany; Tesco – UK; Carrefour – France; Walmart – USA (C)

- 768)** What is a consumer good for which demand rises when the price increases, and demand falls when the price decreases called?
- a) Keynes good
 - b) Giffen good
 - c) Laffer good
 - d) Ricardo good
 - e) Marshal good

Giffen Good is a consumer good for which demand rises when the price increases, and demand falls when the price decreases. This phenomenon is notable because it violates the law of demand, whereby demand should increase as price falls and decrease as price rises. To be a Giffen good, the item must lack easy substitutes and it must be an inferior good or a good for which demand declines as the level of income in the economy increases. Economists disagree on whether Giffen goods exist and how common they are. (B)

- 769)** The Budget 2013-14 formally came into effect with the passage of Finance Bill 2013-14 in Lok Sabha on April 30, 2013. Which of the following will be applicable in 2013-14?
- I. Tax deducted at source (TDS) on the sale of immovable property
 - II. Commodities Transaction Tax (CTT) on non-agricultural futures
 - III. Wealth Tax on agriculture land
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The Lok Sabha on April 30 1, 2013 passed Budget 2013-14. Highlights are:

- No Wealth Tax on farm land
- TRCs enough to prove residency of investors from Mauritius; documents may be sought from those from other countries
- TDS (Tax deducted at source) on the sale of immovable property
- CTT (Commodities Transaction Tax) on non-agricultural futures stays
- Railways spared from service tax from July 1 to October 1, 2012

Commodities Transaction Tax to stay: The finance minister ruled out the withdrawal of the proposal to introduce Commodities Transaction Tax (CTT), saying that with the new levy commodities derivative trading will no longer be considered as a speculative transaction.

No wealth tax on agriculture land: The government has clarified that it would not impose wealth tax on farm lands near metropolises, assuaging fears sparked by notices served on farm owners. The budget had seemed to propose a 1 per cent wealth tax on the value of farm land within an 8km radius of municipal limits. Finance minister P. Chidambaram on April 30 said it was not the government's intention. "There was apprehension that wealth tax was being imposed on agricultural land. Let me make it absolutely clear that the policy of the UPA government is not to impose wealth tax on agriculture land," he said. The move was aimed at farm houses doubling up as hotels, restaurants and party venues but could have hit agriculturists. About 70 per cent of Punjab's farm lands are within an 8-km radius of urban areas.

Tax deducted at source (TDS) on the sale of immovable property: The finance minister also relaxed the rules on tax deducted at source (TDS) on the sale of immovable property. A TDS of 1 per cent is applicable on sellers from this year. The provision that sellers will have to obtain TAN (tax deduction and collection account number) for the deal will be done away with. "In order to be helpful to the person who is required to deduct the tax, we are dispensing with the requirement of obtaining a TAN. He need not have a TAN but he must deduct the tax," Chidambaram said. (B)

- 770)** Which state has got the largest share of the Rs 4065.81 crore sanctioned by the Union Government for pollution abatement schemes for rivers and lakes in various states in April 2013?
- a) Goa
 - b) Bihar
 - c) Kerala
 - d) Sikkim
 - e) Uttar Pradesh

The government has sanctioned Rs 4065.81 crore for pollution abatement schemes for rivers and lakes in various states with Uttar Pradesh getting the biggest share at Rs 1385.95 crore.

The amount includes sanctioned cost of projects and expenditure incurred including the share of the state governments under the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) and the National Lake Conservation Programme (NLCP), an official release said on April 5, 2013.

Under NLCP, the Ministry for Environment and Forests has sanctioned projects for conservation of 61 lakes in 14 states with a total cost of Rs 1031.18 crore. Works taken up under the Plan include core components of interception, diversion and treatment of waste-waters before their entry into the lake, catchment area treatment, shoreline protection, in-lake treatment such as aeration, de-weeding, de-siltation & bio-remediation.

The NRCP covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread across 20 states, the release said. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under the Plan, include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment

plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. (E)

771) SPART is an abbreviation related to:

- Urban transport
- National Highways
- Aviation
- Waterways
- Railways

The railways recently announced plans to import high-speed self-propelled accident relief trains (SPART) and hydraulic cranes with telescopic boom from Europe. The objective is to put rescue and restoration work during accidents on fast-track. Currently, the Railways have 27 self-propelled accident relief trains that run at a speed of 110 km per hour. (E)

772) Which G7 country has removed India from its General Preferential Tariff (GPT) regime that offers lower tariff for exports from January 2015?

- US
- Germany
- UK
- France
- Canada

Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced in March 2013 that his country was removing India from its General Preferential Tariff, or GPT, regime, which offers lower tariff for exports from India to Canada. Flaherty, who made the announcement while presenting Canada's annual federal budget in Ottawa, said India was one of the 72 countries to lose its GPT status from January 1, 2015. The Canadian government says it is revising its GPT list to exclude countries that no longer require preferential tariffs. Canada implemented its GPT regime in 1974 to offer preferential market access to developing countries to help these increase their export earnings and promote economic development. G7 countries: US, Japan, Germany, UK, France, Italy and Canada (E)

773) Which of the following statements on Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme is/are correct?

- An investor is permitted premature closure of his PPF account on payment of penalty
 - Balance in the PPF account cannot be attached by any decree of court in respect of any liability incurred by the investor
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme has been introduced for salaried as well as for self employed people to encourage savings habit and provide tax benefits. Features are:

Interest income in a PPF account is exempted from income tax.

The balance in the PPF account cannot be attached by any order or decree of court in respect of any debt or liability incurred by the subscriber.

The current interest rate for PPF is 8.7 per cent (effective April 1, 2013) per annum.

Investor can invest as minimum as Rs. 500 to maximum Rs. 1,00,000 in the PPF account in one complete financial year in one lump sum subscription or in maximum 12 transactions.

Tenure of PPF scheme is 15 years and premature closure of account is not allowed. After 15 years investor can completely withdraw the accumulated balance (Principal + Interest) and close the account or if investor desires to extend his PPF account, extension can be taken in a block period of 5 years for any number of times.

In the event of the death of the PPF account holder, the balance amount in the PPF account will be paid even before the completion of 15 years, to the nominee or legal heir of the deceased person. The nominee or the legal heir is not allowed to continue the PPF account by making fresh contributions to it.

As per PPF scheme terms and conditions prescribed by Government, an investor can avail of loan and withdrawal facility.

An investor can withdraw from his PPF account after the 6th year. He can withdraw only up to 50 per cent of the balance at the end of 4th year or at the end of the immediate preceding year whichever is lower. He is allowed to withdraw only once in a year.

An investor can take loan against his PPF account. He can avail the loan facility only from the 3rd year. He is allowed to take a loan to the extent of 25 per cent of the balance in the previous year. (B)

774) What is the maximum education loan an individual can avail from banks under current priority sector norms?

- Rs. 5 lakh for studies in India and Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad
- Rs. 10 lakh for studies in India and Rs. 20 lakh for studies abroad
- Rs. 15 lakh for studies in India and Rs. 25 lakh for studies abroad
- Rs. 20 lakh for studies in India and Rs. 30 lakh for studies abroad
- Rs. 25 lakh for studies in India and Rs. 35 lakh for studies abroad

Loans to individuals for educational purposes including vocational courses upto Rs. 10 lakh for studies in India and Rs. 20 lakh for studies abroad are included under priority sector.

Priority sector refers to those sectors of the economy which may not get timely and adequate credit in the absence of this special dispensation. Typically, these are small value loans to farmers for agriculture and allied activities, micro and small enterprises, poor people for housing, students for education and other low income groups and weaker sections. (B)

775) Divij Sharan and Purav Raja are India's young talents in which sport?

- Tennis
- Squash
- Snooker
- Badminton
- Table tennis

India's Divij Sharan and Purav Raja on June 19, 2013 qualified for the Men's Doubles event at Wimbledon. Both of them have played one Davis Cup tie each. While Divij played with Vishnu Vardhan against New Zealand in Chandigarh and contributed in the Kiwi whitewash, Raja partnered with legendary Leander Paes against South Korea in New Delhi and gave India the lone win in that tie. (A)

776) Which of the following is the industrial region in North Korea having manufacturing industries run South Korean companies?

- Yiwu
- Kaesong
- Chagang
- Kangwon
- Panmunjom

The Kaesong industrial zone, just inside North Korea, is a key source of revenue for Pyongyang. The zone was in news recently when North Korea pulled out its workers on April 8, 2013 as its relations with the South - and regional neighbours - deteriorated in the wake of its 12 February nuclear test. Since then operations at the zone, where more than 120 South Korean manufacturers employ some 53,000 North Korea workers, have been fully halted for the first time since the project began a decade ago. **Kaesong Industrial Zone**: - Launched in 2003, largely financed by the South to increase co-operation - More than 120 factories employ North Koreans in manufacturing industries, with goods exported to the South - Complex as a whole produced \$470m worth of goods in 2012 - the biggest contributor to inter-Korean trade - South Korean companies pay more than \$80m a year in wages to North Korean workers (B)

777) President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the status of 'Miniratna - Category 1' on NEEPCO in April 2013. NEEPCO is a CPSE in which sector?

- Coal
- Power
- Petroleum
- Construction
- Cement

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the status of 'Miniratna - Category 1' on the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) on April 13, 2013. With this elevation to Miniratna - Category 1 status, NEEPCO will now be able to take certain investment decisions on its own without going through the Union power ministry. Presently NEEPCO is executing five projects in the region with a total installed capacity of 917 MW, including the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh, which is expected to be on the national grid by 2016-17. The remaining four projects are expected to be commissioned by 2016. (B)

778) Which African country led by President Idriss Deby faced a military coup in May 2013?

- Congo
- Chad

- c) Mali
- d) South Sudan
- e) Sierra Leone

At least four people were killed in Chad's capital of N'Djamena on May 1, 2013 as security forces claimed to have foiled an attempted coup against the government of President Idriss Deby. (B)

- 779)** Which of the following tracks growth in different economies around the world through its Composite Leading Indicators (CLIs)?
- a) WB
 - b) EU
 - c) IMF
 - d) WTO
 - e) OECD

The OECD system of Composite Leading Indicators (CLIs) is designed to provide early signals of turning points in business cycles - fluctuation in the output gap, i.e. fluctuation of the economic activity around its long term potential level.

Composite leading indicators (CLIs), designed to anticipate turning-points in economic activity relative to trend, point to growth picking up in most major economies said an OECD release on April 10, 2013.

The CLIs in the United States and Japan continue to point to economic growth firming. The CLI for China provides a more positive outlook compared with last month's assessment, with the CLI now pointing towards growth picking up. In the Euro Area as a whole, and in particular in Germany, the CLIs continue to indicate a pick-up in growth. The CLIs point to no further decline in growth in France and to a positive change in momentum in Italy. The CLIs for the United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil and Russia point to growth close to trend rates while the CLI for India indicates weakening growth. (E)

- 780)** Banks levy charge on customers for transfer of funds using national electronic funds transfer (NEFT). Which of the following statements are correct?
- I. Rs. 2.50 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers up to Rs 10,000.
 - II. Rs. 5 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers between Rs 10,001 to Rs 1 lakh.
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

Banks levy charge on customers for transfer of funds from one account to another using national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) – Rs. 2.50 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers up to Rs 10,000. – Rs. 5 is the maximum charge that can be levied for funds transfers between Rs 10,001 to Rs 1 lakh. (C)

- 781)** Which of the following statements on transfer using national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) facility is/are correct?
- I. There is a maximum limit of Rs. 100,000 per transaction
 - II. There is no minimum limit for NEFT
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

NEFT is a nation-wide payment system facilitating one-to-one funds transfer. Under this scheme, individuals, firms and corporates can electronically transfer funds from any bank branch to any individual, firm or corporate having an account with any other bank branch in the country participating in the scheme. There is no limit — either minimum or maximum — on the amount of funds that could be transferred using NEFT. However, the maximum amount per transaction is limited to Rs 50,000 for cash-based remittances and remittances to Nepal. (B)

- 782)** Which of the following statements on Syria is/are correct?
- I. Arab Sunni is the minority community
 - II. Alawite Shia is the majority community
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II

Syria, in news for a civil war waged by rebels who seek to overthrow the regime of President Bashar-al Assad these days, is a country of fertile plains, high mountains and deserts, it is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups, including Kurds, Armenians, Assyrians, Christians, Druze, Alawite Shia and Arab Sunnis, the last of who make up a majority of the Muslim population.

Modern Syria gained its independence from France in 1946, but has lived through periods of political instability driven by the conflicting interests of these various groups. From 1958-61 it united with Nasser's Egypt, but an army coup restored independence before the pan-Arab nationalist Baath (Renaissance) party took control in 1963.

Soon coming under the control of a mainly Alawite faction of military leaders, it has ruled ever since, although the recent uprising has cast doubt on its longevity.

In 1967 Syria lost the Golan Heights to Israel after the Arab defeat in the Six Day War.

The Baath government has seen authoritarian rule at home and a strong anti-Western policy abroad, particularly under President Hafez al-Assad (succeeded by his son Bashar-al Assad) from 1970 to 2000. (D)

- 783)** Which of the following Bills were passed during the Budget Session of Parliament that concluded on May 8, 2013?
- a) Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill
 - b) Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill
 - c) Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill
 - d) Both (a) & (b)
 - e) Both (a) & (c)

The Budget session of Parliament was abruptly adjourned sine die on May 8, 2013. With the sudden curtailment of the session, key pieces of legislation such as the National Food Security Bill and the Land Acquisition Bill could not be passed. The Finance Bill marking the completion of the budgetary exercise and the Railway Budget were passed without any discussion. The only other Bills passed in the Budget Session were the Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill. (E)

- 784)** Presently how many States & Union Territories have Congress Chief Ministers following the party's win in the Karnataka Assembly elections organised on May 5, 2013?
- a) 6
 - b) 8
 - c) 10
 - d) 12
 - e) 14

Congress won a simple majority in the Karnataka Assembly elections organised on May 5, 2013. The voting percentage was 71.23 per cent.

Of the 223 seats that went to polls, Congress won 121, eight more than the simple majority figure of 113 in the 224-seat Assembly with a vote share of 36.6%. Congress had won 80 seats in the 2008 election.

Election at one constituency, Periyapatna in Mysore district, was postponed following the death of the BJP candidate.

Outgoing Chief Minister Jagdish Shettar won from the Hubli-Dharwad central constituency, defeating his nearest Congress rival Mahesh Nalwad by 17,754 votes, polling 58,201 votes.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s 2008 tally of 110 seats got shrunk to 40 this time with a decline in vote share from 34% to 20.1%, forcing it to share the second slot with the Janata Dal (Secular), which increased its tally to 40 seats from 28 in 2008.

Former chief minister B S Yeddyurappa's Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) won six seats, while the BSR Congress, founded by ex-BJP leader B. Sriramulu, bagged four. Others managed to win 12.

In 2009, the BJP had won 19 of 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state while the Congress had six.

Here's the list of 28 states and two Union Territories along with the ruling party and chief minister. In states like in Maharashtra, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar, the governments have coalition support.

States/Union Territories ruled by Congress– 14: Andhra Pradesh (N Kiran Kumar Reddy); Arunachal Pradesh (Nabam Tuki); Assam (Tarun Gogoi); Delhi (Sheila Dikshit); Haryana (Bhupinder Singh Hooda); Himachal Pradesh (Virbhadra Singh); Kerala (Oommen Chandy); Maharashtra (Prithviraj Chavan); Manipur (Okram Ibobi Singh);

Meghalaya (Mukul Sangma); Mizoram (Pu Lalthanhawla); Rajasthan (Ashok Gehlot); Uttarakhand (Vijay Bahuguna); Karnataka (Congress)

States ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party – 4: Chhattisgarh (Raman Singh); Goa (Manohar Parrikar); Gujarat (Narendra Modi); Madhya Pradesh (Shivraj Singh Chauhan)

State ruled by Communist Party of India-Marxist: Tripura (Manik Sarkar)

States/Union Territory ruled by regional parties: Bihar (Nitish Kumar) Janata Dal-United; Jammu and Kashmir (Omar Abdullah) National Conference (with Congress); Punjab (Parkash Singh Badal) Shiromani Akali Dal (with BJP); Nagaland (Neiphiu Rio) Naga People's Front; Sikkim (Pawan Kumar Chamling) Sikkim Democratic Front; Tamil Nadu (Jayalithaa) AIADMK; Uttar Pradesh (Akhilesh Yadav) Samajwadi Party; Odisha (Naveen Patnaik) Biju Janata Dal; West Bengal (Mamata Banerjee) Trinamool Congress; Puducherry (N Rangaswamy) All India N.R. Congress

State under President's rule: Jharkhand (Governor: Syed Ahmed) (E)

785) Which of the following is headed by Subodh Kumar Agrawal?

- Indian Banks Association (IBA)
- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)
- Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- Institute of Cost and Work Accountants of India (ICWAI)

In a move to usher in more transparency in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will evolve standards to audit the scheme in 2.5 lakh villages, said ICAI President, Subodh Kumar Agarwal in Chennai on May 10, 2013. The ICAI would evolve a standardised procedure as the auditing of the MGNREGA scheme was unstructured one. Agarwal also urged the Centre to implement the International Financial Reporting Standards from April 1, 2015 for certain companies with a net worth of over Rs.1,000 crore. IFRS is designed as a common global language for business affairs so that company accounts are understandable and comparable across international boundaries. (D)

786) The World Bank-assisted ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi in May 2013. 4. Who among the following is the World Bank's Country Director for India?

- Hideaki Suzuki
- Onno Ruhl
- Gwen Hines
- Roberto Tan
- Jorg Frieden

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath on May 10, 2013 launched the World Bank-assisted ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) in New Delhi. The programme aims at improving child development and nutritional outcomes for children in selected districts having higher proportion of child undernutrition. The total size of the project is Rs. 2893 crore with 70 per cent IDA (International development Assistance) share of Rs. 2,025 crore over 7 years.

"The last National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) data indicates about 43 per cent children under-5 years of age and 40 per cent under-3 years of age are underweight. We have focused our efforts on targeting children, mothers and adolescent girls through various programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and other Ministries," the Minister said.

World Bank Country Director for India Onno Ruhl said that undernourishment could begin before a child was even born, with the critical period continuing until it turned two. Nutrition was the key component to lift people above poverty levels and for this the programme must have a structure to ensure that the systems were in place so that the benefits reached the intended beneficiaries. (B)

787) The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment _____ released the monthly magazine "Samajik Nyay Sandesh" published by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in New Delhi on May 10, 2013.

- Kumari Selja
- Girija Vyas
- Krishna Tirath
- Panabaaka Lakshmi
- Chandresh Kumari Katoch

The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Kumari Selja released the monthly magazine "Samajik Nyay Sandesh" published by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in New Delhi on May 10, 2013. First published in December 2002, this magazine has been revived adorning a new look with the objective of carrying out Dr. Ambedkar's ideology. Dr.

Ambedkar Foundation was established by the Government of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Welfare (now Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) on March 24, 1992 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Foundation has been entrusted with the responsibility of managing administering and carrying on the important and long-term schemes and programmes identified during the Centenary Celebrations of Bharat Ratna Dr B.R. Ambedkar. (A)

788) With which of the following has the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) signed MoU for spread of information on tribal welfare schemes run by the government on May 8, 2013?

- Doordarshan
- All India Radio
- Press Trust of India
- News Broadcasters Association
- Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity

Kishore Chandra Deo, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs & Panchayati Raj launched the "Tribal Forest Dwellers Empowerment Scheme" of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) for economic upliftment of Schedule Tribe forest dwellers on May 8, 2013.

On the occasion, a Radio Partnership MoU was also signed between NSTFDC and All India Radio (AIR) for coverage of Scheduled Tribes related schemes.

The Government enacted a Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Under this act, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers have been given the right to hold the forest land for habitation or for self-cultivation or for carrying out any other traditional activity for their livelihood. Most of the Scheduled Tribes are poor and need financial support for productive utilization of land for their livelihood. (B)

789) The Union Cabinet cleared important changes to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission on May 6, 2013. Which of the following statements on loans to Women Self-help Groups (SHGs) is/are correct?

- Women SHGs can avail loans up to Rs. 5 lakh
 - Rate of interest will be 7 per cent per annum
 - Women SHGs that repay loans in time will get additional 3 per cent subvention
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

In a major boost to the roll out of the women's self help group model across the country, the Union Cabinet on May 6, 2013 cleared important changes to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (Aajeevika). Minister for Rural Development, Jairam Ramesh noted that the changes will provide additional resources and additional flexibility to implement the NRLM (Aajeevika) in a more effective and accelerated manner across the country, creating new livelihoods and empowering women across rural India.

National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched in June 2011 by the Ministry of Rural Development to bring the poorest of the poor above the poverty line by ensuring viable livelihood opportunities to them. NRLM aims to ensure that at least one member from each identified rural poor household, preferably a woman, is brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a time bound manner.

The key changes approved are as follows:

Improved targeting, by doing away with BPL criteria and instead identifying target groups through the Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) process

Under the existing framework of implementation of N.R.L.M, only rural households included in the official BPL list could be targeted under N.R.L.M. This list was prepared in 2002, has not been updated and has many defects. Since the entire N.R.L.M scheme depends on the formation of affinity based groups of poor women with common bonding and synergistic functioning, which cannot be created by simply drawing persons from an externally prepared and incomplete BPL list, the Cabinet has now approved that target groups under N.R.L.M will be determined by a well defined, transparent and equitable process of Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP), at the level of the community. The P.I.P process has been extensively demonstrated to be very effective in states where women's self-help-groups have succeeded. The list finalized through the P.I.P process will be vetted by the Gram Sabha and approved by the Gram Panchayat. The P.I.P process will also have a set of exclusion criteria, automatic inclusion criteria and a set of deprivation indicators for enabling poverty ranking in a participatory manner. This delinks N.R.L.M target group from the BPL list.

Interest subvention and additional interest subvention in 150 districts

Pursuant to the announcement made by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for 2012-13, Cabinet has approved the provision of interest subvention to Women SHGs, enabling them to avail loans up to Rs. 3 lakh at an interest rate of 7 per cent per annum. Women SHGs that repay loans in time will get additional 3 per cent subvention, reducing the effective rate to 4 per cent. The initiative, in the first phase, would focus on 150 districts, including the 82 IAP districts, affected by Left Wing Extremism.

Change in the pattern of financial assistance - replacing Capital subsidy with a Community Investment Support fund

Financial assistance to the poor households was so far provided in the form of capital subsidy linked to bank credit. It was felt that this did not create a perpetual and viable capital base at the SHG level and was open to misuse. The Cabinet has thus approved to withdraw 'capital subsidy' to SHGs and instead provide financial support SHG federations and livelihoods organizations of the SHG members in the 'intensive' blocks through a grant called Community Investment Support fund, which will be used by the Federations to advance loans to SHGs and to undertake common socio-economic activities. This will happen in a phased manner, since intensive blocks will be added in a phased manner.

Setting up of National Level Society under N.R.L.M for more effective implementation

The Cabinet also approved the setting up an 'autonomous, adequately staffed, professionally managed and empowered agency at the national level to implement the N.R.L.M', called the National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (N.R.L.P.S) under the Societies Registration Act. The NRLPS will act as the technical support unit of N.R.L.M. The setting up of such a Society is essential to implement the programme in a mission mode, as livelihoods programmes require a wide range of specialization and experience. The main objective of the Society is to continuously build capacities of the State rural livelihoods missions in planning, implementing and monitoring the programme. The Society structure would enable access to high quality professional support, provide flexibility to create partnerships and facilitate innovations and would serve as a knowledge center for rural livelihoods for the state missions. Further it will provide an opportunity for formally involving State Governments in decision-making, by nominating them to the Executive Committee of the Society.

- 790)** Which NGO in its 'State of the World's Mothers' report released on May 7, 2013 has disclosed that over three lakh newborns in India die within 24 hours of their birth every year?
- Feed the Children
 - Nourish the Children
 - Save the Children
 - Nurture the Children
 - SOS Children's Village

Over three lakh newborns in India die within 24 hours of their birth every year – the highest number in the world. With a total of 3,09,000 babies hardly surviving a day, India tops the list for such deaths, according to a report titled 'State of the World's Mothers' released here on May 7, 2013. The country accounts for 29 per cent of all such deaths — ahead even of Nigeria, Pakistan and China, the study by Save the Children says. Quoting Sample Registration Survey (SRS 2011) figures, the report says Madhya Pradesh has the highest burden of early newborn deaths (0-7 days) at 32, followed closely by Uttar Pradesh and Odisha (30). Thomas Chandy, CEO of Save the Children in India, says: "For the first time in history, putting an end to this crisis is within our reach, but to achieve this will require unprecedented focus on saving babies in their first day of life. Save the Children recognises the immense efforts being made in India and the government's commitment to end child mortality in a generation. Although many challenges remain, India has mobilised the most important ingredient to long term success: political will." (C)

- 791)** The abbreviation VVPAT expands as:
- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Test
 - Voter Vision Paper Assessment Trail
 - Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail
 - Voter Vetted Paper Audit Test
 - Voter Value Paper Audit Test

The representatives of the recognised national and State-level political parties on May 10, 2013 expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), developed by the Election Commission (EC) and made some suggestions for further improvement. The Commission said "the suggestions will be considered by the Expert Committee and the EC."

The improved VVPAT is likely to be used for field trial in the next few months in the by-poll and subsequently in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. The representatives were participating in the demonstration of VVPAT, which was jointly

developed by the public sector Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Bharat Electronics Limited and the model had already undergone field trials twice in various parts of the country.

According to the improvement made in the VVPAT, a voter who exercised his/her vote through the ballot unit of the EVM could physically see the printout of the vote cast by him/her. The name of the candidate, his/her election symbol and his/her serial number in the ballot would be displayed in the printout which the voter cannot take home. (C)

- 792)** Which is the new course introduced by the CBSE to teach children to be kind to animals in May 2013?
- Kind Citizen
 - Caring Citizen
 - Sympathetic Citizen
 - Affectionate Citizen
 - Compassionate Citizen

Skill-based courses that can help a student enter the job market soon after school have now been introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education. For the skill-based courses, CBSE has shortlisted some private institutes which offer special training programmes for skill development. The courses are in 11 areas, including retail, information technology, security, automobile, banking and insurance, hospitality and tourism, mass media and media production, health and beauty, music production, design, and medical diagnostics. "Skilled manpower and right exposure will help students to attain the best positions in various organisations," said CBSE Chairman Vineet Joshi on May 7, 2013. The course is not compulsory. Students will be given a choice to opt for these competency-based skill courses along with the general academic subjects.

CBSE has also written to schools informing them about the inclusion of "Compassionate Citizen" course in school Curricula from the next academic year to help children become sensitive towards animals. In a notification to school principals, the Board has said that it is endorsing the use of "compassionate citizen", an education programme prepared by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), in CBSE-affiliated schools for children ages 8 to 12 years as part of the schools' curricula. The programme consists of a teacher's guide, reproducible activity sheets, a reading unit with adaptations from true animal stories and a 28-minute video with animal footage. It is divided into four different sections that can be turned into complete lessons to generate a classroom discussion about the world of animals, animals and their feelings, changing times and changing minds and making humane choices. (E)

- 793)** The Supreme Court on May 6, 2013 dismissed a petition against the commissioning of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant being built with assistance from _____.
- France
 - Canada
 - Russia
 - Japan
 - USA

The Supreme Court on May 6, 2013 dismissed a petition against the commissioning of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu, observing that the plant is "safe and secure" and is necessary for larger public interest and economic growth of the country. Nuclear power plants are needed in the country for the present and future generations, a bench of justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra said, while dismissing a petition opposing the project. But the court also laid down 15 guidelines on commissioning, safety and security and environmental issues concerning the plant. In a 250-page judgment, the bench headed by K S Radhakrishnan stated the plant should not be made operational unless the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and the Department of atomic energy accorded final clearance for ensuring the quality of various components and systems. (C)

- 794)** Which of the following is facing international arbitration for terminating an agreement with Devas Multimedia in 2010?
- DRDO
 - Antrix Corporation
 - Bharat Electronics Ltd
 - Ordnance Factory Board
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd

The Supreme Court on May 10, 2013 ruled in favour of international arbitration in the Antrix-Devas standoff which arose after Antrix cancelled S band wavelength allotted to Devas Multimedia P. Ltd. in 2005. Antrix Corporation is engaged in marketing and sale of products and services of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The deal was called off by Antrix, the commercial wing of ISRO, in 2010 amid allegations of illegalities in allotting this strategic band to the US Company. The PM holds the space portfolio. (B)

- 795)** Rani Avanti Bai, the second in the series of five inshore patrol vessels being built by _____ was commissioned for the Indian Coast Guard on May 9, 2013.

- ABG Shipyard
- L&T Shipbuilding
- Mazagaon Dock
- Hindustan Shipyard
- Garden Reach Shipbuilding

Rani Avanti Bai, the second in the series of five inshore patrol vessels being built by the Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd (HSL), Visakhapatnam, was commissioned for the Indian Coast Guard by Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Defence, at the HSL jetty on May 9, 2013. Built using light, high tensile steel with aluminium super structure and powered by three water jet propulsion systems for high speeds, the vessels are well suited for coastal and offshore operations. The ship is 51.5 m long, 8.36 m wide and has a draught of 4.55 m and can achieve 33 knots. (D)

- 796) The Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 303 commissioned by the Defence Minister on May 11, 2013, is the first _____ squadron of the Indian Navy.
- Sukhoi 30
 - Mirage 2000
 - Jaguar
 - MiG 27
 - MIG 29

The Defence Minister, A. K. Antony commissioned the Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 303, the first MiG 29K squadron of the Indian Navy at INS Hansa, in Goa on May 11, 2013. (E)

- 797) The Union Cabinet on May 9, 2013 gave its approval for declaring the year 2013 as "Water Conservation Year 2013". Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- India has 4 percent of world's renewable water resources
 - Per capita availability of water in India was 1545 cubic metre per year in 2011
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The Union Cabinet on May 9, 2013 gave its approval for declaring the year 2013 as Water Conservation Year 2013. A number of mass awareness activities will be undertaken during Water Conservation Year 2013 with emphasis on sensitizing the masses on water related issues, encourage them to conserve and use it judiciously.

A mass awareness programme will be launched with the involvement of all stakeholders to achieve the objectives identified in the National Water Policy, 2012 and National Water Mission. India has more than 18 percent of the world's population, but has only 4 percent of world's renewable water resources with 2.4 percent of world's land area.

With a growing population and rising needs of a fast developing nation as well as the given indicators of the impact of climate change, per capita availability of water is likely to go down from 1545 cubic metre per year in 2011 to 1341 cubic metre per year in 2025.

The increasing demand of water for various purposes will further strain with the possibility of deepening water conflicts among different user groups as drinking water need is going to rise by 44 percent, irrigation need by 10 percent, industry need by 81 percent respectively by 2025.

In view of this, the Ministry had prepared National Water Policy (2012), which was adopted by the National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister in December 2012.

Water Conservation is also the key objective of the National Water Mission which is one of the eight National Missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change. This envisages conservation, minimizing wastage and ensuring more equitable distribution of water resources both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management. (C)

- 798) Who is the Director of 13 short films based on the poems of Rabindranath Tagore produced by National Film Development Corporation and released on May 9, 2013?
- Mrinal Sen
 - Sandip Ray
 - Goutam Ghose
 - Rituparno Ghosh
 - Buddhadeb Dasgupta

Union Minister of Culture Chandresh Kumari Katoch on May 9, 2013 launched, 13 short films based on the poems of Rabindranath Tagore. These films have been produced with the financial support of Ministry of Culture. Noted Director

Buddhadeb Dasgupta has directed this series through National Film Development Corporation. This project for production of 13 short films/ documentaries is a part of the commemoration celebrating 150th birth anniversary of Tagore. These short films (each of 25-30 minutes duration) are based on Tagore's poems namely, Bansi (The Flute), Krishnakali (The Dark Maiden), Mukti (The Freedom), Phanki (Deception), Pukur Dhare (From the pool side), Ek Gaye (A Village), Camellia (Camellia), Banhiwallah (The Flutist), Shesh Chithi (The Last Letter), Hothat Dekha (The Unexpected Meeting), Patralekha (The letter ought to be written), Basha Bari (The mansion) and Istition (The Station). (E)

- 799) Who among the following is the author of 'A Billion Brave Hearts' released in May 2013?
- Anustup Basu
 - Prabhjot Singh
 - Sandipan Deb
 - Sumati Nagrath
 - Nilanjana Sengupta

Recent Books

Bollywood in the Age of New Media: The Geo-Televisual Aesthetic by Anustup Basu
A Gentleman's Word — The Legacy of Subhas Chandra Bose in Southeast Asia by Nilanjana Sengupta
A Billion Brave Hearts by Sandipan Deb
The Childhood Of Jesus by J M Coetzee
Half A Rupee: Stories by Gulzar (translated by Sunjoy Shekhar)
Incredible Ascents To Everest by Sumati Nagrath (C)

- 800) Which of the following statements about the new Chief Minister of Karnataka appointed in May 2013 is/are correct?
- He was member of BJP before joining Congress
 - He has served as Deputy Chief Minister before
 - He has served as Chief Minister before
 - He is the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka
 - All the above

The Congress celebrated its Karnataka victory with a massive oath-taking ceremony for new Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Bangalore's Kanteerava Stadium on May 13, 2013. The 64-year-old has been sworn in as the state's 22nd Chief Minister by Governor H R Bhardwaj. Siddaramaiah, a stated agnostic, took oath in the name of truth. He has been Deputy Chief Minister twice before (1996-99, 2004-06). He is relatively new in the Congress. A protege of JD(S) leader and former Prime Minister and ex chief minister HD Deve Gowda, Siddaramaiah left the Janata Dal (Secular) six years ago and walked over to the Congress. A lawyer-turned-politician, Siddaramaiah had narrowly missed the Chief Minister's seat in 1996 when Deve Gowda resigned to become Prime Minister. He is from the Kuruba community, the third largest in the state. (B)

- 801) Union Law & Justice Minister Ashwani Kumar resigned on May 9, 2013. He is a Member of _____ from _____.
- Lok Sabha, Punjab
 - Rajya Sabha, Haryana
 - Rajya Sabha, Punjab
 - Lok Sabha, Haryana
 - None of the above

Union Law & Justice Minister Ashwani Kumar resigned on May 9, 2013 following adverse comments made by Supreme Court over his alleged role in making changes in the CBI report on coal scam that was submitted to the apex court. He is member of Rajya Sabha from Punjab. The scam involves allocation of coal mines to companies in an arbitrary process instead of open auctions that could have ensured transparency and earned huge revenues to the government. (C)

- 802) Union Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal resigned on May 11, 2013. He is a Member of Lok Sabha representing _____.
- Rohtak
 - Amritsar
 - Ludhiana
 - Jalandhar
 - Chandigarh

Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal, who faces a possible framing of a charge by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of "criminal conspiracy" in accepting illegal gratification to give a Railway Board member a plum posting, resigned on May 11, 2013. On May 3, Bansal's nephew Vijay Singla was arrested by the CBI for accepting a bribe of Rs. 90 lakh for ensuring a plum posting for Railway Board Member (Staff) Mahesh Kumar. Kumar, who has

also been arrested, is alleged to have arranged payment of bribe from railway contractors. Kumar had allegedly struck a Rs. 10-crore deal with the Singla for appointment as Railway Board Member (Electrical). Bansal was elected from Chandigarh Constituency in 15th Lok Sabha. (E)

- 803)** _____ was given the additional charge of the Ministry of Railways while _____ was given additional charge of _____ the Ministry of Law and Justice following the resignation of Pawan Bansal and Ashwani Kumar in May 2013.
- C. P. Joshi, Kapil Sibal
 - Kamal Nath, M. Veerappa Moily
 - Ajay Maken, M. M. Pallam Raju
 - Harish Rawat, Sriprakash Jaiswal
 - Salman Khurshid, Jairam Ramesh

The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, on May 11, 2013 accepted the resignation from Pawan Kumar Bansal and Ashwani Kumar, members of the Council of Ministers, with immediate effect. Further, as advised by the Prime Minister of India, the President has directed that the additional charge of the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Law and Justice shall be given to C. P. Joshi and Kapil Sibal respectively. (A)

- 804)** What was the highest government honour conferred on playback singer Shamshad Begum who passed away at the age of 94 in April 2013?
- Bharat Ratna
 - Padma Vibhushan
 - Padma Bhushan
 - Padma Shri
 - None of the above

Playback singer Shamshad Begum, known for songs such as 'Saiyyan Dil Mein Aana Re' and 'Leke Pele Pele Pyar', died at her home in Mumbai on April 23, 2013. She was 94. The singer was honoured with a Padma Bhushan in 2009. Born in Punjab on April 14, 1919, Shamshad received no formal music training. Shamshad worked as singer on Peshawar Radio for few years before making her playback debut in the Punjabi film 'Yamla Jat'. Her duet with composer C. Ramachandra 'Mere Piya gaye Rangoon, Kiya Hai Mahan Se Telephoon' from the movie 'Patanga' was one of her most memorable songs. (C)

- 805)** Popular _____ vocalist Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar passed away on May 8, 2013.
- Khayal
 - Tarana
 - Thumri
 - Dadra
 - Dhrupad

Popular Dhrupad vocalist Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar passed away on May 8, 2013 at the age of 80 in Mumbai. Son of the illustrious Ustad Ziauddin Dagar, Zia along with his brother, the late Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar (legendary Rudra Veena player), played a major role in the revival of dhrupad tradition. Zia was born in Udaipur, Rajasthan on June 15, 1932, where his father was the court musician of Maharana Bhupal Singh of Udaipur. He was taught dhrupad vocal and veena by his father. The musician was honoured with many awards in his illustrious career including the Sangeet Natak Academy Fellowship, Tagore Ratna Award and Tansen Samman among others. (E)

- 806)** Profulla Chandra Borua, who passed away at the age of 76 in May 2013, was a well-known Assamese _____.
- Singer
 - Journalist
 - Politician
 - Industrialist
 - Film producer

Veteran journalist and former editor of two leading Assamese dailies – Dainik Asam and Dainik Janambhumi – and the editor of Uddipon, a monthly Assamese magazine for elderly people, Profulla Chandra Borua passed away in Guwahati on May 6, 2013. He was 76. (B)

- 807)** Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Iranian Minister Ali Akbar Salehi?
- P. Chidambaram
 - A. K. Antony
 - Anand Sharma
 - M. Veerappa Moily
 - Salman Khurshid

India on May 4, 2013 announced its participation in the Chabahar port project — a move that would reinforce New Delhi's strategic ties with Tehran and Kabul ahead of next year's withdrawal from Afghanistan by the United States. The decision to forge a trilateral partnership was announced in Tehran by External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid in the presence of his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Salehi, and delegates of the two countries. "The convergence of views between India and Iran goes beyond the ambit of bilateral relations and extends to the regional and international arena as well. The Chabahar port project is one such area which reflects our commitment to the stability and peace in Afghanistan," said Khurshid. The full development of the Chabahar port would lower landlocked Afghanistan's dependence on Pakistani ports for assured access to the sea. (E)

- 808)** USA has filed a complaint at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against restrictions imposed by India on which of the following imports from the US?
- Textile products
 - Steel products
 - Automobiles
 - Agricultural products
 - Engineering goods

Panels have been formed by the WTO to resolve disputes between India and the US on two matters related with agricultural and steel products, Parliament was informed on May 8, 2013. The US and India held consultations under the dispute settlement mechanism of WTO in two different matters, "one concerning restrictions by India on import of certain agricultural products including poultry and the other concerning exorbitantly high countervailing duty imposed by US on certain steel products originating from India," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry D Purandeswari said in the Rajya Sabha.

Consultations are the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process, and parties are encouraged to agree to a solution at this stage. Under WTO rules, if the matter is not resolved through consultations within 60 days, both the sides may request for setting up of a WTO dispute settlement panel. In April last year, India complained that the US had wrongly imposed countervailing duties, a kind of restrictive duty, on certain hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from India. Countries impose countervailing duties when they believe that their domestic manufacturers are suffering losses because of competition from unfairly subsidised imports.

Earlier in March 2012, the US had dragged India to the WTO against New Delhi's ban on imports of certain American farm products, including poultry meat and eggs. The US had termed the ban as unjustified health-safety worries. (D)

- 809)** Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Azerbaijan Minister Elmar Mammadyarov?
- A.K. Antony
 - P. Chidambaram
 - Anand Sharma
 - M. Veerappa Moily
 - Salman Khurshid

As India and Azerbaijan deepen energy and transportation links, the first-ever Foreign Minister-level visit from Baku concluded in New Delhi on May 5, 2013. "The visit by Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov marks the beginning of a new phase of deeper engagement and cooperation between our two countries," said a Ministry of External Affairs press release. Mammadyarov held delegation level talks with his counterpart, Salman Khurshid. (E)

- 810)** India has six natural sites in UNESCO's World Heritage List. Which of the following is not among them?
- Kaziranga National Park
 - Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Sundarbans National Park
 - Keoladeo National Park
 - Great Himalayan National Park

India has nominated a group of six hill forts in Rajasthan – Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber, and Jaisalmer – and the Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal Pradesh as candidates for World Heritage Sites this year. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Cambodian capital Phnom Penh in June 2013 will decide on conferring the status on them. **India's SIX Natural Sites in UNESCO World Heritage List are:** Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Sundarbans National Park and Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers National Parks & Western Ghats (E)

- 811)** Four envoys presented their credentials to the President of India at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 9, 2013. Which of the following pairs of new envoys and their countries is/are matched correctly?
- Mentor Patricio Villagomez Merino – Lithuania
 - Mohamed Naseer – Maldives
 - Laimonas Talt-Kelpsa – Malawi
 - Perks Ligoya – Ecuador

e) All the above

Four envoys presented their credentials to the President of India at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 9, 2013. The envoys who presented their credentials were: - Mentor Patricio Villagomez Merino, Ambassador of Ecuador, Mohamed Naseer, High Commissioner of Maldives, Laimonas Talt-Kelpsa, Ambassador of Lithuania and Perks Ligoya, High Commissioner of Malawi. (B)

812) Who among the following was appointed Special Envoy by Italy's Prime Minister in May 2013 on the issue of its marines facing trial in the killing of two fishermen in India?

- Giulio Terzi
- Daneil Mancini
- Pier Luigi Bersani
- Staffan de Mistura
- Salvatore Girone

Amid the lingering issue of its marines facing trial in the killing of two fishermen in India, Italy has appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Staffan de Mistura as Special Envoy to work out a fair outcome of the case. Italian PM Enrico Letta on May 5, 2013 appointed Mistura as his Special Envoy to handle the issue. (D)

813) Kot Bhalwal jail is in _____.

- Lahore
- Jammu
- Srinagar
- Amritsar
- Pahalgam

Pakistani prisoner Sanaullah, who was admitted to the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh after having been attacked in Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu, died on May 9, 2013. On May 3, Sanaullah was flown into Chandigarh from Jammu in a critical condition. His health deteriorated over the last few days. Sanaullah was admitted to PGIMER the day Indian prisoner Sarabjit Singh was cremated at his ancestral Bhikhiwind village in Punjab's Tarn Taran district. Both men were convicted of terror activities, including planting bombs in public places. While Sarabjit was on death row in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail, Sanaullah was serving a life sentence. Both were attacked in their prisons by fellow inmates and received grievous head injuries. (B)

814) Elections were organised for Malaysia's lower house of Parliament in May 2013. What is the Malaysian counterpart of India's Lok Sabha known as?

- Barisan Nasional
- Dewan Rakyat
- Pakatan Rakyat
- Menteri Besar
- Dewan Negara

The Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition led by Prime Minister Najib Razak captured 133 of 222 seats in the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) to win a majority in the elections for the lower house of Parliament in Malaysia organised on May 5, 2013.

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim led Pakatan Rakyat (People's Alliance) bagged 89 seats.

The National Front is dominated by the United Malays National Organisation (UNMO) led by Razak. It also includes the Malaysian Chinese Association and the Malaysian Indian Congress.

The three parties comprising People's Alliance were Ibrahim's People's Justice Party (PKR), Democratic Action Party (DAP), and Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS).

Dewan Negara is the upper house of Parliament in Malaysia.

It was the National Front's 13th consecutive victory in a general election since independence from Britain in 1957. It faced its most unified challenge ever from an Opposition that hoped to capitalise on allegations of arrogance, abuse of public funds and racial discrimination against the government. (B)

815) Who among the following headed the technical committee set up by the RBI to look into the challenges faced by exporters, including availability of credit and transaction costs which submitted its report in May 2013?

- M. D. Mallya
- R. K. Pattnaik
- Dipankar Gupta
- G Padmanabhan

e) Vinayak Chatterjee

Seeking to boost exports and bridge the ballooning current account deficit, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee, on May 6, 2013, suggested a slew of measures such as introduction of differential tax regime, and increasing the scope of interest subsidy scheme for exporters. "The global trade environment may not improve in the immediate period. There is, therefore, an urgent need to boost India's exports so that the trade deficit is narrowed down, and CAD stays within the projected cap," the RBI said. The Reserve Bank had constituted a technical committee on services/facilities for the exporters under the Chairmanship of RBI Executive Director G. Padmanabhan to suggest ways for improving financial support from alternative sources. Among others, the committee has made recommendations relating to review of Gold Card Scheme for extension of export credit to exporters, appropriate inclusion of export finance under the priority sector lending, and raising of foreign currency loans on pool basis for extension of export credit to exporters. It said there was a need to widen the scope of interest subvention to ensure larger exporter segment derive benefit from the Scheme. (D)

816) Who among the following is the United Nations and Arab League envoy on Syria?

- Kofi Annan
- Amr Moussa
- Nabil Elaraby
- Lakhdar Brahimi
- Hamdeen Sabbahi

Russia and the United States have agreed to work together to bring the warring sides in Syria to the negotiating table, raising hopes for an end to carnage in the war-torn country and a thaw in frosty relations between Moscow and Washington. Emerging from talks with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Moscow on May 7, 2013, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that the sides agreed to convene "as soon as possible, maybe at the end of this month" an international conference on Syria. The United Nations and Arab League envoy on Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, has welcomed the agreement between Russia and the United States to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis through an internationally supported intra-Syrian dialogue. (D)

817) Who among the following was chosen as the new Director General of World Trade Organization (WTO) in May 2013 and he is from which country?

- Anabel Gonzalez, Ecuador
- Hermino Blanco Mendoza, Chile
- Tim Groser, Canada
- Roberto Azevedo, Brazil
- Mari Elka Pangestu, Thailand

World Trade Organization (WTO) members announced in Geneva on May 8, 2013 that they had chosen Roberto Azevedo, Brazil's Permanent Representative to the WTO, to be the next director general. He was chosen from among nine candidates from around the globe. According to a statement from the WTO's selection committee, Azevedo was leading throughout several confidential straw polls taken in recent months to winnow the field. At the end, it was between him and Hermino Blanco of Mexico.

In September 2013, Azevedo will replace French diplomat Pascal Lamy, the long-serving WTO head who helped the agency move beyond the anti-globalization fervor of the 1990s and absorb China, Russia and other countries into its membership, but was unable to move the 159 member countries to a new trade agreement.

The aim of the Geneva-based WTO is to facilitate global trade, making the flow of goods and services around the world as free and fair as possible. The WTO has become a key forum for resolving trade disputes. The WTO is also supposed to advance a broad global trade agenda that liberalizes the flow of goods and services around the world while giving poorer or developing nations the ability to protect and grow local businesses and industries as they come up to world standards.

The WTO replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which had been overseeing the rules of commerce since 1948. The GATT covered trade in goods, while the WTO also deals in the trade of services, inventions and designs. While trade disputes were heard under the GATT rules, the process is faster under the WTO, even though trade cases can still run for years. (D)

818) _____ (94), who served as Italian prime minister seven times, died on May 6, 2013.

- Mario Tanassi
- Giulio Andreotti
- Francesco Cossiga
- Gianni De Michelis
- Giuseppe Guarino

Giulio Andreotti (94), who served as Italian prime minister seven times, died on May 6, 2013. A leading member of the defunct Christian Democrat party which dominated Italian politics for almost fifty years after World War II, Andreotti was a lawmaker in every Italian parliament since 1945. He was made a senator for life in 1991. He was a complex figure who embodied the contradictions and intrigues of Italy's often shady politics. He was accused and acquitted both of being a member of the mafia and of ordering the murder of a muck-raking journalist. His supporters said he served his country like few others, helping transform Italy from a war-devastated agricultural backwater to a leading industrial power in the space of a generation. (B)

819) National Technology Day is observed to mark which of the following events?

- I. Nuclear tests at Pokhran
 - II. Flight of indigenous aircraft Tejas
 - III. Successful test firing of the Trishul missile
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

President Pranab Mukherjee on May 11, 2013 presented National Technological Awards at a function held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to mark the National Technology Day 2013. Innovative Products supported by Technology Development Board and CSIR were also launched on the occasion. This year's function was centered on the Theme "Innovation - Making a Difference".

National Award

The National Award for 2013 was given to M/s **Biovet Private Limited**, Malur, Kolar, Karnataka, for successful commercial production of Bluetongue pentavalent vaccine and Johne's disease vaccine for the first time in India. The technology was provided by Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh. Instituted by the Technology Development Board (TDB) in 1999 the Award carries an amount of Rs.10 lakh and a trophy each to the Industrial Concern and the technology provider.

Award to encourage Small Scale Industries

The Award to encourage Small Scale Industries (SSI units) for 2013 and also to successfully commercialize product based on indigenous technologies, developed by SSI Unit for the year 2013 was given to M/s **Pyrodynamics**, Bengaluru for development and commercialization of a digital Strain Measurement System. Instituted by the Technology Development Board, the award carries an amount of Rs. 5 Lakhs and a trophy.

Biotech Product & Process Development and Commercialisation Awards

To promote development & commercialization of Biotechnology Products, Department of Biotechnology instituted Biotech Product & Process Development and Commercialisation Awards. The award carries cash prize of Rs. 2.00 lakhs, citation & a trophy to each awardee. This year's Biotech Product & Process Development and Commercialisation Awards for 2013 were awarded to **Dr. Samit Kumar Nandi** from West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences; **Dr. K.M. Shankar** from Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar; **Dr. R K Viji** and his team from National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal; **Dr. Daman Saluja** from University of Delhi

National Award for Technology Business Incubator

This year's National Award for Technology Business Incubator went to **Kongu Engineering College**, Perundurai, Erode, Tamil Nadu. Department of Science & Technology instituted Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in academic institutions to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The National Award for best TBI is given to an incubator that has shown outstanding performance in creation of technology based new enterprises. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3.00 lakh, Certificate and a trophy.

Innovative Products launched:

On this occasion following Innovative Products supported by Technology Development Board (TDB) and CSIR were also launched:

The First product which is **Blood Chemistry Analyser & Compact Portable Mobile Lab** developed by Amit Bhatnagar, an IITian with the assistance of TDB. This Analyser supports the analysis of 23 parameters which includes Haemoglobin count, Blood Glucose, Urea, Uric Acid, Creatinine, Total Protein, Bilirubin, Cholesterol, Triglycerides, SGPT, Calcium, Magnesium, and Phosphorous. Cost of testing all 23 parameters on this device is less than Rs. 120

per person. The analyser is capable of analyzing 4000 samples during a day. The Blood chemistry analyzer costs around Rs. 80,000/-.

The second product that is **Hand-held integrated battery operated micro PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Device** with real-time detection. This device has been developed by M/s Bigtec, Bangalore. This PCR can detect Tuberculosis, Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Hepatitis B and H1N1, ailments that contribute significantly to the disease burden in India. The device is expected to cost a tenth of a conventional real-time PCR.

The third product released was the Science & Technology Report titled "India: Science and Technology" capturing India's S&T progress over the years emphasising on the nation's objectives to drive innovation at full strength.

The fourth item launched is a **Modular Tablet PC** designed, developed and manufactured by two IITians - Rohan Pandey and Rohit Rathi.

Background: On 11th May, 1998 India achieved a major technological breakthrough by successfully carrying out nuclear tests at Pokhran. Also first, indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown at Bangalore on this day and India also performed successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day. Considering above technological achievements on a particular date i.e. 11th May, the day of 11th May was chosen to be commemorated as National Technology Day. (D)

820) National Florence Nightingale Awards were conferred by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on International Nurses Day on _____, 2013.

- a) May 10
- b) May 11
- c) May 12
- d) May 13
- e) May 14

35 Nurses were conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards on May 12, 2013. The Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services of nurses and is given on May 12 every year. Florence Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820 and is the founder of modern nursing. Hence this day is celebrated as International Nurses Day all over the world by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) from the year 1965 onwards. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) commemorates this day each year with the production and distribution of educational and public information materials for use by nurses with a new theme. This year, theme has been chosen as "Closing the Gap" the Millennium Development Goals number 4, 5 and 6; reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases. (C)

821) Aparajita Datta was selected for the prestigious Whitley Award, commonly referred to as the 'Green Oscars', in May 2013 for her efforts to save:

- a) Great Indian Bustard
- b) Indian Spot-billed Duck
- c) Indian Cormorant
- d) Great Indian Hornbill
- e) Malabar Whistling-thrush

A conservation project to save the endangered hornbills of Arunachal Pradesh has bagged the prestigious Whitley Award, commonly referred to as the 'Green Oscars' in the field of wildlife preservation. Aparajita Datta's project, "Threatened hornbills as icons for the conservation of the Himalayan forests", was the only Indian scheme among eight finalists for the annual awards ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London on May 6, 2013. The eight winners will share prize funding of £ 295,000 (Rs. 2.47 crore) The other winners of this year's Green Oscars include a sea turtle conservation project from Bangladesh, great apes protection scheme in Cameroon and livestock preservation in Kenya. The awards are presented annually to outstanding grassroots leaders in nature conservation across the developing world. (D)

822) Senegal's Youssou Ndour and Finland's Kaija Saariaho were named in May 2013 as the recipients of this year's Polar Music Prize which is _____ highest musical honour awarded annually

- a) Ireland's
- b) Finland's
- c) Poland's
- d) Denmark's
- e) Sweden's

Senegalese singer Youssou Ndour and Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho were on May 7, 2013 named as the recipients of this year's Polar Music Prize. Sweden's highest musical honour is awarded annually to both a pop performer and classical artist. The pair will each receive one million kronor from the Royal Swedish Academy of

Music. King Carl XVI Gustaf will present them with their awards at a Stockholm ceremony on 27 August. The prize is awarded for "exceptional achievements in the creation and advancement of music". The prize was founded in 1989 by Stig Anderson, the manager of Swedish pop group ABBA. Last year's winners were US singer Paul Simon and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. (D)

- 823)** 'Anumati' directed by Gajendra Ahire won the Best Feature Film award at the '_____ Indian Film Festival' organised in April–May 2013.
- Boston
 - Toronto
 - Montreal
 - New York
 - Los Angeles

'Anumati' directed by Gajendra Ahire has won the Best Feature Film award at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) with Vikram Gokhale getting the Best Actor award for his role as a desperate husband. The winners were chosen from 18 narrative, 10 documentaries (feature length or shorter) and 8 shorts from the Indian subcontinent and its diaspora featured at the festival, which ran April 30 - May 4, 2013. Director Hansal Mehta took home the Best Director of a Feature Film award for his compelling film 'Shahid', which traces the true story of slain human rights activist lawyer Shahid Azmi. (D)

- 824)** The 44th Annual _____ Board of Governors Meeting was organised in New Delhi from May 2 to 5, 2013.
- WB
 - ADB
 - IMF
 - IFC
 - OECD

Growth in Asia and the Pacific has been more robust than expected after the global crisis, and must be sustained for the region to reduce poverty and increase prosperity, Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao said in his address at the 44th Annual ADB Board of Governors Meeting organised in New Delhi from May 2 to 5, 2013. The ADB sees the Indian economy growing at six per cent this fiscal year. (A)

- 825)** Which of the following on May 5, 2013 said it would lend \$2 billion annually over the next three years to India?
- WB
 - ADB
 - IMF
 - IFC
 - OECD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on May 5, 2013 said it would lend \$2 billion annually over the next three years to India. "The lending to India will be broad-based with a major focus on rural areas," said ADB president Takehiko Nakao. The Manila-based multilateral lender had extended a \$2.4-billion loan to India in 2012 across sectors such as transport, energy, commerce, industry, trade and finance. India is the biggest borrower from the ADB. (B)

- 826)** Who among the following is the Editor of online media firm Cobrapost.com in news in May 2013 for money-laundering allegations against a number of banks and financial institutions in May 2013?
- Vinod Dua
 - Tarun Tejpal
 - Shekhar Gupta
 - Aniruddha Bahal
 - Paranjy Guha Thakurta

Online media firm Cobrapost.com on May 6, 2013 made money-laundering allegations against a wider set of banks and financial institutions, including State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). Unveiling video footage of staff of over a dozen public-sector banks, four private-sector ones, besides the three named earlier and four life insurance firms - some banking licence aspirants - Cobrapost Editor Aniruddha Bahal told reporters: "Operation Red Spider 2 establishes that money laundering is not confined to private banks and is not an aberration, as being made out to be." He claimed the undercover operation by his firm's reporters clearly established money-laundering services were being offered as a standard product across banks; even a walk-in customer could avail of these to launder unaccounted cash. The sting operations were carried out over six months across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. (D)

- 827)** Which country has been ranked as world's best place to raise children by NGO Save the Children in May 2013?
- Norway
 - Finland

- Sweden
- Iceland
- The Netherlands

The Democratic Republic of Congo is the world's toughest place to raise children, said the Save the Children report released on May 7, 2013. Finland was named the best place to be a mother, with Sweden and Norway following in second and third places. The charity compared factors such as maternal health, child mortality, education and income in 176 countries.

In DR Congo, war and poverty have left mothers malnourished and unsupported at the most vulnerable time of their lives. The next worst countries listed were Somalia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, The Gambia, Nigeria, Chad and Ivory Coast.

The charity says that lack of nutrition is responsible for high mother and infant mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with 10-20% of mothers underweight.

In contrast, the results show that Finland is the best place to be a mother, with the risk of death through pregnancy one in 12,200 and Finnish children getting almost 17 years of formal education. Sweden, Norway, Iceland and The Netherlands were also in the top 10, with the US trailing at 30. (B)

- 828)** The State Bank of India (SBI) said lenders had recovered Rs 800 crore from Kingfisher Airlines in May 2013. Which liquor company is owned by the group that also owns Kingfisher Airlines?
- Diageo
 - United Spirits
 - Pernod Ricard
 - Radico Khaitan
 - Mohan Meakins

The State Bank of India (SBI) on May 6, 2013 said the consortium of lenders to Kingfisher Airlines had recovered Rs 800 crore to Rs 1,000 crore from the grounded carrier and was making an effort to recover the remaining dues. "Kingfisher Airlines recoveries are going on. We have substantial amount of recoveries. Total recoveries for banks are more than Rs 800 crore to Rs 1,000 crore," said SBI Chairman Pratip Chaudhuri. The consortium of 17 banks, led by the SBI, has an outstanding of over Rs 7,000 crore from the carrier. It has shares of listed entities such as United Spirits as collaterals, which should realise Rs 500 crore. That apart, lenders have the brand Kingfisher as security. (B)

- 829)** Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act 2011 is about:
- Banks
 - Cooperatives
 - Capital markets
 - Value Added Tax
 - General Sales Tax

The Union Cabinet on May 9, 2013 approved moving official amendments to the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2010 which is pending in the Lok Sabha. Among other provisions, the amendments provide for revival of sick societies. The moving of official amendments ensures that the provisions of the Bill were in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011.

About 97th Constitution Amendment to Encourage Economic Activities of Cooperatives

Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act 2011 relating to the co-operatives will encourage economic activities of cooperatives which in turn help progress of rural India. It is expected to not only ensure autonomous and democratic functioning of cooperatives, but also the accountability of the management to the members and other stakeholders.

The inter alia provides for:

Incorporation, regulation and winding up of cooperative societies based on the principles of voluntary formation, democratic member control, member economic participation and autonomous functioning
Specifying the maximum number of directors of a co-operative society to be not exceeding twenty-one members
A fixed term of five years from the date of election in respect of the elected members of the board and its office bearers; and an authority or body for the conduct of elections to a cooperative society
A maximum time limit of six months during which board of directors of a co-operative society could be kept under supersession or suspension
Independent professional audit
Right of information to the members of the co-operative societies;
Empowering the State Governments to obtain periodic reports of activities and accounts of co-operative societies

Reservation of one seat for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes and two seats for women on the board of every cooperative society, which have individuals as members from such categories; and Penalties in respect of offences relating to co-operative societies

An amendment proposes that if the Central Registrar opines that a multi-State co-operative society has become sick, then it may declare such society as "sick". The Centre or any person authorised by it shall prepare a scheme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of such sick a society and the society shall place it before its general body for approval. (B)

- 830)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 7, 2013 released the report of the committee set up to study the feasibility of implementation of GIRO-based payment systems in India. What does the abbreviation GIRO stand for?
- General Indian Revenue Order
 - General Internet Revenue Order
 - General Internal Revenue Order
 - Government Internal Revenue Order
 - Government Institutional Revenue Order

RBI Committee suggests GIRO based Indian Bill Payment System

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 7, 2013 released the report of the committee set up to study the feasibility of implementation of GIRO (Government Internal Revenue Order) based payment systems in India (Chairman, G. Padmanabhan).

The committee has highlighted the need for developing an electronic bill payment system based on a GIRO model for payment of dues of essential services, insurance premia, utility payments, taxes, university fees, examination fees, school fees, etc. This model will enable the setting up of a centralised infrastructure bringing all the billers and banks to the bill platform through the aggregators. It will also allow interoperability in the bill payment process and enable the consumers to make payments at any of the collection points.

The committee has made major recommendations pertaining to: a) setting up of the Indian Bill Payment System (IBPS) which would be the centralised infrastructure connecting the billers through the aggregators and the customers through the customer service points, for management of all bill payments; b) Extending the IBPS value chain of banks/non-banks/billers/aggregators, etc.; c) Bill data codification and presentment; d) process of settlement; e) Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders; and f) Customer support and redressal mechanism.

GIRO payment is a credit push transaction initiated by the payer and may involve the presence of three banks (collecting bank, payer bank and the payee bank). Bill paying public/customers can access any payment channel through banks/non-bank entity under the proposed GIRO system.

Background: At the Second Quarter Review of Monetary Policy 2012-13, the Governor had announced the setting up of a committee to finalise the modalities of implementing the GIRO payment system –both electronic and cheque based in India. Accordingly a committee under the chairmanship of G. Padmanabhan, Executive Director, RBI, was set up. The Committee had representations from select banks, card payment networks, industry associations, viz. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMA), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA). The Committee also solicited views/comments of the stakeholders from outside the committee members. (D)

- 831)** Which private sector bank has replaced Bank of India (BoI) as the trustee bank for the National Pension System (NPS) from July 2013?
- Axis Bank
 - YES Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - HDFC Bank
 - Kotak Mahindra Bank

Private sector lender Axis Bank will replace state-run Bank of India (BoI) as the trustee bank for the National Pension System (NPS) from July onwards. According to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on May 7, 2013, Axis Bank has been "appointed as the new NPS Trustee Bank with effect from July 1, 2013 in place of Bank of India (current Trustee Bank)".

The government introduced the National Pension System (NPS) in 2004 and at present it covers all new entrants to Central Government services (excluding Armed Forces) and State Government services. Besides, it is also available to all other citizens of India on voluntary basis.

While NPS Trust is responsible for taking care of the funds under the NPS, the Trust holds accounts with the bank designated as NPS Trustee Bank. The NPS Trustee Bank facilitates fund transfers across various entities of Central Record Keeping Agency system – Nodal Offices, Pension Fund Managers and Annuity Service Providers.

NPS currently has a corpus of over Rs 28,400 crore of 44.93 lakh subscribers. Around 2 lakh subscribers are from the private sector while 27 lakh are from central and state governments. Around 15.79 lakh subscribers are served by NPS-Lite, which is designed to ensure ultra-low administrative and transactional costs. (A)

- 832)** Which of the following long-term saving schemes provided the best returns to investors in 2012-13?
- Public Provident Fund (PPF)
 - Employees Provident Fund (EPF)
 - New Pension Scheme (NPS)
 - Same for (a) & (c)
 - Same for (a) & (b)

Government's flagship retirement scheme, New Pension Scheme (NPS) has delivered double-digit return for the financial year 2012-13.

For this fiscal, the government has announced 8.7% interest for deposits under Public Provident Fund (PPF), while it has approved 8.5% rate of interest for 2012-13 for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) subscribers.

The Pension Fund Regulatory Authority (PFRDA) in a statement on May 16, 2013 claimed that the NPS is not only the cheapest retirement product but also the highest returns generating scheme.

The Private Corporate Debt and Government scheme have generated the highest returns at 14.19% and 13.52%, respectively. The Swavalamban scheme, where in, the government contributes Rs 1,000 annually to each NPS account, has generated average annual return at 13.40%.

The scheme for state government employees has given 13% return while for central government employees it has given 12.39% return.

At present, NPS has accumulated a corpus of Rs 33,000 crores contributed by 50 lakh subscribers.

The National Pension System was introduced by the Central government in January 2004 for government employees and subsequently extended to the private sector in May 2009. (C)

- 833)** New companies in which of the following sectors are funded by Kerala-based Start-up Village Angel Fund approved by SEBI in May 2013?
- Tourism
 - Agriculture
 - Plantations
 - Marine foods
 - Telecom & Internet

In a major boost to the country's first telecom incubator 'Startup Village', market regulator SEBI has approved the Startup Village angel fund of \$10 million that could go up to \$20 million with a 'Green Shoe' (over-allotment) option. The approval for the angel fund, which would address the problem of resource crunch for startup companies across the country, came from SEBI through a notification issued on April 23, a press release in Kochi said on May 7, 2013.

The focus area of the fund will be Telecom/Internet, and it would start investing once the initial close of \$2 million is achieved. Welcoming the SEBI's approval, Kris Gopalakrishnan Infosys co-founder and Startup Village chief mentor said, "It will act like a shot in the arm for Startup Village, which would become the first incubator in India to have its own in-house fund. It will help the Internet-Telecom incubator to get the most conducive ecosystem for product startups." (E)

- 834)** How much was the foreign investment into Indian markets through P-Notes (participatory notes) route at the end of financial year 2012-13?
- \$7 billion
 - \$17 billion
 - \$27 billion
 - \$37 billion
 - \$47 billion

Foreign investments into Indian markets through participatory notes, a preferred route for HNIs and hedge funds, declined to Rs 1.48 lakh crore (about \$27 billion) in March 2013, according to the latest data released by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on May 7, 2013.

The cumulative value of P-Note investments in Indian markets (equity, debt and derivatives) was at Rs 1,47,905 crore (Rs 1,479.05 billion) at the end of March, 2013. At the end of March 2012, investment by overseas entities in the Indian market through P-Notes stood at Rs 1.66 lakh crore (Rs 1.66 trillion).

P-Notes, mostly used by overseas High Networth Individuals, hedge funds and other foreign institutions, allow them to invest in Indian markets through registered foreign institutional investors, while saving on time and costs associated with direct registrations. The quantum of FII investments through P-Notes decreased to 11.07 per cent in March from a six-month high of 12.33 per cent in the previous month. The share of P-Notes has fallen after SEBI tightened disclosure and other regulations for such investments. (C)

- 835)** The government launched the first phase of Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) on June 1, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Customers will have to link their Aadhaar numbers with bank accounts to avail of DBT scheme
 - Subsidy on each cylinder will be directly credited into the customer's bank account on booking the LPG cylinder
 - The National Payments Corporation of India and State Bank of India have been given charge of disbursement of money to customers' accounts
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

In a major move towards better targeting of the subsidy on cooking gas, the government on May 10, 2013 decided to move towards its Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT). Consumers in 20 districts will now get the subsidy amount on each liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder credited directly to their bank accounts from June 1.

A consumer will have to get his or her bank account linked with the Aadhaar number for getting the LPG subsidy. Consumers without their Aadhaar numbers linked with bank accounts have been given three months to comply with the condition. During this period, they will continue to get subsidised cylinders. While about 32 crore Aadhaar cards have been issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), only 80 lakh bank accounts have been linked to the numbers so far. Extension of the DBT programme to LPG gives the programme its biggest coverage so far. This was earlier scheduled to be launched on May 15.

DBT is the government's second major move at reducing the subsidy on LPG. In 2012, it had capped the number of subsidised cylinders for each household to six in a year; in January, this was revised to nine.

A consumer is now entitled to nine cylinders at a subsidised price (Rs. 410.50) and is required to pay the market price for more cylinders. With DBT, consumers will pay the current non-subsidised price (Rs 847) for all cylinders. The government will credit the subsidy into their bank accounts directly, once the consumer books a cylinder.

The DBT scheme is aimed not only at eliminating diversion of domestic LPG into the black market, but also ending leakage in distribution. "With the subsidy going directly [to the consumers' accounts], there will be only one price at which cylinders will be sold at a dealer's shop. This will eliminate ghost connections and diversion of cylinders," an official statement said.

Direct cash transfer of the LPG and kerosene subsidy is expected to save Rs 15,000 crore in a year for the government. The subsidy on LPG alone was Rs 39,558 crore in 2012-13.

The 20 districts involved in the first phase cover Andhra Pradesh, Daman & Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Sikkim and Tripura. The National Payments Corporation of India and State Bank of India would take charge of disbursement of money to customers' accounts. (E)

- 836)** The government, on May 9, 2013, approved a proposal to set up two major ports in _____ and Andhra Pradesh at an investment of about Rs.15,820 crore.
- Goa
 - Odisha
 - Gujarat
 - Karnataka
 - West Bengal

Giving a push to infrastructure development, the government, on May 9, 2013, approved a proposal to set up two major ports in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh at an investment of about Rs.15,820 crore. This was disclosed by

Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

The new port in West Bengal, which will have a capacity of 54 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), requires an investment of around Rs.7,820 crore.

The other new port in Andhra Pradesh, whose projected capacity is around 50 mtpa, would entail an investment of about Rs.8,000 crore.

The new ports will be notified as major ports under the Indian Ports Act, 1908. Major ports come under the Central Government, while minor ports are operated by State governments as well as by the private sector.

There are at present 12 major ports — Kolkata-Haldia, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Ennore, Chennai, V O Chidambaram (formerly Tuticorin), Kochi, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru (JNPT) and Kandla. (E)

- 837)** How much is the estimated cost of Phase IV of the UID Scheme approved by the Cabinet Committee on Unique Identification Authority of India (CC-UIDAI) on May 9, 2013?
- Rs. 1400 crore
 - Rs. 2400 crore
 - Rs. 3400 crore
 - Rs. 5400 crore
 - Rs. 6400 crore

The Cabinet Committee on Unique Identification Authority of India (CC-UIDAI) on May 9, 2013 approved cost estimates of Phase IV of the UID Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.3436.16 crore which includes various project components such as cost of enrolment for additional 40 crore residents through multiple registrars, cost of updation services, cost of printing and delivery of Aadhaar letters, additional cost for construction of buildings for headquarters, data centres, non-data centres and additional rent for regional offices of UIDAI.

Phase IV of the project will commence immediately. Since the launch of the project on 29th September 2010, UID numbers have been issued to more than 31 crore residents.

Background: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was established in 2009 and has been mandated to issue Unique Identification (UID) numbers to residents of India. UIDAI was constituted by the Government of India on 28th January 2009 as an attached office of the Planning Commission. (C)

- 838)** Which of the following statements on Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project is/are correct?
- Airports will be developed in Rajasthan and Gujarat
 - Amitabh Kant is the Chief Executive of the DMIC Corporation
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

The Government of India has approved financial assistance of Rs 17,500 crore at an average of Rs 2500 crore per city (subject to a ceiling of Rs 3000 crore per city) for the development of the following seven industrial cities under the first phase of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project.

The seven industrial cities are: **1.** Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region, Uttar Pradesh; **2.** Manesar-Bawal Investment Region, Haryana; **3.** Khushkhhera-Bhiwadi-Neemrana Investment Region, Rajasthan; **4.** Pithampur-Dhar-Mhow Investment Region, Madhya Pradesh; **5.** Ahmedabad-Dholera Investment Region, Gujarat; **6.** Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Park city near Aurangabad, Maharashtra; and **7.** Dighi Port Industrial Area, Maharashtra.

The contribution of the State Government will be in the form of land.

The process of land acquisition/land procurement is in progress in the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and master planning has started in Uttar Pradesh. The cities would be launched with the development of townships of 25-50 sq km which are envisaged to be completed by the end of 2019.

In addition to the financial support of Government of India, the Japanese Government has also announced financial support for DMIC project to an extent of US \$ 4.5 billion in the first phase for the projects with Japanese participation.

The following three airports are proposed to be developed under DMIC project. These are: **1.** International Airport in Ahmedabad-Dholera Investment Region in Gujarat **2.** Airport near Jodhpur in Rajasthan **3.** Aerotropolis in Alwar District, Rajasthan

Amitabh Kant is the Chief Executive of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC).

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr. D. Purandeswari in Rajya Sabha on May 8, 2013 (C)

- 839)** Which of the following is the autonomous body for coordinating the skill development efforts of government and the private sector whose constitution was approved by the Union Cabinet on May 9, 2013?
- National Skill Development Agency
 - National Skill Development Authority
 - National Skill Development Coordination Board
 - Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development

The Union Cabinet on May 9, 2013 gave its approval for constituting an autonomous body called the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) by subsuming the Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development (PMNCS), the National Skill Development Coordination Board (NSDCB) and the Office of the Adviser to the PM on Skill Development. The NSDA will be located in the Ministry of Finance.

The NSDA will coordinate and harmonise the skill development efforts of the Government and the private sector to achieve the skilling targets of the 12th Plan and beyond; anchor and operationalise the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and be the nodal agency for Sector Skills Councils and endeavour to bridge the social, regional, gender and economic divides in skilling. It will also be empowered to raise extra budgetary resources. The Central Ministries and NSDC will continue to implement schemes in their remit.

The proposal to set up NSDA was first considered by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 31.1.2013 and it was referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM) to review all aspects. (A)

- 840)** TRAI released the "Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report" for the Quarter ending December 2012 on May 10, 2013. Which of the following statements on data for the Quarter ending-December 2012 is/are correct?
- Overall teledensity was less than 80
 - Urban teledensity was more than 150 while rural teledensity was more than 50
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II

TRAI released the "Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report" for the Quarter ending December 2012 on May 10, 2013. The Report presents the key parameters and growth trends for the Telecom Services in India for the period covering October to December 2012 and is compiled on the basis of information furnished by the Service Providers.

TOTAL TELECOM SUBSCRIBER BASE: The number of telephone subscribers in India declined from 937.70 million at the end of Sep-12 to 895.51 million at the end of Dec-12, registering a negative growth of 4.50% over the previous quarter sep-12. This reflects year-on-year (Y-O-Y) negative growth of 3.35% over the same quarter of last year.

WIRELESS (MOBILE): Total wireless (GSM+CDMA) subscriber base registered a negative growth of 4.62% over the previous quarter and subscriber base declined from 906.62 million at the end of Sep-12 to 864.72 million at the end of Dec-12. The year-on-year (Y-O-Y) negative growth rate of Wireless subscribers for Dec-12 is 3.26%.

WIRELINE (LANDLINE): Wireline subscriber base further declined from 31.08 million at the end of Sep-12 to 30.79 million at the end of Dec-12.

TELEDENSITY: The overall Teledensity in India has declined from 77.04 as on September 30th, 2012 to 73.34 as on December 31st, 2012. Subscription in Urban Areas decreased from 595.69 million at the end of Sep-12 to 556.96 million at the end of Dec-12, and Urban Teledensity declined from 161.13 to 149.90. Rural subscription decreased from 342.01 million to 338.54 million, and Rural Teledensity also declined from 40.36 to 39.85. Share of subscription in rural areas out of total subscription increased from 36.47% at the end of Sep-12 to 37.80% at the end of Dec-12.

INTERNET & BROADBAND: Internet subscribers increased from 24.01 million at the end of Sep-12 to 25.33 million at the end of Dec-12, registering a quarterly growth rate of 5.49%. Top 10 ISPs together hold 95.42% of the total Internet subscriber base. Number of Broadband subscribers increased from 14.68 million at the end of Sep-12 to 14.98 million at the end of Dec-12, registering a quarterly growth of 2.02% and Y-O-Y growth of 12.23%. Share of Broadband subscription in total Internet subscription decreased from 61.16% at the end of Sep-12 to 59.15% at the end of Dec-12. 84.82% of the Broadband subscribers are using Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) technology. (A)

- 841)** The third advance estimates of production of major crops were released by Ministry of Agriculture on May 3, 2013. Which year saw the highest foodgrain production ever achieved?
- 2008-09
 - 2009-10
 - 2010-11
 - 2011-12
 - 2012-13

The third advance estimates of production of major crops grown in the country were released by Ministry of Agriculture on May 3, 2013. As per the estimates, the total foodgrain production is likely to be 255.36 million tonnes in 2012-13. The foodgrain production was earlier estimated at 250.14 MT (as per II advance estimates released in February.) Production of rice is likely to be 104.22 million tonnes. Wheat production is likely to be 93.62 million tonnes. The foodgrain production this year is the second highest production ever achieved despite low and erratic rains in many parts of the country during the monsoon season. In 2011-12, India had produced 259.32 MT foodgrains. (D)

- 842)** Which state had the highest number of persons employed in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at the end of 2012-13?
- Gujarat
 - Karnataka
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Maharashtra
 - Kerala

The fiscal concessions and duty benefits allowed to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are an important feature of the SEZs Act, 2005. These exemptions are primarily in the nature of incentives for export and are consistent with the principles that guide export promotion initiatives of the Government. Exports from SEZs have increased over ten-fold from about Rs. 34,615 crore in 2006-07 to about Rs. 4,76,159 crore in 2012-13. (D)

Financial Year	Total exports of the Country (Rs. in Crores)	Total SEZ Exports (Rs. in Crores)	Percentage share of SEZ exports in the total exports of the country
2008-2009	8,40,755	99,689	11.86
2009-2010	8,45,534	2,20,711	26.10
2010-2011	11,42,922	3,15,868	27.64
2011-2012	14,65,959	3,64,478	24.86
2012-2013	16,35,261	4,76,159	29.12

Sl. No.	States	Employment (in persons)
1	Gujarat	51190
2	Karnataka	141366
3	Tamil Nadu	237950
4	Maharashtra	271134
5	Kerala	25701
6	Andhra Pradesh	144346
7	Uttar Pradesh	75101
8	West Bengal	55656
9	Haryana	38497
10	Madhya Pradesh	12429
11	Rajasthan	13163
12	Chandigarh	6140
13	Chhattisgarh	119
14	Odisha	1715
15	Punjab	369
16	Goa	28
	TOTAL	1074904

- 843)** What was the industrial growth in 2012-13 as per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 10, 2013?
- 1%

- b) 2%
- c) 3%
- d) 4%
- e) 5%

Industrial growth slowed to a 20-year-low of 1% in 2012-13, raising fresh worries about the health of the crucial sector despite rising 2.5% in March on the back of some signs of feeble revival in manufacturing and electricity. The persistent slowdown in the industrial sector has hurt the government's plan to raise the share of manufacturing in the country's economy and will deal a blow to efforts to create millions of jobs. Data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 10, 2013 showed that industrial growth in 2012-13 was 1% compared to a 2.9% in 2011-12. The industrial sector in the country has been hit hard by stubborn inflation, high interest rates, policy logjam, delay in implementation of projects and the global economic slowdown. High input costs and shortage of power have also hurt the sector. (A)

844) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has cut its growth forecast for the Indian economy in 2013-14 to _____ on May 8, 2013.

- a) 3.2%
- b) 4.2%
- c) 5.2%
- d) 6.2%
- e) 7.2%

The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), in its April 2013 Quarterly Review of the Economy released on May 8, 2013, has projected that the Indian economy would grow at 6.2 per cent in 2013-14, led by a reasonable growth in agriculture. NCAER has projected agriculture sector growth at 3.2 per cent in 2013-14, against a growth of 1.8 per cent in 2012-13 as per Advance Estimates. (D)

845) Which state government enhanced the inter-caste marriage incentive for couples from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 in May 2013?

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Himachal Pradesh

To prompt young men and women to break the caste barrier, the cabinet headed by Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh has enhanced the inter-caste marriage incentive from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000. It's given to couples where one of the spouses belongs to a Scheduled Caste. "We have seen in the past few years that the cash incentive of Rs.25,000 was not encouraging too many couples. So we have decided to make it lucrative by doubling its amount," Special Secretary (Social Justice and Empowerment) M.P. Sood said on May 6, 2013. In 2012-13, 277 couples got the incentive; 304 in 2011-12; 300 in 2010-11 and 232 in 2009-10. The Himachal Pradesh government introduced the scheme in 1994. (E)

846) Which state government announced the issue of 'Shiksha Setu' cards for government schools to keep track of students' performance in May 2013?

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Himachal Pradesh

The Haryana Government will issue 'Shiksha Setu' cards for all government schools, which will keep the teachers and guardians updated about students' performance. The move aims to ensure that individual attention is given to every student, an official spokesman said on May 6, 2013, adding that it would help in imparting quality education in government schools. Furthermore, teachers will be provided with diaries to ensure they reach their respective classes with full preparation. (A)

847) In which state capital was the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED) in India on May 4, 2013?

- a) Jaipur
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Hyderabad
- e) Bangalore

Vice-President of India Hamid Ansari inaugurated the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED) in Jaipur on May 4, 2013.

The Centre has been set up by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and seeks to establish a global Centre of Excellence to improve accountability and governance in the area of environment and sustainable development. The Institute aims to harness India's expertise in conducting over a 100 environment audits in the last 20 years to provide extensive training and an international forum for experience sharing in this field.

iCED is also the Global Training Facility for The International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions which is an organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions worldwide. It is amongst the first government buildings in India to have a 5 star green rating as per Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment norms.

The iCED facility was conceived as a green building and several features have been incorporated in design and construction to reduce the building's carbon footprints. The 'Energy Conservation Building Code 2006' norms are being applied for the building's site selection, material usage during construction, energy and water efficiency, indoor environment quality, etc. (A)

848) The Creative Index Report 2013, released by the Martin Prosperity Institute, Institute for Competitiveness and The Prosperity Institute of India in May 2013, has ranked _____ as the "most creative state" in India.

- a) Goa
- b) Delhi
- c) Kerala
- d) Gujarat
- e) Chandigarh

The Creative Index Report 2013, launched by the Martin Prosperity Institute, Institute for Competitiveness and The Prosperity Institute of India, has ranked Delhi as the "most creative state" in India, with the greatest potential for success in today's creative economy. The report, released on May 7, 2013, analyses India's creative economic assets across its 28 states and seven UTs. The ranking is based on the population of "creative class". This class is of individuals are often engaged in either complex problem solving or in the generation of new ideas, new technology, and new creative content. Delhi is followed by Chandigarh, Punjab, Kerala, Goa, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Maharashtra. Haryana and Manipur are tied for the 10th position. The report explores the presence of the 3Ts - technology, talent and tolerance - in economic development within each state and union territory in India to measure the capacity of each state and union territory to support creativity-driven economic development strategies. (B)

849) Which state government conferred the 'Lata Mangeshkar Samman Alankaran' on singer Hariharan on May 20, 2013?

- a) Delhi
- b) Haryana
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttarakhand
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Singer Hariharan was conferred the 'Lata Mangeshkar Samman Alankaran' in Indore on May 20, 2013. The award, which consists of Rs 2 lakh and a citation, is instituted by the Madhya Pradesh Government. The award is given to a singer and a music composer alternately; last year's recipient was Rajesh Roshan. (E)

850) Who won both Men's & Women's Team titles at the 19th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship organised in New Delhi in May 2013?

- a) India
- b) Canada
- c) England
- d) Singapore
- e) Malaysia

Singapore wins 6 out of 7 titles at Commonwealth Table Tennis: Singapore's Jian Zhan won the men's singles title, while Canada's Mo Zhang won the women's crown in the 19th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship organised at the Thyagaraj Sport Complex in New Delhi from May 5 to 10, 2013

Singapore finished with six gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Indian ended the tournament with two silver and seven bronze medals.

The results (Final):

Men's Singles: Zhan Jian (Singapore) beat Li Hu (Singapore) 13-11, 11-6, 11-1, 11-6. **Women's Singles:** Zhang Mo (Canada) beat Yu Mengyu (Singapore) 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 5-11, 10-12, 8-11, 11-8. **Men's Doubles:** Zhan Jian & Yang

Zi (Singapore) beat Christopher Doran & Samuel Walker (England) 13-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-3. **Women's Doubles:** Feng Tianwei & Yu Mengyu (Singapore) bt Joanna Parker & Kelly Sibley (England) 9-11, 11-7, 11-2, 11-3. **Mixed Doubles:** Zhan Jian & Zhou Yihan (Singapore) beat Soumyajit Ghosh & Mouma Das (India) 11-3, 13-11, 11-7; **Men's Team:** Singapore beat India 3-0; **Women's Team:** Singapore beat England 3-0 (D)

- 851)** P.V. Sindhu won the Women's Singles Grand Prix Gold title in _____ by beating Juan Gu of Singapore in the final on May 4, 2013.
- Indonesia
 - Malaysia
 - Thailand
 - Korea
 - India

P.V. Sindhu reaffirmed her status as the rising star of Indian badminton as she lifted her maiden Grand Prix Gold title in Malaysia after getting the better of Juan Gu of Singapore in a gruelling final in Kuala Lumpur on May 4, 2013. The top-seeded Indian took an hour and 11 minutes to prevail over her fifth-seeded opponent, 21-17, 17-21, 21-19. List of Winners – Men's Singles final: Alamsyah Yunus (Indonesia) beat Soon Huat Goh (Malaysia) 10-21, 21-9, 21-19; Men's Doubles: V Shem Goh & Khim Wah Lim (Malaysia) beat Kien Keat Koo & Boon Heong Tan (Malaysia) 17-21, 21-14, 21-16; Women's Singles: Sindhu P. V. (India) beat Juan Gu (Singapore) 21-17, 21-11; Women's Doubles: Pia Zebadiah Bernadeth & Rizki Amelia Pradipta (Indonesia) beat Aprilsasi Putri Lejarsar Variella & Vita Marissa (Indonesia) 21-15, 17-21, 21-18; Mixed Doubles: Praveen Jordan & Vita Marissa (Indonesia) beat Aik Quan Tan & Pei Jing Lai (Malaysia) 21-17, 21-12. (B)

- 852)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unveiled norms for the issue of Inflation Index Bonds (IIBs) in May 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Rate of interest will change with change in inflation
 - IIBs will protect erosion in value of savings due to rise in inflation
 - IIBs have been launched to discourage people from investing in gold
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

The Government of India in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 15, 2013 decided to launch Inflation Index Bonds (IIBs), as instruments that will protect savings from inflation and incentivise household sector to save in financial instruments rather than buy gold. This was first mentioned by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the Union Budget 2013-14.

These are bonds where the principal is linked to price rise in economy, eliminating the inflation risk of an investment.

The bonds have a fixed real coupon rate and a nominal principal value that is adjusted against inflation. Periodic coupon payments are made on the adjusted principal. At maturity, the adjusted principal or the face value, whichever is higher, is paid.

For example, if the annual coupon is 8 per cent and the principal is Rs 100, the investor will be paid Rs 8 a year. If the inflation index rises 10 per cent, the principal will become Rs 110. The coupon will remain 8 per cent, resulting in an interest payment of Rs 110 x 8 per cent = Rs 8.8.

The first series of bonds will be auctioned to all categories of investors to enable price discovery and market development. Twenty per cent of this series will be reserved for retail investors, as against the usual 5 per cent in government securities auctions. A second series of bonds exclusively for retail investors will be issued in October.

IIBs have a fixed real coupon rate and a nominal principal value that is adjusted against inflation. Periodic coupon payments are paid on adjusted principal. Thus, IIBs provide inflation protection to both principal and coupon payment. At maturity, the adjusted principal or the face value, whichever is higher, will be paid.

During the current phase, the RBI is issuing inflation indexed bonds which are linked with WPI. The invested principal is adjusted as per the prevailing WPI rates and a **fixed interest rate** is paid on the adjusted principal.

Clearly, the bonds are being launched to discourage investments in gold as whopping imports of the yellow metal have been adversely impacting the country's current account deficit (CAD), which had widened to a historic high of 6.7 per cent in the third quarter of 2012-13. (C)

- 853)** What is the ceiling on external commercial borrowings (ECBs) in 2013-14?
- \$40 billion

- \$50 billion
- \$60 billion
- \$70 billion
- \$80 billion

The Government has extended the time limit for raising funds from abroad under the external commercial borrowings (ECB) window for companies operating in some key infrastructure areas. The overall cap on ECBs has been kept unchanged at \$40 billion. Projects meant to provide affordable housing, as well as aviation companies and oil marketing firms have all been allowed to access relatively cheaper overseas funds for a longer period. While affordable housing companies can raise ECB till March 31, 2015, the time limit for such borrowings by aviation and oil marketing firms has been extended by a "few months". These decisions were taken at a high-level committee on external commercial borrowings on May 14, 2013. It was decided to keep the overall ECB limit, for all types of overseas commercial debt, including bank loans, buyer's or supplier's credit, securitised instruments, bonds, etc., at \$40 billion for the current fiscal. Units financed should have a maximum carpet area of 60 square metres. (A)

- 854)** Which of the following statements about 'Take-Out Financing' is/are correct?
- It involves more than one lender
 - It is a loan granted for short-term working capital requirements
 - Its objective is to reduce the risk of asset-liability mismatch for the lender
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

IL&FS Infra Asset Management Limited (IAML), an asset management company (AMC) promoted by IL&FS Financial Services Limited to manage the IL&FS Infrastructure Debt Fund (IIDF), on May 13, 2013, inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with eight public sector banks (PSBs) for developing take-out finance to facilitate the country's infrastructure development.

The PSBs which have joined hands with IL&FS for the purpose are: Allahabad Bank, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and UCO Bank.

India Ratings (Ind-Ra), the Indian arm of the global agency Fitch, has assigned the first series of the Infrastructure Debt Fund (IDF) with a triple A stable rating under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) guidelines.

The mechanism would help banks clean up their balance sheets, and enable them to on-lend further to new projects.

In this regard, an official statement said that IIFs were expected to be the medium for channelising the much-needed long-term debt for financing infrastructure projects, and also to help in migration of project loans for operating assets from banks to the fixed income markets.

Take-out financing is a method of providing finance for longer duration projects (say of 15 years) by banks by sanctioning medium term loans (say 5-7 years). It is an understanding that the loan will be taken out of books of the financing bank within pre-fixed period, by another institution thus preventing any possible asset-liability mismatch. After taking out the loans from the banks, the institution could off-load them to another bank or keep it. Under this process, the institutions engaged in long term financing such as IDFC, agree to take out the loan from books of the banks financing such projects after the fixed time period, say of 5 years, when the project reaches certain previously defined milestones. On the basis of such understanding, the bank concerned agrees to provide a medium term loan with phased redemption beginning after, say 5 years. At the end of five years, the bank could sell the loans to the institution and get it off its books. Benefits - This ensures that the project gets long-term funding through various participants.

Process of Take-out Financing: The original lender participates in a long term project (say 15-20 years) by granting a medium term loan (of say 5-7 years). On completion of the pre-decided period, this loan is taken over by another institution subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated in the original arrangement. Original lender receives the payment from the second lender who has taken over the loan. (D)

- 855)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on May 13, 2013, imposed restrictions on banks to import gold with immediate effect. This decision is based on the recommendations of the _____ Committee.
- R. K. Pattnaik
 - M. D. Patra
 - K. U. B. Rao
 - K. K. Vohra
 - A. Karunakaran

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on May 13, 2013, imposed restrictions on banks to import gold with immediate effect to curb the widening current account deficit (CAD). "To moderate the demand for gold for domestic use, it has been decided to restrict the import of gold on consignment basis by banks, only to meet the genuine needs of exporters of gold jewellery," RBI said in a notification. The Working Group on Gold, under the chairmanship of K. U. B. Rao, had recommended aligning gold import regulations with rest of the imports for creating a level-playing field between gold imports and other imports. "Bulk of the gold imported by nominated banks is on consignment basis whereby nominated banks do not have to fund these stocks," said the RBI. In the last monetary policy announcement, the RBI had stated that it would restrict the import of gold on consignment basis by banks only to meet the genuine needs of exporters of gold jewellery. The widening CAD is a worry for the government as well as for the central bank. It reached a record high of 6.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the October-December quarter on the back of rising oil and gold imports. (C)

- 856)** Which of the following launched the country's first dedicated debt trading platform in May 2013?
- National Stock Exchange
 - Bombay Stock Exchange
 - MCX-SX
 - OTCEI
 - CRISIL

National Stock Exchange on May 13, 2013 launched the country's first dedicated debt trading platform. The debt trading platform is expected to provide retail investors an opportunity to invest in corporate bonds on a liquid and transparent exchange platform. Banks and primary dealers are the first to enter and they will provide enough liquidity in the debt segment, SEBI whole-time member Rajeev Kumar Agarwal said after inaugurating the debt platform in Mumbai. The mutual funds, insurance companies and pension funds are also expected to participate after guidelines for the same are issued. (A)

- 857)** Which of the following Indian pharmaceutical companies was fined \$500 million by the US Food & Drugs Administration (FDA) in May 2013 for forging research data and selling adulterated drugs in the US?
- Cipla
 - Lupin
 - Torrent
 - Ranbaxy
 - Wockhard

Ranbaxy, one of India's largest pharmaceutical companies, has agreed to pay \$500 million fines levied by U.S. authorities for selling adulterated drugs and lying to federal regulators in a case that is part of an ongoing crackdown on the quality of generic drugs flowing into the U.S. The deal struck on May 13, said to be the largest financial penalty against a generic drug company for violations of FDA standards, came after whistleblower Dinesh Thakur, a former Ranbaxy director, wrote that eight years ago he discovered that the company "falsified drug data and systemically violated current good manufacturing practices and good laboratory practices." Arun Sawhney, CEO and Managing Director of Ranbaxy, said in a statement that the "announcement marks the resolution of this past issue. We are pleased to continue bringing safe, effective and quality medicines to market for the benefit of consumers in the U.S. and other parts of the world." Ranbaxy USA Inc.'s guilty plea related to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, which prohibits the sale of impure drugs. In bringing closure to the case, Ranbaxy was said to have admitted that it marketed adulterated medicines, including antibiotics and generic versions of drugs, to treat nerve pain, epilepsy and acne, developed at several manufacturing sites in India. (D)

- 858)** Which airline appointed Mittu Chandilya as the first CEO of its Indian operations in May 2013?
- AirAsia
 - Qatar Airways
 - Singapore Air
 - British Airways
 - Ethihad Airways

AirAsia, on May 15, 2013 named Chennai-born Mittu Chandilya as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Indian operations. AirAsia India (Private) Ltd., a joint venture between Air Asia, Tata Sons and Telstra, will start a low cost airline in India by the year-end with Chennai as its hub. Chandilya will assume office effective June 1, 2013 "India is an important market for us, and a CEO of Mittu's stature and business acumen would definitely help us attain significant market share and achieve rapid growth in India," said Tony Fernandes, Group Chief Executive Officer of AirAsia. (A)

- 859)** Which IT company launched a digital literacy campaign named 'My Discoveries' in Uttar Pradesh in May 2013?
- IBM
 - Intel

- Cisco
- Google
- Microsoft

Technology major Intel on May 15 announced the launch of its digital literacy and technology adoption campaign in Uttar Pradesh (UP), aimed at boosting personal-computer (PC) penetration through education. Intel's six-week campaign, 'My Discoveries', would be rolled out in eight cities: Lucknow, Agra, Kanpur, Allahabad, Meerut, Varanasi, Ghaziabad and Moradabad. UP has emerged as an important destination for technology firms, especially after the announcement of free tablets and laptops to class X and XII passed students, respectively. While, the laptop distribution meant for 1.5 million students has begun, the Akhilesh-Yadav government is yet to award the tablet distribution contract. (B)

- 860)** Which of the following became the first Indian company to introduce a new category of vehicles called 'Quadricycles' in India in May 2013?
- Hindustan Motors
 - Premier Automobiles
 - Tata Motors
 - Bajaj Auto
 - TVS Motors

Quadricycles are set to become a reality for the domestic automobile industry with the government on May 22 allowing these four-wheeled vehicles to ply within city limits as modes of public transport. Bajaj Auto, with its RE60 quadricycles, plans to replace three-wheelers on the Indian roads. Its CEO Rajiv Bajaj said his primary attempt was to replace the less safe three-wheelers, which were more polluting and posed a significant safety risk, being less stable at higher speeds. The quadricycle is a step-up from a traditional auto rickshaw but is significantly cheaper than a car because of its weight, power and speed. Unlike, rickshaws, quadricycles have fully enclosed body structure — undoubtedly a much safer alternative. The ministry has suggested that quadricycles be registered under the commercial transport category for intra-city movement. Also, to distinguish these from cars, the 'Q' symbol needs to be displayed on the body of these vehicles. (D)

- 861)** V. S. S. Mani is the founder of which Indian internet venture, in news for an IPO (Initial Public Offer) in May 2013?
- Flipkart
 - Yatra
 - Myntra
 - Justdial
 - Snapdeal

Retail investors joined the scramble to scoop up shares of Justdial Ltd, which hit the capital markets with an initial public offering (IPO) that was subscribed almost 12 times when it closed on May 22, 2013. Retail investors were attracted by the 10 per cent discount to the issue price and the safety net offered by the local search engine. Under the safety net, promoters will buy back the shares from retail subscribers at the IPO price if the market value falls sharply within six months of listing. The IPO comprises an offer for sale by the selling shareholders that include its existing venture capital investors — SAIF Partners, Tiger Global, Sequoia Capital and SAP Ventures — which will be offloading part of their holdings. Justdial Founder Chairman V.S.S. Mani and chief operating officer V. Krishnan are also selling part of their stakes. (D)

- 862)** Which state launched the Digital Krishi Card to enable farmers to utilise benefits such as subsidies and loans given by the State Government in April 2013?
- Goa
 - Odisha
 - Kerala
 - Punjab
 - Haryana

Goa on April 29, 2013 launched a digital Krishi Card that would help farmers make use of benefits such as subsidies and loans given by the State Government. Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar officially launched this card based on the database created by the State Agriculture Department at Panaji. Parrikar said the introduction of the digitally coded card would spare farmers the need to repeatedly produce documents to avail of subsidies. Around 10,000-15,000 farmers with clear land holdings would benefit from the card during the first phase, followed by landless agriculturists, the Chief Minister said. The Chief Minister said farmers had to go through the rigmarole of submitting documents such as affidavits every time they applied for agro subsidies. "Now they will have to quote the Unique Identity Number to get access to the subsidy," he added. The card would also make farmers eligible for loans depending on their land

holding. Parrikar said loan of up to Rs 30,000 per annum for farmers owning a minimum of one hectare would be made available through various financial institutions to be empanelled by the Government. (A)

- 863)** Gilt Funds invest exclusively in:
- The 30 companies comprising Sensex
 - The 50 companies comprising Nifty
 - Government Securities
 - Gold
 - All the above

Gilt funds, as they are conveniently called, are mutual fund schemes floated by asset management companies with exclusive investments in government securities. The schemes are also referred to as mutual funds dedicated exclusively to investments in government securities. Government securities mean and include central government dated securities, state government securities and treasury bills. The gilt funds provide to the investors the safety of investments made in government securities and better returns than direct investments in these securities through investing in a variety of government securities yielding varying rate of returns. The first gilt fund in India was set up in December 1998. (C)

- 864)** Which of the following statements on Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account (EEFC) is/are correct?
- 100% of foreign exchange earnings can be credited into this account
 - Cheque facility is not available for operation of the EEFC account.
 - EEFC account holders are permitted to access the forex market for purchasing foreign exchange only after utilizing fully the available balances in the EEFC accounts.
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account (EEFC) is an account maintained in foreign currency with an Authorised Dealer i.e. a bank dealing in foreign exchange. It is a facility provided to the foreign exchange earners, including exporters, to credit 100 per cent of their foreign exchange earnings to the account, so that the account holders do not have to convert foreign exchange into Rupees and vice versa, thereby minimizing the transaction costs.

All categories of foreign exchange earners, such as individuals, companies, etc. who are resident in India, may open EEFC accounts.

An EEFC account can be held only in the form of a current account. No interest is payable on EEFC accounts.

100% foreign exchange earnings can be credited to the EEFC account subject to the condition that the sum total of the accruals in the account during a calendar month should be converted into Rupees on or before the last day of the succeeding calendar month after adjusting for utilization of the balances for approved purposes or forward commitments.

Cheque facility is available for operation of the EEFC account.

EEFC account holders are permitted to access the forex market for purchasing foreign exchange only after utilizing fully the available balances in the EEFC accounts. (D)

- 865)** Which of the following is not among the four key elements that banks should incorporate while framing their KYC policies?
- Customer Acceptance Policy
 - Customer Identification Procedures
 - Priority Sector Credit
 - Monitoring of Transactions
 - Risk Management

Banks should frame their KYC policies incorporating the following four key elements:

- Customer Acceptance Policy
- Customer Identification Procedures
- Monitoring of Transactions
- Risk Management (C)

- 866)** A customer belonging to low income group who is not able to produce documents to satisfy the bank about his identity and address, can open bank account with an introduction from another account holder who has been subjected to full KYC procedure. Which of the following regarding the introducer is/are compulsory?

- The introducer's account with the bank should be at least six months old and should show satisfactory transactions.
 - The introducer needs to certify photograph of the customer who proposes to open the account
 - The introducer needs to certify address of the customer who proposes to open the account
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

A customer belonging to low income group who is not able to produce documents to satisfy the bank about his identity and address, can open bank account with an introduction from another account holder who has been subjected to full KYC procedure provided that the balance in all his accounts taken together is not expected to exceed Rupees Fifty Thousand (Rs. 50,000/-) and the total credit in all the accounts taken together is not expected to exceed Rupees One Lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-) in a year. The introducer's account with the bank should be at least six months old and should show satisfactory transactions. Photograph of the customer who proposes to open the account and also his address needs to be certified by the introducer. (E)

- 867)** Who among the following was ranked first in the Forbes magazine's list of 'world's 100 most powerful women' released in May 2013?
- Sonia Gandhi
 - Melinda Gates
 - Angela Merkel
 - Dilma Rousseff
 - Michelle Obama

United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and India-origin PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi figure among the top 10 in the global list of most powerful women. Gandhi is ranked ninth, while Nooyi is at the 10th place on the list of world's 100 most powerful women leaders compiled by Forbes magazine for 2013 on May 23, 2013. German Chancellor Angela Merkel tops the list for a third year, followed by Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, Melinda Gates of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, US First lady Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton. (C)

- 868)** How much was the employment in organised sector in India in 2011?
- 9 million
 - 19 million
 - 29 million
 - 39 million
 - 49 million

The two-day 45th Session of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) organised in New Delhi concluded on May 18, 2013 with a resolve to provide universal social security coverage and assured pension to the entire working population.

The Conference saw discussions between the representatives of employers, workers and the government over issues concerning labour in the country.

The Prime Minister said that the ILC is a very important conference that deliberates issues of critical importance to our workers and industry, and therefore to our economy and society at large.

Highlights of Prime Minister's speech:

- Employment in the organized sector registered a growth of more than 9% from 26.5 million in 2005 to 29 million in 2011.
- The eligibility limit under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 has been increased from Rs 3500 per month to Rs 10000 per month. The medical bonus payable under the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961 has also been enhanced.
- The period of unemployment allowance to retrenched workers has been enhanced from 6 months to 1 year under the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana.
- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Act was amended in the year 2010 to cover factories employing 10 or more workers, instead of the earlier threshold of 20. The wage ceiling for coverage of employees has been enhanced from Rupees 10,000 to Rs.15,000 per month.

Union Labour and Employment Minister Mallikarjun Kharge gave a brief account of the work done by his Ministry.

The event was marked by the special address of Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labour Organisation (ILO), who reiterated to further the main aims of the ILO to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. (C)

- 869)** What has been launched by the Ministry of Rural Development to reduce delay in payment of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)?
- Electronic Fund Transfer System
 - Digital Fund Transfer System
 - Electronic Fund Management System
 - Digital Fund Management System
 - Rural Electronics Fund Transfer

Women and unskilled labourers are the main beneficiaries of the higher wage rates of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which has been revised recently to protect workers against inflation. This was disclosed in a Ministry of Rural Development press note issued on May 14, 2013.

With effect from April 1, 2013, a maximum wage of Rs 214 has been fixed for Haryana and a minimum of Rs 135 for North Eastern States.

The National Sample Survey Office's 66th round confirms that MGNREGA has reduced the traditional gender wage discrimination which was apparent in several States across the country.

Till 31st March 2013, more than 1408 crore person-days of employment have been generated, of which 47.48% are women. An average of five crore households were provided with employment every year since 2008. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes account for 50% of the total person-days generated.

In 2012, 30 new works were included under MGNREGA like Watershed, Irrigation and Flood management works, Agricultural and Livestock related works, Fisheries, Rural Drinking water and Sanitation related works.

To reduce delay in payment of wages, Ministry of Rural Development has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS) in Karnataka, Orissa, Gujarat, Tripura and Rajasthan, for directly crediting wages into beneficiary accounts using Core Banking System. eFMS will ensure capture of real time transactions, eliminate delays and leakages. Ministry is now working to implement eFMS in identified 46 MGNREGA districts for Direct Benefit Transfer. Aadhaar enabled direct electronics crediting of accounts payments for workers in MGNREGA is being implemented in 51 districts, in its pilot phase.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act came into force in February 2, 2006 and now is in operation in 632 districts in the country. (C)

- 870)** Which of the following will be established as an "authority" for "promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, municipal and industrial uses" according to an announcement made by the government in May 2013?
- National Bank of Water Use Efficiency
 - National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency
 - National Board of Water Use Improvements
 - National Bureau of Water Conservation Efficiency
 - National Board for Development of Water Resources

The Centre will establish a National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency as an "authority" for "promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, municipal and industrial uses." During the first meeting held in New Delhi on May 9, 2013 the members were informed that, "The National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency, will have the responsibility of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation and industry." Harish Rawat, Water Resources Minister, chaired the meeting. (B)

- 871)** Who among the following is the Chairperson of the government-appointed Expert Committee on Composite Development Index of States?
- B. N. Srikrishna
 - Kirit Parikh
 - Parthasarathi Shome
 - Raghuram G. Rajan
 - Vijay Kelkar

The Government on May 15, 2013 decided to constitute an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Raghuram G. Rajan, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance to consider backwardness of the States in terms of measures like distance of the State from the national average under criteria such as per capita income and other human development indicators and for evolving a Composite Development Index of States. The Committee has been constituted with the approval of the Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram. The composition of the Expert Committee will be: Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance – Chairman; Saibal Gupta, Bharat Ramaswami, Najeeb Jung, Niraja G. Jayal & Tuhin Pandey –Members. Committee would submit its Report within sixty (60) days from the date of its constitution. (D)

- 872)** The assistance for homestead sites to below poverty line (BPL) households under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) has been doubled to _____.
- Rs. 20,000
 - Rs. 30,000
 - Rs. 40,000
 - Rs. 50,000
 - Rs. 60,000

The Centre has included several significant changes to Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), the flagship housing programme for the rural poor.

According to changes announced by Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh on May 14, 2013, the cost of a 250 sq. ft. housing unit is now Rs. 70,000 in Plain areas as against Rs. 45,000 earlier. For Naxal-affected districts and hill States, the per-unit cost has been hiked to Rs. 75,000 from Rs. 48, 500.

The assistance for homestead sites to rural below poverty line (BPL) households has been doubled from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000.

Funding of IAY is shared between the Centre & State in the ratio of 75:25

The Centre has also decided to transfer its share of the funding to the State governments directly instead of allocating it to the districts.

In case of UTs, entire fund of IAY is provided by the Centre to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which release funds to beneficiaries through Gram Panchayat.

- 873)** Which of the following launched low cost rotavirus vaccine Rotavac in India in May 2013?
- Biocon
 - Cipla
 - Shantha Biotech
 - Bharat Biotech
 - Serum Institute of India

The Phase-III clinical trial of low cost Indian-made rotavirus vaccine Rotavac has demonstrated strong efficacy and excellent safety profile and if approved by the Drugs Controller General of India, it would be available at Rs. 54 per dose.

"This is an important scientific breakthrough against rotavirus infections. Clinical results indicate that the vaccine, if licensed, could save the lives of thousands of children each year in India," K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, said on May 14, 2013.

This vaccine, developed under a public-private partnership, will be the third to hit the Indian market, but will be more affordable than the two vaccines now available costing more than Rs. 1,000 per dose. The clinical study has demonstrated for the first time that Rotavac is efficacious in preventing severe rotavirus diarrhoea in low-resource settings in India, and developing countries in Asia and Africa.

Rotavirus is responsible for approximately 4,53,000 child deaths due to diarrhoea globally each year. It is particularly threatening in India where — according to a recent study — around 1,00,000 children die each year from severe diarrhoea and dehydration caused by rotavirus. India accounts for 22 per cent of the estimated global deaths from diarrhoea-causing rotavirus.

Rotavac is an oral vaccine and is administered to infants in a three-dose course at the ages of 6, 10 and 14 weeks. It is given alongside routine immunisations in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) vaccines recommended at these ages.

India has developed its first vaccine under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The vaccine was developed by the Department of Biotechnology and Bharat Biotech, a Hyderabad-based company, after 18 years of research (D)

- 874)** Lancet is a leading publication in the field of:
- Sports
 - Medicine
 - Engineering
 - Literature
 - Photography

Over 1,00,000 children, below the age of 11 months, die of diarrhoea annually in India which is the second leading killer of young children globally, after pneumonia. India accounts for the highest number of diarrhoeal death, a new international study published in the latest edition of the British medical journal The Lancet in May 15, 2013 has suggested. The study provides the clearest picture yet of the impact and most common causes of diarrhoeal diseases. The Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS) is the largest study ever conducted on diarrhoeal diseases in developing countries, enrolling more than 20,000 children from seven sites across Asia (including India) and Africa. The study pinpoints the key causes of childhood diarrhoea and suggests a roadmap to save hundreds of thousands of lives. **(B)**

- 875)** Which of the following will be set up in New Delhi to perform last rites of departed national leaders such as Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers, according to an announcement in May 2013?
- Ekta Smriti
 - Rashtriya Smriti
 - Rashtriya Samadhi
 - Ekta Smriti
 - Samadhi Sthal

The Union Cabinet on May 16, 2013 gave its approval for the construction of a 'Rashtriya Smriti' at the Samadhis Complex near Ekta Sthal in New Delhi, to establish a place to perform last rites of departed national leaders namely Presidents, Vice Presidents, Prime Ministers, former Presidents, Vice Presidents, Prime Ministers and such other leaders as decided by the Cabinet. In the past, separate memorials for departed national leaders were created near Rajghat which covered a large space. In view of Cabinet decision taken in the year 2000 that "Henceforth Government shall not develop any Samadhi for departed leaders" and the paucity of land at the Samadhis Complex area, 'Rashtriya Smriti' is being developed to perform last rites of departed national leaders. The Smriti area will provide space for last rites of departed national leaders in future, besides space for a public gathering. **(B)**

- 876)** The Union Cabinet on May 16, 2013 raised the Creamy Layer limit for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to an annual income of _____ for employment in government services and admission to central educational institutions.
- Rs. 5 lakh per annum
 - Rs. 5.5 lakh per annum
 - Rs. 6.0 lakh per annum
 - Rs. 6.5 lakh per annum
 - Rs. 7.0 lakh per annum

The Union Cabinet on May 16, 2013 gave its approval for increase in the present income criterion of Rs. 4.5 lakh per annum for applying the Creamy Layer restriction throughout the country, for excluding Socially Advanced Persons/Sections (Creamy Layer) from the purview of reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The new income criterion will be Rs. 6 lakh per annum. The increase in the income limit to exclude the Creamy Layer is in keeping with the increase in the Consumer Price Index and would enable more persons to take advantage of reservation benefits extended to OBCs in government services and admission to central educational institutions. This would bring about equity and greater inclusiveness in society. The Department of Personnel and Training and the Ministry of Human Resource Development would issue necessary orders to this effect. **(C)**

- 877)** Who among the following is the Chairperson of the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Prime Minister to prepare a draft law for independence and functional autonomy of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in May 2013?
- Kapil Sibal
 - Kamal Nath
 - P. Chidambaram
 - Salman Khurshid
 - V Narayanasamy

The Prime Minister has approved constitution of a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram to consider the matter relating to an appropriate law being made to provide for the independence of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and its functional autonomy. The composition of the GoM will be: P Chidambaram, Minister of Finance; Sushilkumar Shinde, Minister of Home Affairs; Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Minister of Law and Justice; Salman Khurshid, Minister of External

Affairs; and V Narayanasamy, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. The GoM will prepare the draft law within three weeks. The GoM will be serviced by the Department of Personnel and Training. The GoM was constituted in May 2013 by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to prepare a draft law to insulate CBI from external influence and a draft affidavit to be presented in the Supreme Court which had made a scathing observation on the agency while hearing the coal bloc allocation scam case. **(C)**

- 878)** The Union Cabinet on May 16, 2013 approved the establishment of the '_____' with the objective of conserving and restoring the heritage sites associated with 'Father of the Nation'
- Mahatma Heritage Preservation Mission
 - Mahatma Heritage Sites Board
 - Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission
 - Gandhi Heritage Sites Board
 - Gandhi Historical Sites Mission

The Union Cabinet on May 16, 2013 approved the establishment of the Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission with the objective of conserving and restoring the heritage sites associated with 'Father of the Nation'. The Mission would be entrusted with the identification, collation and assessment of information on 'Gandhi Heritage' material for its management and deployment. The Mission will aim at preserving for posterity 39 core sites as well as other 2,000 important sites earlier identified by the panel under the chairmanship of Gopalkrishna Gandhi, ex-Governor of West Bengal. **(C)**

- 879)** Which architect's design has been selected for the proposed Nalanda University in Bihar in May 2013?
- Akruti Consultants
 - Vastushilpa Consultants
 - Virender Khanna & Associates
 - Anjan Gupta Architects
 - Idiom Design Consultants

Efforts to re-establish and reinvent the historic and famed Nalanda University in Rajgir, located 12 km away from the monument zone of Nalanda in Bihar, moved ahead. Plans to build a new campus took shape earlier in May 2013 when the international jury comprising four architects from Singapore, Japan, China and India and three members from the University chose the winning design from an international competition. Of the eight proposals submitted by pre-qualified architectural firms, including five from abroad, the jury selected the design drawn by Vastushilpa Consultants, a well known architecture firm based in Ahmedabad for its "conceptual planning, clarity of thought and ability to take forward the vision of Nalanda."

Nalanda University, conceptualised as a stand-alone international institution, would be constructed on a 455-acre site to accommodate 2,500 students and 500 teachers.

The University has proposed seven schools of learning including Historic Studies, Buddhist Studies and Information Technology, but only two of them — Historic Studies and Environment Studies — would be built in the first phase.

Nalanda flourished as an important centre of learning for about 800 years. It fell into ruins in the 13th century, and the British archaeologists discovered the historic remains in the 19th century.

Following the decision to revive the university at the Second East Asian Summit in 2007, the Indian government established Nalanda University in 2010 after passing an Act in Parliament. Many Asia-Pacific countries have extended support for the project. Last year, the University floated the international competition seeking designs for the proposed campus. **(B)**

- 880)** Which of the following is supplying P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and Anti Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft to the Indian Navy?
- Boeing
 - Dassault
 - Sukhoi
 - Lockheed Martin
 - BAE Systems

Indian Naval Aviation received a major fillip with the arrival of the first of eight Boeing P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and Anti Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft at Naval Air Station Rajali (Arrakonam) on May 15, 2013. The remaining seven aircraft would be delivered over the next two years. The aircraft is equipped with foreign & indigenous sensors for Maritime Reconnaissance, Anti Submarine operations and Electronic Intelligence missions. The aircraft is fully integrated with state of the art sensors and highly potent Anti Surface and Anti Submarine weapons. **(A)**

- 831)** Nirbhay Sharma was appointed new Governor of Arunachal Pradesh on May 16, 2013.
- Sikkim
 - Assam
 - Manipur
 - Meghalaya
 - Arunachal Pradesh

The President of India on May 16, 2013 appointed Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, to be the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. (E)

- 882)** Eminent journalist Om Prakash Sabherwal, who passed away in May 2013 at the age of 90, was known for his articles on:
- Sports
 - Health
 - Agriculture
 - Atomic Energy
 - Capital Markets

Om Prakash Sabherwal, an eminent journalist and author of much publicised 'India's Tryst with the Atom', passed away in New Delhi on May 16, 2013 at the age of 90. Regarded as an authority on India's nuclear programme and global nuclear issues, Sabherwal was born into a wealthy business family at Ludhiana on April 13, 1923. (D)

- 883)** _____, noted Islamic scholar and founder of the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS) in 1993, passed away in Mumbai on May 14, 2013.
- Ebrahim Haque
 - Aftab Chowdhury
 - Muhammad Sarkar
 - Abbas Ahmed
 - Ashgar Ali Engineer

Noted Islamic scholar Ashgar Ali Engineer, 73, passed away in Mumbai on May 14, 2013. Born in 1940, he did BSc in civil engineering from Vikram University. From 1980, he edited a journal 'The Islamic Perspective' and during the 1980s he published a string of books on Islam and communal violence in India, the latter based on his field investigations in post-independence India.

The destruction of the Babri Mosque in 1992 provided the impetus for the foundation by Engineer in 1993 of the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS), of which he was the Chairman and which was the organizational focus of his work since then.

He published 52 books, many papers and articles, including those for scholarly journals. He edited the 'Indian Journal of Secularism', and a monthly paper, Islam and Modern Age. He also published Secular Perspective every fortnight. (E)

- 884)** _____ Assembly Deputy Speaker Harvansh Singh passed away on May 14, 2013 at the age of 63
- Rajasthan
 - Goa
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Bihar
 - Haryana

Madhya Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker and senior Congress leader Harvansh Singh passed away on May 14, 2013 at the age of 63. In 1993 Singh was first elected as member of Madhya Pradesh State Legislative Assembly from Keolari constituency. He was also a Cabinet minister during the Digvijay Singh Government in the state. (C)

- 885)** Who among the following was appointed India's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations in April 2013?
- N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar
 - Asoke Kumar Mukerji
 - Jyotindra Nath Dixit
 - Arundhati Ghose
 - Vijay K. Nambiar

The new Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Asoke Kumar Mukerji, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on April 16, 2013. He succeeds succeeding Hardeep Singh Puri who demitted office in February 2013.

Until his appointment, Mukerji, career diplomat, served as Special Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, in charge of political, policy planning and review matters, and coordinator for counter-terrorism since July 2010. Mukerji was Deputy High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom from January 2007 to July 2010; Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan from February 2005 to January 2007; Deputy Chief of Mission of India to the Russian Federation from December 2001 to February 2005; and India's Consul General in Dubai from October 1998 to November 2001.

He has held a number of other diplomatic assignments, including in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Offices at Geneva from August 1995 to October 1998; India's Consul General and Chargé d'affaires in Tashkent from June 1990 to December 1992; and in Indian embassies in Washington, D.C. (March 1987 – May 1990) and Belgrade (August 1980 – June 1984).

At home, he has served in the Central Asia and East Europe Divisions and as Chief of Staff, Minister of State for External Affairs, and earlier in the Office of the Minister for External Affairs.

He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1978 and holds a master's degree in English. (B)

- 886)** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on May 15, 2013 passed a non-binding resolution condemning the government of Syria and calling for political transition. What was India's stand?
- Voted in favour of the resolution
 - Voted against the resolution
 - Abstained from voting
 - None of the above

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on May 15, 2013 passed a non-binding resolution condemning the government of Syria and calling for political transition. In the resolution — the fifth passed by the world body on the situation in Syria — the U.N. expressed "grave concern at the continuing escalation of violence" and reiterated its call for "rapid progress on a political transition, which represents the best opportunity to resolve the situation... peacefully". The vote passed with 107 of 193 nations in favour, 12 against and 69 abstentions, including India, representing a sharp fall in support compared to a similar resolution passed last August with 133 votes in favour, 12 against and 31 abstentions. (D)

- 887)** Who among the following is the British counterpart of Finance Minister P. Chidambaram?
- Gordon Brown
 - George Osborne
 - Charlie Bean
 - Vince Cable
 - Paul Deighton

Continuing on his mission to tell India's 'fascinating growth story' abroad to rake in foreign investment, Finance Minister Chidambaram, on May 15, 2013, started his three-nation tour of the U.K., France and Qatar. In the first leg of his five-day visit, Chidambaram led the Indian delegation to the Sixth Ministerial India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in London on May 16. The U.K. delegation was led by Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne. On the second leg of his visit on May 17 in Paris, Chidambaram held a meeting with leading investors and also had discussions with OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría during his day-long stay. In Doha (Qatar) on May 18, the Finance Minister held discussions with his counterpart Minister of Economic and Finance Yousef Hussan Kamal and also had meetings with the CEOs of Qatar Investment Authority and Qatari Business Association. (B)

- 888)** Who among the following is the Japanese counterpart of Indian Minister Anand Sharma who went on an official visit to Japan in May 2013?
- Fujioka Masao
 - Haruhiko Kuroda
 - Yoshida Tarochi
 - Toshimitsu Motegi
 - Takeshi Watanabe

The Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Anand Sharma went on a two-day visit to Tokyo on May 17-18, 2013 for a comprehensive review of bilateral economic engagement with Japan, ahead of Manmohan Singh's visit to Tokyo. He called upon Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, and apprised him of the progress made in the implementation of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, which was conceptualised in the 2007 visit of Abe to India. Sharma met Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and expressed satisfaction on the healthy growth of trade after the signing of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries. Sharma also met the Japanese Minister of Economy Trade and Industry, Toshimitsu Motegi, which provided an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the DMIC project including the implementation of the early bird projects. (D)

889) The Saudi Arabian government in May 2013 announced concessions to Indian workers who are affected by the new Nitaqat (naturalisation) law to be enforced in the kingdom. What is the currency of Saudi Arabia?

- a) Taka
- b) Dinar
- c) Riyal
- d) Dirham
- e) Shekel

The Saudi Arabian government has announced a new concession to the expatriates who are affected by the new Nitaqat (naturalisation) law to be enforced in the kingdom. The announcement would greatly benefit a large number of Indian expatriates, over one lakh of them, said Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed on May 10, 2013. Expatriates who were staying illegally/overstayed could return to homeland without facing penal action. The cut-off date for this would be April 6, 2013 (ie, those who were found to be staying illegally on or prior to that date). Ahamed added the Saudi kingdom also made it clear that if the expatriates, who have to return to the homeland jobless, were able to succeed in getting a new job/sponsor, they could continue to stay there without facing any hardship. Based on the request made by India, the kingdom had already deferred enforcement of Nitaqat by three months from April 1. The problem for Saudi employers in implementing Nitaqat was that they would have to reserve 10 per cent jobs for the locals and give them a minimum of 3,000 Riyals (one Riyal is equal to about Rs.14.50) a month as salary. (C)

890) What is the peacekeeping mission exercises jointly conducted by India and the US in May 2013 named?

- a) Bachav Pariksha
- b) Seema Suraksha
- c) Yudh Abhyas
- d) Nav Abhiyan
- e) Pratham Pariksha

Can Indian and American troops join hands to carry out a successful peacekeeping mission in a third country to rescue innocent civilians, whose lives are threatened either by their own regime or armed opposition? This is precisely what the armed forces from India and the United States are currently doing in North Carolina as part of their annual 'Yudh Abhyas', a Hindi term which literally means "training for war". This is the largest of events that has happened here," Lt Col Phil Sounia, Commander, 3rd Squadron 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, said on May 15, 2013. Nearly 200 Indian armed forces personnel from the 5th Gurkha Rifles are here to attend the military exercise, while there are more than 400 from the host nation. Sharing their respective experiences, the two armies - for this exercise - are evolving a joint plan for an imaginary United Nations operation in a fictional area for a UN peacekeeping mission. While the Indian Army is enriched by its experience in militancy hit Jammu & Kashmir and the various UN peacekeeping operations, and American troops are enriched by their experience in war-torn Afghanistan and Iraq. (C)

891) Guayaquil, in news for anti-human trafficking investigation called 'Operation India' in May 2013, is a port city in:

- a) Chile
- b) Peru
- c) Ecuador
- d) Honduras
- e) El Salvador

A human trafficking ring headed by a "citizen of Indian origin" was exposed by authorities in the Ecuadorian port city of Guayaquil who said the gang sought to smuggle people from India and Sri Lanka into the U.S. "Operation India" was the codename of the police investigation that led to the arrest of the gang on May 16, 2013. Indicating the gang's connivance with Airport Immigration Services officials, the police in Guayaquil announced that in addition to three Indian nationals, two members of Ecuador's immigration police were arrested. Guayaquil Police Chief General Patricio Pazmino was quoted saying, "They brought in nationals from India and Sri Lanka, and arranged refuge for them in various hotels," and Deputy Interior Minister Xavier Cordoba added that the smugglers had charged \$5,000 per person. (C)

892) A 43-km rail link from Anuradhapura to Madhu Road in Sri Lanka funded by India was commissioned on May 14, 2013. Which of the following statements is not correct?

- a) The rail link is Southern Sri Lanka
- b) IRCON International has constructed this rail link
- c) Basil Rajapaksa is Sri Lanka's Minister for Economic Development
- d) Ashok K. Kantha was India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka at the time of commissioning
- e) None of the above

The first phase of Sri Lanka's northern railway project, funded by a line of credit facilitated by India, was commissioned on May 14, 2013. Coaches chugged along from Anuradhapura, the North Central Province, to Madhu Road, marking the return of a crucial transportation link. Tracks along the 43 km-stretch were reconstructed as part of

the \$800 million-project, being executed by the Indian Railway Ministry's IRCON International Limited to restore the 252 km-railway line that would connect different parts of the country. Commissioning the service, Minister for Economic Development Basil Rajapaksa said India had been with Sri Lanka at every stage of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the north. High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha and Sri Lankan officials were present. (A)

893) Kot Lakhpat Jail is in ____ in Pakistan.

- a) Karachi
- b) Lahore
- c) Multan
- d) Peshawar
- e) Hyderabad

The caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, on May 17, 2013 ordered the release of 51 Indian fishermen on humanitarian grounds as a goodwill gesture that he hoped would be reciprocated by India. The release of the Indian fishermen caught in contested waters comes after weeks of acrimony over the attack on Indian death row prisoner Sarabjit Singh in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail followed by the beating up of Pakistani prisoner Sanaulah in a Jammu jail. Both died of their injuries after a few days. (B)

894) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Lulama Xingwana of South Africa and Tatau Godinho of Brazil?

- a) Kumari Selja
- b) Girija Vyasa
- c) Krishna Tirath
- d) Panabaaka Lakshmi
- e) Chandresh Kumari Katoch

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath signed the Fifth India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Resolution in New Delhi on May 16, 2013. The joint resolution between the three countries will look at recognising the key role of governments with the support of civil society in ensuring and accelerating efforts towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Other signatories included Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities of South Africa Lulama Xingwana and Brazilian Secretary of Evaluation of Policies and Economic Autonomy of Women Tatau Godinho. (C)

895) Which developing country is in news for its successful Bolsa Familia social programme for effective delivery of financial benefits to the poor families?

- a) Egypt
- b) Nigeria
- c) Brazil
- d) Argentina
- e) South Africa

The Fifth India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Resolution was signed in New Delhi on May 16, 2013. The joint resolution between the three countries will look at recognising the key role of governments with the support of civil society in ensuring and accelerating efforts towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Social programmes, such as Bolsa Familia of Brazil, have popularised the model for effective delivery of financial benefits to poor families." (C)

896) India became an Observer at the Arctic Council on May 15, 2013. Which of the following countries is not a member of the Arctic Council?

- a) Russia
- b) Denmark
- c) Sweden
- d) France
- e) Iceland

India on May 15, 2013 became an Observer at the Arctic Council, which coordinates policy on the Arctic. The Arctic Council has eight states as members, the five coastal states, Canada, Russia, the U.S., Norway and Denmark (through Greenland), and Sweden, Iceland and Finland. Other countries that joined India as Observers were China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Italy. The United Kingdom, France, Germany, Poland, Spain and the Netherlands are already Observers.

The Ottawa Declaration of 1996 formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. (D)

- 897)** Who among the following diplomats is the author of the book 'India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship', whose Arabic edition was released in May 2013?
- Pavan K. Varma
 - Sandeep Kumar
 - Venu Rajamony
 - S. Jaishankar
 - Meera Shankar

Prime Minister of the UAE has hailed the close relationship between India and the gulf country saying that the social and trade ties between the two nations have become stronger now. "Since the early 1950s, the UAE, and Dubai in particular, have been working on the promotion of these good relations with India," said Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the ruler of Dubai and Vice-President of the UAE. The ruler of Dubai made these remarks in a foreword to the Arabic edition of the book 'India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship' by diplomat Venu Rajamony on May 13, 2013. The author Rajamony served as consul-general of India in Dubai from 2007 to 2010 (C)

- 898)** Which country launched the Super Priority Visa Service for urgent travellers from India in May 2013? This is the first-of-its-kind service to be launched anywhere in the world.
- USA
 - South Africa
 - Britain
 - Canada
 - Australia

Britain on May 14, 2013 launched a new "super priority" same-day visa service for urgent travellers from India, the first-of-its-kind service to be launched by the UK anywhere in the world. The Super Priority Visa Service had been announced by British Prime Minister David Cameron during his visit to the country in February 2013. "I am delighted to see the Super Priority Visa service being launched in India before any other country," said Sir James Bevan, the British High Commissioner to India. The Super Priority Visa is an optional service, which incurs an additional fee of 600 pounds besides the standard fee for the type of visa being applied for. The new service is available to customers applying for a six-month or two-year multiple entry visit visa (excluding student visitors) who have previously travelled to the UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or a Schengen country within the last five years. (C)

- 899)** Where was the 2013 edition of International Indian Film Academy awards (IIFA) organised in July 2013?
- Bermuda
 - Cayman Islands
 - Gibraltar
 - Isle of Man
 - Macau

The 2013 edition of International Indian Film Academy awards (IIFA) will celebrate 100 years of Indian cinema as the three-day Bollywood extravaganza returns to Macau after 2009. Announcing the destination on May 14, 2013, Bollywood star Abhishek Bachchan said he will be performing at the ceremony, which begins from July 4, 2013. (E)

- 900)** India and China signed eight agreements to enhance cooperation in a range of areas including trade, culture and water resources during the New Delhi visit of Chinese Premier Le Keqiang in May 2013. Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Chinese Minister Gao Hucheng?
- Kapil Sibal
 - P. Chidambaram
 - Anand Sharma
 - M. Veerappa Moily
 - Salman Khurshid

India and China on May 13 sought to further improve their bilateral relations and firmed up eight agreements to enhance cooperation in a range of areas including trade, culture and water resources.

The agreements were signed after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in New Delhi.

To enhance trade, both the sides decided to set up three working groups under the Joint Economic Group. The three groups are Services Trade Promotion Working Group, Economic And Trade Planning Cooperation Group and Trade Statistical Analysis Group.

The pact for setting up of the working groups was signed by Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and his Chinese counterpart Gao Hucheng.

In 2012, bilateral trade between the two countries was \$66 billion, a decline from over the \$74 billion mark in 2011. The two countries have set a target of \$100 billion by 2015 for bilateral trade. (C)

- 901)** Results of elections to the Lower House of Parliament in Pakistan were announced on May 17, 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Nawaz Sharif was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time
 - Tehreek-e-Insaf was the second largest party
 - Vote turnout was less than 50%
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

Nawaz Sharif's PML-N has bagged 124 of the 272 directly elected seats in Pakistan's National Assembly but fell short of a majority and is poised to form a government with support of independents and smaller parties. Election Commission on May 17, 2013 announced results for 261 constituencies of the National Assembly or lower house of the Parliament. The results of the remaining 11 constituencies will be declared later. The PML-N is set to form the next government after emerging the single largest party. PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif will become the prime minister for a record third term. He had served as Prime Minister in 1990-93 & 1997-99. The PML-N's two closest rivals — the Pakistan People's Party, which led the last government, and Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf — were far behind with 31 seats and 27 seats, respectively. Independents bagged 28 seats in the National Assembly. The May 11 general election marked the first democratic transition in Pakistan's 66-year history. About 60 per cent of the more than 86 million voters participated in the polls. (A)

- 902)** Some of the world's largest multinational companies have signed an agreement to improve labour conditions in which of the following export-oriented sectors in Bangladesh in May 2013?
- Toys
 - Tea
 - Mining
 - Seafood
 - Textiles

Under mounting pressure to improve working conditions in Bangladesh's garment factories, several of the world's largest apparel companies agreed on May 13, 2013 to a landmark plan to help pay for fire safety and building improvements after the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory complex in Dhaka in April 2013, which killed more than 1,100 people. For years, Bangladesh has seen some of the worst practices in the global garment industry. Wages are the lowest in the world and factory conditions are often unsafe. Yet global brands have often sought to deflect any direct responsibility for the problems, while the government has often been tepid in protecting worker rights. Companies that endorsed the safety plan include Swedish retail giant H&M and Inditex, owner of the popular Zara chain, endorsed the safety plan. H&M is the largest purchaser of garments from Bangladesh, and its endorsement was seen as influential to other brands. The agreement calls for independent, rigorous factory safety inspections with public accountability and mandatory repairs and renovations underwritten by Western retailers. It also enhances the roles played by workers and unions to insure factory safety. (E)

- 903)** The European Union pledged €520 million (\$674.8 million) over the next two years for reconstruction in civil war affected Mali in May 2013. Mali is a country in which part of the African continent?
- East
 - South
 - West
 - North

On the eve of a major international donors' conference, the European Union announced on May 14, 2013 said in Brussels it was pledging €520 million (\$674.8 million) over the next two years to help rebuild the West African country of Mali as a functioning state. The announcement was made by Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, who said the investment would benefit Europe as well as Africa. "The support of the international community is essential to establish a Mali that is stable, democratic and prosperous," said Barroso after a meeting with the interim president, Dioncounda Traore. The donors' conference, held on May 15 in Brussels, was organised by French President Francois Hollande. Officials in Mali have come up with a \$4.3-billion-euro (\$5.58-billion) multifaceted plan for what EU officials are calling "a total relaunch of the country." The plan includes rebuilding government institutions and the military, staging elections in July, holding dialogues with rebels in the north, rebuilding roads and schools, reviving the moribund economy so that people get paid for working, and more. (C)

- 904)** Russia confirmed supply of weapons to Syria in May 2013. Who among the following is the Foreign Minister of Russia?

- Alexei Kudrin
- Sergey Lavrov
- Anatoly Serdyukov
- Viktor Khristenko
- Andrei Fursenko

Moscow has reaffirmed ongoing supplies of weapons to Syria even as U.S. reported new Russian missile deliveries. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dismissed the uproar in Western media over Russian arms supplies to Syria. "We do not conceal it that we supply weapons to Syria under signed contracts; we are not violating either any international agreements, nor our own weapon export control legislation, one of the strictest in the world," Lavrov said on May 17, 2013 after talks with visiting United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. (B)

905) Which is the latest book by Dan Brown released in May 2013?

- The Lost Symbol
- Divine Comedy
- Inferno
- The Da Vinci Code
- Angels and Demons

Author Dan Brown's new fiction "Inferno" is scheduled for publication worldwide on May 14, 2013. Robert Langdon, the lead character from Brown's previous three thrillers, "The Da Vinci Code", "Angels and Demons" and "The Lost Symbol" is returning in a new novel set in Florence and centred on a part of Italian poet Dante's epic poem "Divine Comedy." (C)

906) Chris Hadfield (53) of Canada is a well-known:

- Journalist
- Banker
- Film Producer
- Mathematician
- Astronaut

Chris Hadfield (53), Canada's first commander of the ISS, landed on May 14, 2013 in Kazakhstan after a five-month mission. The Soyuz capsule that landed carried Hadfield and his two crewmates – Thomas Marshburn of USA and Russia's Roman Romanenko. (E)

907) For which of the following scripts was The Hindu MetroPlus Playwright Award 2013 conferred in May 2013?

- Under the Chestnut Tree
- Romeo and Juliet – No Strings Attached
- The Mountain of Bones
- Nobody Sleeps Alone
- The Green Room

The Hindu MetroPlus Playwright Award 2013 was conferred on Manjima Chatterjee for her 'The Mountain of Bones' on May 12, 2013. Instituted by The Hindu in 2008, the annual award carries a prize of Rs. 1 lakh for the best unpublished and unperformed play script in English. The other two shortlisted entries were Deepika Arwind's 'Nobody Sleeps Alone' and Akash Mohimen's 'Under the Chestnut Tree'. The Hindu MetroPlus Playwright Award 2013 is the sixth since it was launched in 2008. (C)

908) Who among the following Directors was conferred the French Government's 'Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters' honour at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2013?

- Ashutosh Gowariker
- Anurag Kashyap
- Dibakar Banerjee
- Zoya Akhtar
- Karan Johar

Director Anurag Kashyap has been conferred the French Government's 'Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters' award at the Cannes Film Festival. French Culture Minister Aurelie Filippetti conferred the award of 'Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et Lettres' (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) on filmmaker, producer, Anurag Kashyap at a ceremony during the Cannes Film Festival on the May 20th, 2013. India is the guest country at the 66th Cannes Film festival which is celebrating the 100 years of Indian cinema. The French government's honour is conferred on persons who have distinguished themselves by their creativity in the field of art, culture and literature or for their contribution to the influence of arts in France and throughout the world. Noted past Indian recipients of the prestigious award are late Tamil actor Sivaji Ganesan, Lata Mangeshkar, Shahrukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai, photographer Raghu Rai, theatre director Ebrahim Alkazi, theatre director and actor late Habib Tanveer, civil servant and novelist Upamanyu Chatterjee, Shaji N Karun and sculptor Subodh Gupta. (B)

909) Which of the following has acquired 24% shareholding in India's largest airline Jet Airways in May 2013?

- AirAsia
- Qatar Airways
- Singapore Air
- British Airways
- Ethiad Airways

Shareholders of Jet Airways approved the 24 per cent stake-sale in the airline to Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways on May 24. Forging a strategic alliance, Jet Airways has decided to sell 24 per cent stake to Etihad Airways on a preferential basis for Rs 2,058 crore. Addressing Jet Airways' shareholders at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened to seek their approval for the Etihad deal, Chairman Naresh Goyal said the strategic alliance with Etihad Airways will help Jet expand its network, reduce costs and increase profitability. Goyal said the company will announce an offer-for-sale by May 30 to meet the SEBI's minimum public shareholding norm of 25 per cent. (E)

910) Which of the following foreign banks has launched a special account for urban women called 'Eve Account' in India in May 2013?

- Citibank
- Barclays Bank
- Stanchart Bank
- Deutsche Bank
- Bank of America

Deutsche Bank India on May 20, 2013 launched a special account targeted at urban women. The product, named 'Eve Account', comes with benefits such as discounts on lockers, demat accounts and investment fees. It would also help women get preferential interest rates on home and personal loans and on international platinum and gold debit cards will be offered free to the account-holder and her minor children. Additionally, the account-holder will also be eligible for free payable at par cheque books, demand drafts and pay orders. (D)

911) Prof. Ravindra Dholakia Committee Report refers to cost-cutting in which of the following government-owned organisations?

- BSNL
- India Post
- Prasar Bharti
- Railways
- Air India

The Minister for Civil Aviation Ajit Singh on May 14, 2013 said that the Government has accepted the recommendations of Prof. Ravindra Dholakia Committee Report on Cost Cutting in Air India (AI) and sent to Air India for immediate implementation. The Committee has made total 47 recommendations. Air India expects a saving of about 500 crores in next 6 months by implementing some of the recommendations of the Committee. Air India has constituted a Committee comprising Nasir Ali, Joint Managing Director (AI); Deepak Brar, Commercial Director (AI) and S. Venkat, Director Finance (AI) to implement the recommendation of Cost Cutting Committee in a time-bound manner. (E)

912) Companies in which industry have been facing a penalty of Rs. 6300 crore imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for cartelisation?

- Steel
- Tea
- Paints
- Cement
- Aluminium

The Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT), on May 17, 2013, ordered 10 cement producers, including UltraTech, Ambuja and ACC, and Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) to deposit Rs.630 crore as it hears their appeal against a record amount of penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in 2012. The amount that COMPAT asked some of the biggest cement manufacturers and their lobby group CMA to cough up within four weeks works out to 10 per cent of the Rs.6,307 crore fine that the anti-trust body CCI had fixed for alleged price fixing. The companies include Aditya Birla Group-member UltraTech Cement, Holcim-controlled Ambuja Cements and ACC, Jaiprakash Associates, India Cements, Madras Cements, and the Indian unit of France's Lafarge SA. Cement makers can challenge the interim order of COMPAT before the Supreme Court. The three-member COMPAT bench, headed by Justice V. S. Sirpurkar, said that if the penalties were not so deposited, the appeal shall be treated as dismissed without further reference to the court. Cement makers along with the industry lobby group CMA had challenged the order of the CCI imposing Rs.6300 crore penalties for forming a cartel. (D)

913) What is the interest rate for 2012-13 for subscribers of Employees Provident Fund?

- a) 7.5%
- b) 8.0%
- c) 8.5%
- d) 9.0%
- e) 9.5%

The Finance Ministry on May 15, 2013 approved payment of 8.5% rate interest for 2012-13, up from 8.25% in the previous fiscal, benefiting over 5 crore EPFO subscribers. "Finance Ministry has notified 8.5% interest rate for 2012-13. It will be implemented with immediate effect," said EPFO's Central Provident Fund Commissioner Anil Swarup. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) apex decision making body, the Central Board of Trustee (CBT), on February 25 had decided to pay 8.5% rate of interest to subscribers for 2012-13. The decision of CBT on interest rate is required to be notified by the Finance Ministry. Only after notification, the interest is credited into the accounts of subscribers. (C)

914) What were India's gold imports in 2012 according to the World Gold Council (WGC) in May 2013?

- a) 660 tonnes
- b) 760 tonnes
- c) 860 tonnes
- d) 960 tonnes
- e) 1060 tonnes

India's gold imports are likely to exceed last year's level to around 900 tonnes in 2013 on higher demand despite government curbs on its shipments to rein in current account deficit, said World Gold Council (WGC) India Managing Director Somasundaram PR on May 13, 2013. In 2012, India, the world's largest consumer, imported 860 tonnes of the precious metal, while demand stood at 864 tonnes in the same year. (C)

915) Which of the following has launched a Product Council chaired by Ravi Gururaj of Frictionless Ventures in May 2013?

- a) Indian Banks' Association
- b) Electronic Industries Association of India
- c) Society of Industrial Automobile Manufacturers
- d) Automobile Companies Manufacturers Association
- e) National Association of Software and Services Companies

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), on May 13, 2013, announced the launch of its Product Council. The council will aim at increasing software product revenues from the current level of \$2.2 billion to \$10 billion by 2020. Earlier, in March 2013, an expert committee constituted by the industry body, and headed by Infosys founder N. R. Narayana Murthy, had identified software products, mobility and the domestic Indian market as thrust areas for the industry. Krishnakumar Natarajan, Chairman, said Nasscom's move to initiate and promote 10,000 Indian start-ups over the next 10 years was proceeding well. Ravi Gururaj, Chairman and co-founder, Frictionless Ventures, will chair the Product Council. (E)

916) 'SAFAR', an instant access to air quality and weather forecast data, launched by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune stands for:

- a) System of Air Quality Flow and Research
- b) System of Air Quality Flow and Response
- c) System of Air Quality Format and Research
- d) System of Air Quality Forecasting and Response
- e) System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research

An instant access to air quality and weather forecast data will now be available to residents of Pune under the 'SAFAR' system devised for the city by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. The SAFAR -- System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research -- has become functional with ten monitoring stations established in various parts of the city and the neighbouring industrial township of Pimpri-Chinchwad representing different environmental conditions. Mercury levels will also be monitored under SAFAR and the weather information pooled at its control room will be disseminated in a user-friendly format to the general public through e-mail alerts, SMS alerts and interactive voice response (IVR) in addition to digital display boards. The IVR will give the citizens current and 24 hour advance information on air quality and weather just by dialling a toll free number. Implementation of the SAFAR project could be undertaken by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in other metropolitan cities having air quality problems, IITM said on May 11, 2013. (E)

917) Football player David Beckham, who announced his retirement from the sport in May 2013, ended his career at which of the following teams?

- a) Arsenal
- b) Manchester United

- c) Real Madrid
- d) Los Angeles Galaxy
- e) Paris St Germain

England's best known footballer David Beckham announced his retirement on May 16, 2013. The 38-year-old former England captain, who in May 2013 helped Paris St Germain to the French league title, will hang up his boots at the end of this season. Beckham earned 115 caps for England, a record for an outfield player, and won the Champions League, six Premier League titles and two FA Cups with Manchester United. He also won league titles with Real Madrid in Spain, LA Galaxy in the United States and PSG in France. Beckham started his career at Manchester United, the club he supported as a boy, making his first team appearance at the age of 17 in 1992. His trade-mark free kicks and pin-point crosses established him as a key player, while his looks brought him endorsement contracts from world's leading brands. (E)

918) La Liga is the highest level football championship in:

- a) Brazil
- b) Germany
- c) Portugal
- d) Spain
- e) Argentina

Barcelona marked its crowning as La Liga champion with a 2-1 win at third-placed Atletico Madrid on May 12, 2013. Real Madrid's 1-1 draw with Espanyol on May 11 meant that Barcelona, who now have four titles in five years and 22 in all, were assured of finishing No. 1 in the Spanish first division. (D)

919) Which of the following won the Europa League football tournament in May 2013?

- a) Benfica
- b) Manchester United
- c) Arsenal
- d) Chelsea
- e) Liverpool

A 93rd-minute header from Branislav Ivanovic gave Chelsea a stunning 2-1 victory over Benfica in the Europa League final in Amsterdam on May 15, 2013 as the London club claimed the trophy for the first time. Fernando Torres scored the first goal for Chelsea in 60th minute. Oscar Cardozo levelled the score for Benfica at 1-1 only for Ivanovic to net a dramatic winner with a looping header in stoppage time. The result: Benfica 1 (Cardozo 68-pen) lost to Chelsea 2 (Torres 60, Ivanovic 90+2) (D)

920) International Centre for Integrated _____ Development is based in Kathmandu.

- a) Human
- b) Marine
- c) Forest
- d) Mountain
- e) Metrological

Nepal will work closely with its neighbours, India, China and Bhutan, to conserve the unique ecology of the Himalayan region, an intergovernmental body looking after conservation efforts in the region said on May 6, 2013. Cooperation across borders to manage the landscape will help preserve the Himalayan region's biological diversity and cultural heritage, while enhancing opportunities of livelihood for the local communities, said a statement from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu. ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries, which are covered by the Hindu Kush and Himalayan range. Its members are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. (D)

921) India's Salil Shetty is the head of which of the following international NGOs?

- a) Red Cross
- b) Amnesty International
- c) Medecins Sans Frontieres
- d) Reporters Without Borders
- e) Worldwide Fund for Nature

As many as 16 Indians are in Foreign Policy magazine's list of the 500 most powerful people on the planet released on May 1, 2013. They are: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress President Sonia Gandhi, Finance Minister P Chidambaram, Defence Minister A K Antony, External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Baba Ramdev, Sri Ravishankar, BJP leader Sushma Swaraj, Alok Joshi of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon, Mukesh Ambani of the Reliance Group, Lakshmi Mittal of ArcelorMittal, Delhi Chief

Minister Sheila Dikshit, Unni Karunakara – President of Medecins Sans Frontieres, Mumbai Mayor Sunil Prabhu and Salil Shetty, Secretary General of Amnesty International. (C)

- 922)** The six franchise-based city teams will feature in the first edition of the Indian Badminton League to be held from August 14-31, 2013. Which of the following pairs of cities and their franchisee teams is matched correctly?
- Hyderabad – Hyderabad Rockers
 - Delhi – Rajdhani Smashers
 - Mumbai – Mumbai Vijetas
 - Pune – Pune Warriors
 - Lucknow – Lucknow Masters

Touted as the richest prize-money badminton tournament in the world, IPL-style Indian Badminton League will be held from August 14-31 across six cities in the country, it was announced on May 8, 2013. The IBL finals will be held in Mumbai on August 31 while Hyderabad and Bangalore will get to host a semifinal tie each in the USD one million (approx Rs 5.5 crore) purse league. The six franchise-based city teams featuring in the first edition of the IBL are Hyderabad Hotshots (Hyderabad), Rajdhani Smashers (Delhi), Mumbai Masters (Mumbai), Karnataka Kings (Bangalore), Pune Vijetas (Pune) and Lucknow Warriors (Lucknow). The IBL is a joint initiative of Badminton Association of India (BAI) and Sporty Solutionz Pvt. Ltd, who are the commercial right holders of the League for multiple years. (B)

- 923)** Who among the following won the 2013 World Snooker Championship organised in UK in May 2013?
- Ali Carter
 - Pankaj Advani
 - Barry Hawkins
 - Stephen Hendry
 - Ronnie O'Sullivan

Ronnie O'Sullivan retained snooker's world championship title with an 18-12 win over Barry Hawkins at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre in UK on May 6, 2013. O'Sullivan's victory saw him become the first player to mount a successful title defence since Stephen Hendry in 1996 and gave the 37-year-old his fifth world championship in total. O'Sullivan had earlier won 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2012 titles. (E)

- 924)** Which former Indian cricketer was chosen as players' representative on the ICC Cricket Committee in Dubai on May 6, 2013?
- Javagal Srinath
 - Venkatesh Prasad
 - Maninder Singh
 - Ravi Shastri
 - Laxman Sivaramakrishnan

Former India leg-spinner L. Sivaramakrishnan replaced Tim May as a players' representative on the ICC Cricket Committee in Dubai on May 6, 2013. Sivaramakrishnan is one of the two current player representatives (replacing Tim May). The other current player representative is former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, who has been on the committee since 2007. "Sangakkara and Sivaramakrishnan were recently elected by a vote of the 10 Test captains, and will serve on the Cricket Committee for a three-year term from 2013-15," the ICC added.

The ICC Cricket Committee: Chairman: Anil Kumble. Ex-Officio: Alan Isaac (ICC President) and David Richardson (ICC Chief Executive). Past Player representatives: Mark Taylor and Andrew Strauss. Current Player representatives: Kumar Sangakkara and L. Sivaramakrishnan. Full Member team coach representative: Gary Kirsten. Women's representative: Clare Connor. Member Board representative: David White (NZC Chief Executive). Associate representative: Trent Johnston (former Ireland player). Media representative: Ravi Shastri. Umpires' representative: Steve Davis. Referees' representative: Ranjan Madugalle. MCC representative: John Stephenson (MCC's Head of Cricket). Statistician representative: David Kendix. (E)

- 925)** Floyd Mayweather is a known for achievements in which sport?
- Cycling
 - Basketball
 - Boxing
 - Athletics
 - Shooting

World Boxing Council champion Floyd Mayweather extended his perfect record to 44 victories on May 4, 2013, beating Robert Guerrero by unanimous decision in their welterweight title fight. All three judges scored the 12-round fight 117-111 in favour of Mayweather. The 36-year-old Mayweather was fighting for the first time in a year as he improved to 44-0 with 26 knockouts. Guerrero, who had his 15-fight win streak dating back to 2005 snapped, fell to 31-2-1, with 18 knockouts. (C)

- 926)** Sports coach Sir Alex Ferguson (71) announced retirement in May 2013. He was associated with which sport?
- Basketball
 - Rugby
 - Hockey
 - Football
 - Cricket

Sir Alex Ferguson (71) on May 7, 2013 announced he will step down as Manchester United manager at the end of the season after 26 years in charge. He will now become a director and ambassador for the club. His haul includes 13 English Premier League titles, two Champions League crowns, five FA Cups and four League Cups. (D)

- 927)** Which club won the I-League football tournament in May 2013?
- Dempo
 - East Bengal
 - Mohun Bagan
 - United Sikkim
 - Churchill Brothers

Churchill Brothers coached by Subhash Bhowmick managed a 1-1 draw against Mohun Bagan to emerge I-League champions for the second time at the Tilak Maidan, Vasco, on May 7, 2013. The draw took Churchill's points tally to an insurmountable 52 points with a match in hand. (E)

- 928)** 'Serie A' is the first division football tournament in:
- Italy
 - Spain
 - France
 - Portugal
 - Germany

Juventus clinched their second successive Serie A title in Italy with three games to spare by beating Palermo 1-0 on May 5, 2013. (A)

- 929)** Kamal Nath, Minister for Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs, and Melanie Schultz van Haegen, Minister for Infrastructure and Environment, _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation in the field of "Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management" on May 14, 2013
- Norway
 - Germany
 - France
 - Netherlands
 - Denmark

India and Netherlands sign MoU on Technical Cooperation in Urban Planning and Management: Kamal Nath, Minister for Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs, and Melanie Schultz van Haegen, Minister for Infrastructure and Environment, Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation in the field of "Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management" on May 14, 2013 at the Hague, Netherlands. Nath spoke about the Urbanization challenge being faced by India and the determination of the Government of India to address it in partnership with the technical and professional experts and business leaders of both countries. Nath reiterated that addressing the urbanization challenge provided a huge opportunity for cooperation including in the area of Private Public Partnership. The Memorandum of Understanding will enable greater cooperation in the areas of - Spatial planning, urban and regional planning and development and architecture; Water management in terms of Water supply and sanitation and governance structures; Transport management and transport systems and infrastructure; Energy-efficient and sustainable built forms. (D)

- 930)** India's first cashless treatment scheme for those injured in road accidents was launched on which of the following highways in July 2013? The objective is to get medical help within six to seven minutes of an accident and reach medical care in the golden hour for which 10 ambulances will be stationed at vantage points.
- Chandigarh – Ropar – Manali
 - Jalandhar – Dasuya – Pathankot
 - Ajmer – Nagaur – Bikaner
 - Delhi – Gurgaon – Jaipur
 - Lucknow – Sultanpur – Varanasi

The first project of cashless treatment for those injured in road accidents will be launched on the Delhi-Gurgaon-Jaipur national highway on July 1. The 225-km highway is one of the most accident-prone stretches in the country claiming about 250 lives annually. An initiative of the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways C.P. Joshi, the arrangement will provide a quick response to any accident. The objective is to get medical help within six to seven minutes of an accident and reach medical care in the golden hour for which 10 ambulances will be stationed at vantage points. Treatment will be provided for at least two days at the 51 notified hospitals. The government will bear the cost for a maximum of Rs. 30,000 per victim at Central Government Health Scheme rates.(D)

931) What is the Reference Rate for interest charged by banks on credit card dues?

- a) Bank rate
- b) Base Rate
- c) Repo Rate
- d) Reverse Repo Rate
- e) Cash Reserve Ratio

Credit Card Operations of Banks: Updated July 1, 2013

Basic features of credit cards

The term "credit card" usually/generally refers to a plastic card assigned to a cardholder, usually with a credit limit, that can be used to purchase goods and services on credit or obtain cash advances.

Credit cards allow cardholders to pay for purchases made over a period of time, and to carry a balance from one billing cycle to the next. Credit card purchases normally become payable after a free credit period, during which no interest or finance charge is imposed. Interest is charged on the unpaid balance after the payment is due. Cardholders may pay the entire amount due and save on the interest that would otherwise be charged. Alternatively, they have the option of paying any amount, as long as it is higher than the minimum amount due, and carrying forward the balance.

Banks' obligations

Credit card dues are in the nature of non-priority sector personal loans and as such, upto June 30, 2010, banks were free to determine the rate of interest on credit card dues without reference to their BPLR and regardless of the size in terms of the Directives on Interest rates on advances. However, with the introduction of Base Rate system with effect from July 1, 2010, all categories of loans, except certain specified exemptions, should be priced only with reference to the Base Rate.

Card issuers should ensure that there is no delay in dispatching bills and the customer has sufficient number of days (at least one fortnight) for making payment before the interest starts getting charged.

Changes in charges (other than interest) may be made only with prospective effect giving notice of at least one month.

If a credit card holder desires to surrender his credit card on account of any change in credit card charges to his disadvantage, he may be permitted to do so without the bank levying any extra charge for such closure. Any request for closure of a credit card has to be honoured immediately by the credit card issuer, subject to full settlement of dues by the cardholder.

Unsolicited cards should not be issued. There have been instances where unsolicited cards issued have been misused before reaching the person in whose name these have been issued. It is clarified that any loss arising out of misuse of such unsolicited cards will be the responsibility of the card issuing bank/NBFC only and the person in whose name the card has been issued cannot be held responsible for the same.

The card issuing bank/NBFC should not unilaterally upgrade credit cards and enhance credit limits. Prior consent of the borrower should invariably be taken whenever there are any change/s in terms and conditions.

Redressal of Grievances: If a complainant does not get satisfactory response from the bank/NBFC which is a subsidiary of a bank within a maximum period of thirty (30) days from the date of his lodging the complaint, he will have the option to approach the Office of the concerned Banking Ombudsman for redressal of his grievance/s.

Right to impose penalty: Reserve Bank of India reserves the right to impose any penalty on a bank/NBFC under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949/the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, respectively for violation of any of these guidelines.

A credit card scheme typically involves the following parties:

Cardholders - persons who are authorized to use credit cards for the payment of goods and services;

Card issuers - institutions which issue credit cards;

Merchants - entities which agree to accept credit cards for payment of goods and services;

Merchant acquirers – Banks/NBFCs which enter into agreements with merchants to process their credit card transactions; and

Credit card associations - organisations that license card issuers to issue credit cards under their trademark, e.g. Visa and MasterCard, and provide settlement services for their members (i.e. card issuers and merchant acquirers)

Credit card schemes normally operate at an international level too, meaning that cardholders belonging to card issuers in one country can make purchases at the place of business of merchants in another country.

Types of credit cards

Credit cards can be broadly categorised into two types: **General purpose cards and private label cards:** The former are issued under the trademark of credit card associations (VISA and MasterCard) and accepted by many merchants while the latter are only accepted by specific retailers (e.g. a departmental store).

Banks in India can undertake credit card business either departmentally or through a subsidiary company set up for the purpose. They can also undertake domestic credit card business by entering into tie-up arrangement with one of the banks already having arrangements for issue of credit cards.

RBI rules

Prior approval of the Reserve Bank is not necessary for banks desirous of undertaking credit card business either independently or in tie-up arrangement with other card issuing banks. Banks can do so with the approval of their Boards. However, only banks with networth of Rs. 100 crore and above should undertake credit card business.

Banks desirous of setting up separate subsidiaries for undertaking credit card business would, however, require prior approval of the Reserve Bank.

Most of the card-issuing banks in India offer general- purpose credit cards. These cards are normally categorised by banks as platinum, gold or classic to differentiate the services offered on each card and the income eligibility criteria. Banks may, at the request of a cardholder, issue a supplementary card (also referred to as 'add-on cards') to another individual who is usually an immediate family member of the cardholder.

It is quite common for banks to partner with business corporations or non-profit making organisations (e.g. charitable or professional bodies) to issue co-branded cards. However they need to undertake due diligence on the non-bank entity to protect themselves against the reputation risk to which they are exposed to in such an arrangement.

Banks may also issue corporate credit cards to the employees of their corporate customers.

The types of credit cards mentioned above are illustrative and not exhaustive. Banks may, from time to time, introduce new credit card products to satisfy customer needs and cater to the changes in market conditions.

The card issuing banks/NBFCs would be solely responsible for fulfillment of all KYC requirements, even where Direct Sales Agent (DSAs) / Direct Marketing Agents (DMAs) or other agents solicit business on their behalf.

Interest rates and other charges

Credit card dues are in the nature of non-priority sector personal loans and as such, upto June 30, 2010, banks were free to determine the rate of interest on credit card dues without reference to their BPLR and regardless of the size in terms of the Directives on Interest rates on advances. However, with the introduction of Base Rate system with effect from July 1, 2010, all categories of loans, except certain specified exemptions, should be priced only with reference to the Base Rate.

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- 932)** Bijai Narain Mani, Gurjeet Singh and Justice Usha Mehra were in news in May 2013 for their appointment as members of which of the following?
- National Human Rights Commission
 - National Minorities Commission
 - Finance Commission
 - Planning Commission
 - Law Commission

The Central Government has appointed (i) Dr. Bijai Narain Mani, eminent law author, and (ii) Dr. Gurjeet Singh, Director General of the National Law School & Judicial Academy, Assam, as part-time Members of the 20th Law Commission of India with effect from May 24 and the May 31, respectively, and up to 31st August 2015 i.e. till the end of the term of the 20th Law Commission of India. The Central Government has also appointed Justice Usha Mehra, retired Judge of the High Court of Delhi, as full-time Member of the 20th Law Commission of India with effect from April 3, 2013 and up to 31st August 2015. **(E)**

- 933)** The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Government of India, on June 13, 2013 extended the Special Package for Industrial Development of _____ for a further period of 5 years, upto 14th June, 2017.
- Bihar
 - Jammu & Kashmir
 - Rajasthan
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Himachal Pradesh

The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Government of India, on June 13, 2013 extended the Special Package for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) for a further period of 5 years, upto 14th June, 2017. In order to provide continuity and to maintain the enabling environment for ongoing industrial development of the state of J&K, it has been decided to extend the incentives under the special package for a further period of five years from 15.06.2012 to 14.06.2017. The package includes: (i) Capital Investment Subsidy @ 15% of investment in plant and machinery subject to ceiling of Rs.30 lakh. However, MSMEs would be eligible for Capital Investment Subsidy @ 30% of the investment of plant and machinery subject to ceiling of Rs.3.00 crore and Rs.1.50 crore for manufacturing and service sector respectively to all new industrial units and existing industrial units on their substantial expansion. (ii) 3% Interest subsidy on the average of daily working capital loan to all new units for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production. (iii) Central Comprehensive Insurance Subsidy Scheme with 100% reimbursement of premium to all new and existing units on their substantial expansion for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production. **(B)**

- 934)** The "Biennial Session of National Union of _____" was organised at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh on June 15, 2013.
- Nurses
 - Teachers
 - Journalists
 - Transport Operators
 - Street Vendors

Vice President M. Hamid Ansari has said that we have every reason to be proud of the strength and diversity of Indian media. However, and from time to time, there have been media-related developments that are disconcerting. They raise questions about the media's objectivity and credibility. Delivering inaugural address at the "Biennial Session of National Union of Journalists (NUJJ)" at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh on June 15, 2013, he said that these relate to: (i) cross-media ownership; (ii) the phenomenon of 'paid news'; (iii) media ethics and the need for effective and viable

self-regulatory mechanisms; (iv) the declining role of editors and their editorial freedom; (v) the need to improve working conditions of media personnel, their safety and security. **(C)**

- 935)** President Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone of 'Nirbhaya Bhawan,' the headquarters of the _____ in New Delhi, on June 11, 2013.
- National Commission for Women
 - National Commission for Minorities
 - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 - National Commission for Scheduled Castes
 - National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

President Pranab Mukherjee on June 11, 2013 laid the foundation stone of 'Nirbhaya Bhawan,' the headquarters of the National Commission for Women, at a function organised at Vigyan Bhawan. "It was "only appropriate that the Commission, after 20 years of service dedicated to the cause of Indian women, should finally have its own permanent headquarters," the President said, "The Commission has distinguished itself through its sincere initiatives for the rights, dignity and development of women in our country." Once installed on its own premises at Jasola, the Commission would be able to create a better infrastructure for its work, augment its capacity for outreach and also significantly enhance its functional efficiencies. The President also noted that the government was committed to equality and justice for all citizens — especially the marginalised — as envisaged in the Constitution. **(A)**

- 936)** The Union Home Ministry honours a number of police and central paramilitary personnel from across the country every year for their demonstration of exemplary courage and bravery while rendering internal security duties or combating insurgents and Naxalites. The government increased the monetary allowances attached with the Police Medal for Gallantry to _____ from June 11, 2013.
- Rs 2,000 per month
 - Rs 3,000 per month
 - Rs 4,000 per month
 - Rs 4,000 per month
 - Rs 5,000 per month

The government has doubled the special monetary allowance given to gallantry award recipients of police and paramilitary forces. "Monetary allowances attached with the President's Police Medal for gallantry and the Police Medal for gallantry has been enhanced from Rs 1,500 to Rs 3,000 and from Rs 900 to Rs 2,000 per month respectively, which is effective from May 10, 2013," Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde said on June 11, 2013. The ministry, ever year, chooses a number of police and central paramilitary personnel from across the country who had showed exemplary courage and bravery while rendering internal security duties or combating insurgents and Naxalites. A number of other service benefits and awards like out-of-turn promotion and praiseworthy citations are awarded to these personnel depending on the amount of risk undertaken by each official. **(A)**

- 937)** '100 Tributes', compiled by Ramesh Thakkar and launched by Navajivan Trust on June 15, 2013, is the first coffee table book on who among the following?
- Mahatma Gandhi
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Swami Vivekananda
 - Rabindranath Tagore
 - Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

'100 Tributes', the first coffee table book on the 'Mahatma' by Navajivan Trust, aiming to revive Gandhian values amongst youngsters, was launched on June 15, 2013. The book, an unique collection of pencil portraits of Mahatma Gandhi rendered by Ramesh Thakkar, contains 100 tributes to Gandhiji on his portraits by his 100 contemporaries and associates in their handwritings. The book was formally released on June 15, a date on which the United Nations General Assembly announced that it has adopted a resolution to declare October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence. It was on June 15, 2007 when the UN General Assembly had announced its decision. "This book contains 100 portraits of Mahatma Gandhi by noted Gandhian Ramesh Thakkar alongwith handwritten tribute by Gandhiji's associate/contemporary on it," Navajivan Trust Managing Trustee Vivek Desai said. **(A)**

- 938)** The telegram service was discontinued in India from July 15, 2013. Where was world's first telegram message sent in 1844?
- USA
 - England
 - France
 - Germany
 - Japan

Come July 15, 2013, one of India's oldest communication services — the telegram — will become history. Financial constraints have forced the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd to wind up the telegraphic service, which would be remembered mainly as a historically inexpensive but relatively quick method of sending alerts related to births, deaths and emergency situations. The growing use of mobile phones and Internet has led to steep decline in the usage of the telegraphic service which had become financially unviable. After stopping telegram service for overseas communication earlier this year, BSNL has now decided to discontinue it for the domestic market from July 15. In India, the first telegraph message was transmitted live through electrical signals between Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Diamond Harbour, a distance of about 50 km, on November 5, 1850; and the service was opened for the general public in February 1855.

In 1832 Samuel F.B. Morse, a professor of painting and sculpture at the University of the City of New York (later New York University), became interested in the possibility of electric telegraphy and made sketches of ideas for such a system. In 1835 he devised a system of dots and dashes to represent letters and numbers. In 1837 he was granted a patent on an electromagnetic telegraph.

In 1843 Morse obtained financial support from the U.S. government to build a demonstration telegraph system 60 km (35 miles) long between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md. Wires were attached by glass insulators to poles alongside a railroad. The system was completed and public use initiated on May 24, 1844, with transmission of the message, "What hath God wrought!" This inaugurated the telegraph era in the United States, which was to last more than 100 years.

In recent times, growing Internet penetration and cheaper mobile phones in the last decade have kept people away from the 182 telegraph offices across the country. It is estimated that the BSNL is suffering an annual loss of Rs. 300-400 crore from its telegraph service alone. (A)

939) A retired IAS Officer was appointed as the new head of the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) in June 2013. Which of the following statements regarding NTRO is/are correct?

- I. It was set up in 2008
- II. It functions under the aegis of Prime Minister's Office
- III. It has been entrusted with the task of missile monitoring, satellite and airborne imagery, cyber patrolling and security, cyber-offensive operations and communication support systems, including cryptology

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

Retired IAS officer Rentala Chandrasekhar was on June 10, 2013 appointed head of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), which is part of the intelligence apparatus. NTRO, which was set up in 2004 and functions under the Prime Minister's Office, has been entrusted with the task of missile monitoring, satellite and airborne imagery, cyber patrolling and security, cyber offensive operations and communication support systems, including cryptology. (C)

940) Who among the following India-born IT personalities based in the US received the European Inventor Award 2013 in May 2013 for developing the Universal Serial Bus (USB) technology?

- a) Vinod Dham
- b) Vinod Khosla
- c) Kanwal Rekhi
- d) Ajay Bhatt
- e) Gururaj Deshpande

The European Union on May 29, 2013 honoured India-born inventor Ajay Bhatt-led team at the US tech-giant Intel that developed the Universal Serial Bus (USB) technology, one of the most important advances in computing since the silicon chip.

The European Patent Office announced the winners of the European Inventor Award 2013, which honours outstanding inventors for their contribution to social, economic and technological progress. Some 500 guests attended the award ceremony in Amsterdam.

Ajay V Bhatt-led team won the award for inventors from Non-European Countries, for creating and developing USB technology, one of the most important advances in computing since the silicon chip.

An industry standard today, USB not only allows users to more easily connect devices to a computer, it also streamlines work for hardware and software developers. It is found in billions of electronic devices all over the world, from webcams to cell phones and memory sticks.

56-year-old Bhatt is an Indian-American computer architect who helped define and develop several widely used technologies, including USB, Accelerated Graphics Port, PCI Express, Platform Power management architecture and various chipset improvements.

After completing his graduation in Vadodara, India, Bhatt completed his master's degree in New York. Bhatt joined Intel in 1990. He currently holds 31 US patents.

The European Inventor Award is presented annually by the European Patent Office, supported by European Union to inventors who have made a significant contribution to innovation, economy and society in Europe. Inventions from all technological fields are considered for this award. There is no cash prize associated with the award. (D)

941) Who among the following was appointed as the Mission Director of Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme in June 2013?

- a) S. Sundareshan
- b) Dinkar Awasthi
- c) Satish Vidyarthi
- d) K. V. Ramakrishnan
- e) Rentala Chandrasekhar

S. Sundareshan was on June 10, 2013 n Director, Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme, Planning Commission, in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India, for a period of two years with effect from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier. (A)

942) Veteran Congress leader Vidya Charan Shukla (1929-2013) passed away on June 11, 2013. He served as Minister at the Centre for the first time during the tenure of which Prime Minister?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- c) Morarji Desai
- d) Indira Gandhi
- e) Rajiv Gandhi

President Pranab Mukherjee on June 11, 2013 condoled the passing away of veteran Congress leader Vidya Charan Shukla. "Shri Shukla was son of illustrious freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla. He entered into Parliament at a very early age and represented undivided Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha for a long period of time," said President Mukherjee in a condolence message to the former Union Minister's wife Sarla Shukla. "He served as Minister of State under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1967 to 1977 including as Minister of State with Independent Charge of Information and Broadcasting. He also served as Cabinet Minister under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao during 1991-96 in charge of Parliamentary Affairs and Irrigation," Mukherjee added.

For the general elections in 1957, the Congress Party chose Shukla as their Lok Sabha candidate from Mahasamund constituency. He won with a thumping majority and entered the Parliament of India as one of the youngest Parliamentarians. He returned elected to Lok Sabha nine times in subsequent elections. When Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1966, she chose him as a Minister in her Cabinet. In a long span of political career, he has held many portfolios including Communications, Home, Defence, Finance, Planning, Information and Broadcasting, Civil Supplies, External Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources.

Vidya Charan Shukla, 84, breathed his last at the Medanta Medicity Hospital in Gurgaon on June 11 after battling the bullet injuries that he sustained in the Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh in May 2013. Heavily-armed Maoists had on May 25 ambushed a convoy of Congress leaders in the state's Bastar district, killing 28 people including PCC chief Nand Kumar Patel, his son Dinesh, Congress leader Mahendra Karma and injuring 37 others. (D)

943) Which industrialist and Rajya Sabha member was chargesheeted by the CBI on June 2013 for his alleged involvement in coal scam case?

- a) Dinesh Trivedi
- b) Naveen Jindal
- c) Vijay Mallya
- d) Praful Patel
- e) Rajkumar Nandlal Dhoot

The CBI on June 11, 2013 booked industrialist-turned-Congress MP Naveen Jindal and former central minister Dasari Narayan Rao in the coal allocation case, accusing them of a host of charges, including a quid-pro-quo deal "camouflaged" as an investment. The agency, which started investigations in June 2013 following allegations of irregularities in allocation of coal blocks to private companies between 2006 and 2009, also named "unknown" officials of the government's screening committee in the FIR, its 12th in the case. In the FIR, the agency accused three companies owned by Jindal — Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Gagan Sponge Iron Limited and Jindal Realty and ND Exim — and Rao's Sowbhagya Media of cheating and misrepresentation of facts in bagging the Amarkonda Murgadanga coal block in Jharkhand in 2008. The agency said Rao, who was minister of state for coal then, received more than Rs 2 crore camouflaged as investment in his Sowbhagya Media from one of Jindal's firms within a year of allocating the coal block. (B)

944) What is India's rank in the Global Peace Index of 162 countries unveiled produced by the Australia and US-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in June 2013?

- a) 111th
- b) 121st
- c) 131st
- d) 141st
- e) 151st

The world has become a less peaceful place according to Australia-USA-based Institute for Economics and Peace on June 11 which released its annual Global Peace Index (GPI), ranking of 162 countries. It is based on parameters such as security in society, the extent of conflict and the degree of militarisation. India is 141st in the list topped by Iceland which is blessed with political stability, low homicide rate and small prison population. The top-10 of the list includes Western European nations that have long been peaceful; Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and Belgium. Japan is at 6th place. At the other extreme, Afghanistan continues to languish in 162nd position despite the drop in the number of people killed as a result of internal conflict, refugees and displaced people.

About IEP: The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research organization dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress. IEP achieves its goals by developing new conceptual frameworks to define peacefulness; providing metrics for measurement; uncovering the relationship between peace, business and prosperity, and by promoting a better understanding of the cultural, economic and political factors that drive peacefulness. IEP has offices in Sydney, New York, and Washington, D.C. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organizations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace. (D)

945) India is expected to become the world's most populous country, surpassing China around _____, according to the 'World Population Prospects' report of the United Nations, released in June 2015.

- a) 2018
- b) 2028
- c) 2038
- d) 2048
- e) 2058

India will surpass China to become the world's most populous nation around 2028, with its population crossing the 1.45 billion mark, according to the latest report by the United Nations released on June 15, 2013. The report - World Population Prospects - says India is expected to become the world's most populous country, surpassing China around 2028, when both countries will have populations of 1.45 billion. After that, India's population will continue to grow, while that of China is expected to start decreasing. The report says the world's population will hit 7.2 billion in July 2013 and is projected to reach 10.9 billion by 2100, with the growth mainly occurring in developing countries, more than half of them in Africa. The report's figures are based on a comprehensive review of available demographic data from 233 countries and areas around the world, including the 2010 round of population censuses (B)

946) Which neighbouring country allowed India-based Airlines to start direct flights to its cities for the first time in June 2013?

- a) Bhutan
- b) China
- c) Pakistan
- d) Bangladesh
- e) Myanmar

Indian airlines can now operate flights to Myanmar as the country has granted traffic rights to India-based carriers paving the way for air connectivity between the nations. "Yes, we (Indian airlines) got the fifth freedom rights which is a major concession," Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said in Yangon on June 10, 2013. The fifth freedom rights allow an airline carry revenue traffic between countries as a part of services connecting the airline's

own country. At present, there is no direct air connectivity between India and Myanmar. Meanwhile India has offered \$150 million of credit for project exports to set up a Special Economic Zone in Myanmar. The issues came up for discussion during the three-day visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma to Naypyitaw and Yangon. (E)

947) Where was the tenth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' meeting organised in June 2013?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Islamabad
- c) Dhaka
- d) Colombo
- e) Kathmandu

Krishna Tirath, Minister for Women and Child Development participated in the tenth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' meeting at Dhaka on 17-19 June, 2013. The theme of the meeting was "Women's Leadership for Enterprise". Deliberations on the theme will enable to elaborate on ways to achieve gender equality and women empowerment across the Commonwealth countries. This meeting will facilitate exchange of views on key issues of practical policy concern. (C)

948) Which country's National Institute for Health and Care excellence signed a MoU with India's Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for strategic and technical cooperation in health services between the two countries in June 2013?

- a) USA
- b) UK
- c) Australia
- d) Canada
- e) Singapore

Dr V M Katoch, Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, signed a MoU with Sir Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health and Care excellence, UK (NICE) in London on June 14, 2013 to provide the framework for strategic and technical cooperation between the two countries, on evidence informed healthcare policy and practice. The MoU followed the signature of an overarching health MoU between UK and India at the World Health Assembly, Geneva in May 2013, by Health Ministers of India and UK. The agreement between DHR and NICE aims to (1) bring modern health technology to people by encouraging innovations related to diagnostics, treatment methods and prevention, (2) translate the innovations into products/ processes by facilitating evaluation in synergy with other departments of MoHFW as well as other science departments and, (3) introduce these innovations into public health services through health systems research. (B)

949) A British court in London restored the ownership of which of the following gallantry medals, awarded posthumously to Naik Kirpa Ram, a soldier in the British army during World War II, to his widow in June 2013?

- a) Albert Cross
- b) Victoria Cross
- c) George Cross
- d) Elizabeth Cross
- e) Henry Cross

A British court has clinched a settlement for an 81-year-old Indian widow in a long-running dispute over the ownership of a precious gallantry medal awarded to her late husband, a World War II soldier in the British Indian Army. The high court of London, in an order on June 5, approved a pre-trial settlement that the George Cross posthumously awarded to Naik Kirpa Ram is the property of his wife Brahmi Devi. The medal, one of the few Indian George Crosses, was awarded to Naik Kirpa Ram of the 8th Battalion, 13th Frontier Force Rifles, British Indian Army, on September 12, 1945, for his act of gallantry in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers at the cost of his own. The gallantry medal was reported stolen from a trunk in her home in 2007. (C)

950) James Clapper launched an aggressive defence of the US Government's data collection programme code-named PRISM that was exposed by whistleblower Edward Snowden in June 2013. He is the Director of:

- a) Bureau of Intelligence and Research
- b) Federal Bureau of Investigation
- c) Central Intelligence Agency
- d) Director of National Intelligence
- e) Department of Homeland Security

Both international governments and the world's biggest tech companies are in crisis following the leaking of documents that suggest the US government was able to access detailed records of individual smartphone and internet activity, via a scheme called Prism. A 29-year-old contractor at the US National Security Agency (NSA) revealed top secret surveillance programmes to alert the public to what is being done in their name, The Guardian newspaper

reported in London on June 9, 2013. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper launched an aggressive defence of the data collection programme code-named PRISM. Clapper acknowledged PRISM's existence by name for the first time and said it had been mischaracterised by the media. The project was legal, not aimed at US citizens and had thwarted threats against the country, he said. (D)

- 951)** US President Barack Obama hosted his first summit with China's new President Xi Jinping in June 2013. The US has expressed its concerns to China on which of the following issues?
- China's naval presence in South China Sea
 - China's sale of nuclear technology to Pakistan
 - China's support to the anti-US North Korean regime
 - China's cyber espionage directed at US companies
 - China's restrictions on market access to US agriculture exports

US President Barack Obama held his first summit with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on June 7-8, 2013. Meeting at a picturesque desert resort in Southern California, Obama, 51, and Xi, 59, had several rounds of meetings spread over nearly eight hours on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues. Cyber security and cyber issues, a "center of the relationship" between the world's largest economies, were one of the important topics when the two leaders had discussions on economic issues. According to the White House, the specific issue that Obama talked to Xi is the issue of cyber-enabled economic theft of intellectual property and other kinds of property in the public and private realm in the United States by entities based in China. The "unprecedented" theft of American intellectual property is costing the nation a whopping USD 300 billion annually and the main culprit is China, according to a study. (D)

- 952)** Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Nepal's Neel Kantha Upreti (June 2013)?
- Bikram Singh
 - Altamas Kabir
 - S. Sampath
 - Shashi Kant Sharma
 - Satyand Mishra

Nepal's Constituent Assembly polls on November 19: The interim government of Nepal, formed in March under the sitting Chief Justice to hold elections by mid-June, has announced November 19 as the date for next Constituent Assembly. A Cabinet meeting on June 13, 2013 also forwarded an ordinance related to the election to the President for approval and formed a five-member commission to delineate the constituencies based on the latest census. The election ordinance does not include a "threshold" level, which would have disqualified any party getting less than one per cent of the vote from being eligible to win a seat. The announcement was made on a day Nepal's Chief Election Commissioner Neel Kantha Upreti was on a visit to Delhi to discuss 'technical co-operation' with Election Commission of India. (C)

- 953)** The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has marked 2013 as the year to combat child _____ labour, a growing menace in India
- Migrant
 - Domestic
 - Agriculture
 - Building construction
 - Hazardous Industries

The International Day Against Child Labour was observed on June 12, 2013. Leading child rights organisations, including Child Rights and You (CRY) and Save the Children, reiterated that the persistence of child labour in India was primarily due to lack of political will. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has marked 2013 as the year to combat child domestic labour, a growing menace in India. Child labour in India is governed by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which is considered primarily a work-centric legislation rather than a child-centric one. The legislation addresses children engaged in hazardous occupations and processes. The purview of the Act covers 18 occupations and 65 processes. It still allows children to work in home-based work. This allows uncontrolled employment of children in bidi-rolling, embroidery work and making fire crackers as these are sub-contracted jobs that children do at home. (B)

- 954)** The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is the U.N. force monitoring a ceasefire between Syria and Israel. Which of the following is on the border between Israel and Syria?
- Maghreb
 - Andalusia
 - Golan Heights
 - Sinai Peninsula
 - Gaza Strip

Austrian troops in the U.N. monitoring force on the Golan Heights began withdrawing on June 12, 2013, days after Vienna decided to quit the mission over security concerns linked to Syria's civil war. A group of about 70 soldiers entered the Israeli side of the strategic plateau through the Quneitra crossing, the only direct passage between Israel and Syria. Austria, which has been a cornerstone of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the U.N. force monitoring a ceasefire between Syria and Israel since 1974, announced on June 6 it would withdraw its peacekeepers because of deteriorating security. When completed, the Austrian pullout will leave the force with just 534 troops: 341 from the Philippines and 193 from India. A year ago UNDOF had more than 1,100 troops. But Japan and Croatia have pulled out their men in recent months as battles between Syrian troops and the rebels spilled into the ceasefire zone. Moscow has offered to send Russian troops to bolster the depleted UNDOF. But under the terms of the 1974 agreement which established the peacekeeping force, no troops from the permanent five members of the U.N. Security Council can participate. (C)

- 955)** South Korea and North Korea in June 2013 agreed to start talks at _____ the border village where armistice was signed to mark the end of hostilities in the Korean War (1950-53).
- Yiwu
 - Kaesong
 - Chagang
 - Kangwon
 - Panmunjom

North and South Korea opened their first official talks in two years on June 9, 2013 at a border village "without argument", the South said, building on an easing in tensions from nearly daily threats two months ago of impending nuclear war. The meeting in Panmunjom, where the armistice was signed in the 1950-53 Korean War, was taking place hours after US President Barack Obama and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed at a summit that the North had to abandon its nuclear programme. (E)

- 956)** Which country's government-run TV Channel ERT was closed down in June 2013 as part of austerity measures committed to the European Union?
- Cyprus
 - Spain
 - Greece
 - Portugal
 - Ireland

Greece faced a new political crisis on June 12, 2013 as the government was hit with a storm of public protest and a looming general strike over its shock decision to shut down state broadcaster ERT. The broadcaster's television and radio stations were abruptly pulled off air and its nearly 2,700 staff suspended as part of the conservative-led coalition government's deeply unpopular austerity drive. The administration quickly presented legislation creating a new broadcaster called New Hellenic Radio, Internet and Television (NERIT) to replace the 60-year-old ERT. Greece is caught in a six-year recession which austerity critics say has been exacerbated by successive pay and pension cuts imposed at the behest of its EU-IMF creditors (C)

- 957)** The world famous 'Metropolitan Museum of Art' is in:
- London
 - Paris
 - Berlin
 - Moscow
 - New York

Two 10th century statues that Cambodia says were looted from a jungle temple several decades ago are set to arrive home on Tuesday from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, in what the kingdom described as a "historic" moment. The Met announced in May that the Khmer sculptures, known as the "Kneeling Attendants", would be sent back after 20 years on display in its Asian Wing. A religious ceremony was held at the airport in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh on June 11, 2013 to welcome them home. The two statues were stolen from the Koh Ker temple site, located 80 kilometres (50 miles) northeast of Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat complex, in the early 1970s, he added. The sculptures will be put on display at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh during the 37th meeting of UNESCO's world heritage committee which started on June 16. (E)

- 958)** Which Central American country has decided to start a project to link Pacific Ocean to Atlantic Ocean by a canal as a rival to the Panama Canal? The project was awarded to a Chinese company in June 2013.
- Honduras
 - Nicaragua
 - Costa Rica

d) Guatemala

The Nicaraguan Congress on June 13, 2013 approved a proposal to have a canal built linking the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. A Hong Kong-based company has been granted a 50-year concession to build the waterway, which will rival the Panama Canal. The \$40bn plan has been criticised by environmentalists, who say cargo ships will create a permanent risk to Lake Nicaragua. But President Daniel Ortega says the project will bring prosperity. Nicaraguan leaders have for long been planning to build a canal linking its Caribbean coast to the Pacific. Several initiatives failed and the project suffered what seemed to be a final blow when the United States decided to build a canal in Panama, which opened in 1914. The project was approved in Congress by 61 to 28 votes. A Chinese company - the Hong Kong Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Co - was chosen to carry out the project. The Nicaraguan government will get a minority share of the profits generated by the canal. (B)

959) _____, a Japanese man recognised as the world's oldest living person, and the oldest man recorded in history, died aged 116 on June 12, 2013.

- a) Hiroshi Nakaso
- b) Masaaki Shirakawa
- c) Koto Okubo
- d) Jiroemon Kimura
- e) Yasushi Nakayama

Jiroemon Kimura, a Japanese man recognised as the world's oldest living person, and the oldest man recorded in history, died aged 116 on June 12, 2013. In December, Guinness World Records recorded Kimura as the oldest man ever verified to have lived. Japanese woman Misao Okawa from Osaka, who is 115 years old, will most probably inherit the title of world's oldest living person, reports say. She is already considered the world's oldest living woman. **WORLD'S OLDEST PEOPLE:** Oldest woman recorded in history: Jeanne Calment, France, died 4 August 1997 aged 122; Oldest man recorded in history: Jiroemon Kimura, Japan, died 12 June 2013 aged 116; Oldest living man: James McCoubrey, USA, 111; Oldest living woman: Misao Okawa, Japan, 115. (D)

960) Scotland's Iain Banks, who passed away at the age of 59 in June 2013, was a well-known:

- a) Photographer
- b) Journalist
- c) Novelist
- d) Composer
- e) Sculptor

Scottish writer Iain Banks passed away at the age of 59 on June 10, 2013. His soon-to-be released novel, "The Quarry," would be his last. Banks published his first novel, the dark and funny "The Wasp Factory" in 1984. His first science fiction book, "Consider Phlebas," was published three years later. His books were both critical and popular successes. "The Crow Road" — which opens with the memorable line "It was the day my grandmother exploded" — was adapted for television in 1996. In 2008, he was named one of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945 in a list compiled by The Times of London. (C)

961) Who among the following was the losing finalist in French Open Men's Singles in June 2013?

- a) Andy Murray
- b) Roger Federer
- c) Tomas Berdych
- d) Novak Djokovic
- e) David Ferrer

Rafael Nadal defied David Ferrer to become the first man to capture the same Grand Slam title eight times with victory in the French Open final on June 9. Nadal claimed his 12th Grand Slam title with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win over his Spanish compatriot, who was playing in his first Grand Slam final at the age of 31. It also gave Nadal his 59th win out of 60 matches played in Paris. The Spaniard has won Wimbledon twice and Australian and US Open one time each. (E)

962) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the French Open in June 2013?

- a) Victoria Azarenka
- b) Serena Williams
- c) Caroline Wozniacki
- d) Venus Williams
- e) Maria Sharapova

Serena Williams won her second French Open Women's Singles title on June 8, 11 years after her first triumph, defeating title-holder Maria Sharapova 6-4, 6-4 in a brief, but high-quality final. It was the 31-year-old American's 16th

Grand Slam Singles title win. Serena has also won Australian Open and Wimbledon 5 times each and US Open four times. (B)

963) Who among the following won the Men's Doubles title at the French Open in June 2013?

- a) Max Mirnyi and Daniel Nestor
- b) Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan
- c) Michael Llodra and Nicolas Mahut
- d) Robin Haase and Igor Sijsling
- e) Leander Paes and Radek Stepanek

American twins Bob and Mike Bryan won their 14th Grand Slam doubles title by defeating Michael Llodra and Nicolas Mahut of France 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(4) in the French Open Men's Doubles final on June 8. The Bryans won their only other French Open in 2003. They lost in the final in 2005, 2006 and 2012. (B)

964) India-born Anish Kapoor, who was conferred knighthood by the British Queen in June 2013, is an acclaimed:

- a) Photographer
- b) Journalist
- c) Novelist
- d) Composer
- e) Sculptor

Anish Kapoor, who is Britain's most successful sculptor, has been given a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, it was announced on June 15, 2013. Kapoor, 59, who was born in Bombay but has lived in London since the early 1970s, is the co-designer with Sri Lankan Cecil Balmond of the Arcelor-Mittal Orbit — the 115-metre-high steel tower in the Olympic Park, Stratford. His notable public sculptures include Cloud Gate, Millennium Park, Chicago, Sky Mirror exhibited at the Rockefeller Centre, New York, in 2006 and Kensington Gardens in 2010, Temenos, at Middlehaven, Middlesbrough, Leviathan at the Grand Palais in 2011 and ArcelorMittal Orbit commissioned as a permanent artwork for the Olympic Park and completed in 2012. (E)

965) The eight core industries showed a growth of 2.3% in May 2013, said the official date released on July 1, 2013. Which of the following is not among the eight core industries?

- a) Coal
- b) Natural gas
- c) Railways
- d) Petroleum refinery products
- e) Electricity

The eight core industries having a combined weight of 37.90% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown a growth of 2.3% in May 2013, official date released on July 1, 2013 showed. Growth was 2.4% in April 2013 and 7.2 % in May 2012. The eight core industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, steel, cement and electricity. They have a combined weightage of 37.90 per cent in the index of industrial production (IIP). The decline in the growth rate in May 2013 was mainly on account of negative growth witnessed in the production of Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas and Fertilizers. Positive growth was seen in Petroleum refinery, Steel, Cement & Electricity generation. (C)

966) Solvency Ratio is a term used in which of the following financial services?

- a) Commodity Exchanges
- b) Stock Exchanges
- c) Banking
- d) Insurance
- e) Mutual Funds

The solvency ratio of an insurance company is the size of its capital relative to all risks it has taken. The solvency ratio is most often defined as: net assets/net premium written. The solvency ratio is a measure of the risk an insurer faces of claims that it cannot absorb. The amount of premium written is a better measure than the total amount insured because the level of premiums is linked to the likelihood of claims. Different countries use different methodologies to calculate the solvency ratio, and have different requirements. For example, in India insurers are required to maintain a minimum ratio of 1.5. (D)

967) Who among the following is not among the four Deputy Governors at the RBI currently?

- a) K.C. Chakrabarty
- b) D.K. Mohanty
- c) Anand Sinha
- d) H.R. Khan
- e) Urjit R Patel

K.C. Chakrabarty, Anand Sinha, H.R. Khan and Urjit R Patel are the four Deputy Governors at RBI as on July 1, 2013. (B)

968) Which of the following sectors has a regulatory authority at the national level?

- I. Airports
 - II. Real Estate
 - III. Biotechnology
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The government is yet to establish a **Biotechnology Regulatory Authority**. Anti-genetically modified activists, including Gene Campaign's Dr Suman Sahai, on July 8, 2013 spoke about the 'flawed' Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2013. According to Sahai, a Padma Shri recipient, the bill proposed by the UPA government at the Centre was structurally flawed. The bill also proposes the creation of too many authorities without prescribing or defining their powers and responsibilities.

The Union Cabinet on June 4, 2013 cleared the **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill**, which is expected to protect buyers from erring developers and usher in an era of transparency through a regulatory process, once passed by Parliament.

The **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)** was established in May 2009. **(A)**

969) Which of the following sectors has a regulatory authority at the national level?

- I. Coal
 - II. Warehousing
 - III. Pension
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** was set up in October 2010 to regulate the development of warehouses in the country and to prevent post-harvest distress sale by farmers.

Coal Regulatory Authority is yet to be established. The government on June 27, 2013 approved setting up of Coal Regulatory Authority which will be empowered to specify methodology for determining coal prices. The draft Bill empowers the proposed regulator to specify the principles and methodology for determination of price of raw coal and washed coal and any other by-product generated during washing. The regulator will also regulate methods for testing for declaration of grades or quality of coal, specify procedure for automatic coal sampling and adjudicate upon disputes between the parties, monitor closure of mines and approval of mining plans among others.

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** was established by Government of India in August 2003. The Government has, through an executive order dated 10th October 2003, mandated PFRDA to act as a regulator for the pension sector. The mandate of PFRDA is development and regulation of pension sector in India. **(C)**

970) Which of the following terms used in inter-bank lending and borrowing of funds is/are matched correctly with their definitions?

The money market primarily facilitates lending and borrowing of funds between banks and entities like Primary Dealers (PDs).

- I. Call Money – Borrowing or lending of funds for 1 day
 - II. Notice Money – Borrowing or lending of funds for period between 2 days and 14 days
 - III. Term Money – Borrowing or lending of funds for period exceeding 14 days.
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The money market primarily facilitates lending and borrowing of funds between banks and entities like Primary Dealers (PDs). Banks and PDs borrow and lend overnight or for the short period to meet their short term mismatches in fund positions. This borrowing and lending is on unsecured basis. 'Call Money' is the borrowing or lending of funds for 1 day. Where money is borrowed or lend for period between 2 days and 14 days it is known as 'Notice Money'. And 'Term Money' refers to borrowing/lending of funds for period exceeding 14 days.

The interest rates on such funds depend on the surplus funds available with lenders and the demand for the same which remains volatile.

This market is governed by the Reserve Bank of India which issues guidelines for the various participants in the call/notice money market.

The entities permitted to participate both as lender and borrower in the call/notice money market are Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), Co-operative Banks other than Land Development Banks and Primary Dealers.

Scheduled commercial banks are permitted to borrow to the extent of 125% of their capital funds in the call/notice money market, however their fortnightly average borrowing outstanding should not exceed more than 100% of their capital funds (Tier I and Tier II capital). At the same time SCBs can lend to the extent of 50% of their capital funds on any day, during a fortnight but average fortnightly outstanding lending should not exceed 25 per cent of their capital funds.

Primary Dealers can borrow on average in a reporting fortnight up to 200% of the total net owned funds (NOF) as at end-March of the previous financial year and lend on average in a reporting fortnight up to 25% of their NOF. **(E)**

971) Which of the following is/are not a feature of Tight Monetary Policy?

- I. Bank rate is increased
 - II. CRR is reduced
 - III. RBI buys G-Secs from banks
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Tight monetary policy implies the Central Bank is seeking to reduce the demand for money and limit the pace of economic expansion.

Tight monetary policy will typically be chosen when inflation is above the inflation target or policy makers fear inflation is likely to rise without a tightening of monetary policy.

Tight Monetary policy could involve –

Raising Bank Rate

The Bank Rate tends to impact all the other interest rates in the economy. 'Bank Rate' is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank lends money to commercial banks. These loans are short-term in duration. Managing the bank rate is a preferred method by which central banks can regulate the level of economic activity. Lower bank rates can help to expand the economy, when unemployment is high, by lowering the cost of funds for borrowers. Conversely, higher bank rates help to reign in the economy, when inflation is higher than desired.

Impact of Bank Rate rise:

Borrowing becomes more expensive, therefore firms and consumers are discouraged from investing and spending.

Saving becomes more attractive. Therefore firms and consumers are more likely to keep saving money in the bank rather than spend.

Reduced Disposable income. Consumers will be reluctant to borrow because of high interest rates. Also their spending in repayment of loans will rise. Thus they will have less disposable income to buy goods.

Open Market Operations

Restricting money supply: The Reserve Bank can also tighten monetary policy by restricting the supply of money. To do this they can print less money or sell long-term government securities to the banking sector. By buying G-Secs from the RBI, banks see a reduction in liquidity and therefore have lesser funds to lend.

Increase in CRR: The RBI could also raise the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). CRR is the amount of funds that all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCB) excluding Regional Rural Banks (RRB) are required to maintain with RBI with reference to their total net Demand and Time Liabilities (DTL) to ensure the liquidity and solvency of Banks. **(C)**

972) The £25,000 Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction was awarded for which of the following novels in June 2013?

- a) The Street
- b) Toby's Room
- c) Bring Up the Bodies
- d) The Daughters of Mars
- e) The Garden of Evening Mists

Malaysian author Tan Twan Eng has won the £25,000 Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction for his second novel 'The Garden of Evening Mists' on June 14, 2013. The book is the first novel by an overseas writer to have won the four-year-old prize. A new rule was introduced last year making books by authors from the Commonwealth eligible for entry. The novel prevailed over a strong shortlist including 'Bring up the Bodies' by Hilary Mantel, which has already carried off some of the UK's most prestigious literary awards, and novels by English writers Rose Tremain, Pat Barker, and Anthony Quinn, and by Australian author Thomas Keneally. Earlier this year Tan Twan Eng won the Man Asian Literary Prize with the same book. (E)

973) The Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), a voluntary organisation based in _____, was honoured with 'Special Mention of the 2012 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic' in June 2013.

- a) Sikkim
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Jammu & Kashmir
- e) West Bengal

An NGO in Uttarakhand has bagged a French award for its contribution to protection of human rights. The Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), a voluntary organisation based in Nainital, was honoured with 'Special Mention of the 2012 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic' in recognition of its work in the field of "defence of socio-economic rights and sustainable development" of people, the NGO officials said on June 8, 2013. The award comprising a medal and a diploma was presented to the CHEA Director by French Ambassador Frans Richier at a function in Delhi on June 6. CHEA was appreciated for its endeavours to strengthen community forestry institution (Van Panchayats) for women's empowerment and affirmation of economic and social rights of rural communities in the Indian Central Himalayan region. (B)

974) Which ASEAN country and India in May 2013 signed 'The Treaty on Transfer of Sentenced Persons' that allows convicted foreign nationals to serve their sentence in their own country?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Myanmar
- c) Malaysia
- d) Thailand
- e) The Philippines

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra, the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, paid an Official Visit to Thailand on May 30-31, 2013. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Important Treaties/MoUs signed during the visit include the **Treaty on Extradition** signed that provides the legal framework for seeking extradition of fugitive offenders, including those involved in terrorism, transnational crimes, economic offences etc & the **Treaty on Transfer of Sentenced Persons** that provides the opportunity to foreign nationals, who have been convicted and sentenced on a criminal offence, to serve their sentence in their own country. (D)

975) The SEBI-appointed K. M. Chandrasekhar Committee on Rationalisation of Investment Routes and Monitoring of Foreign Portfolio Investments submitted its report in June 2013. Currently what is the aggregate investment limit for NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) in an Indian company?

- a) 5%
- b) 7%
- c) 10%
- d) 12%
- e) 15%

The K. M. Chandrasekhar Committee on Rationalisation of Investment Routes and Monitoring of Foreign Portfolio Investments, in its draft guidelines, suggested that the aggregate investment limit for FPIs should be 24 per cent, being the present default aggregate limit for FIIs, which could be raised by the company up to the sectoral cap.

The committee also recommended that prior direct registration of FIIs and sub-accounts with SEBI should be done away with. Instead, FPIs should be able to register themselves with and transact through the designated depository participants (DDPs). It also called for simplified know your customer (KYC) norms to make it more customer-friendly for foreign investors.

The committee said that "in view of the special nature of the investments" from non-resident Indians (NRIs) and foreign venture capital investors (FVCIs), it was desirable to continue with these two classes for the present: NRIs to continue to have individual investment limit of 5 per cent and aggregate investment limit of 10 per cent. In the case FVCI, the panel felt that the present list of nine sectors would be considerably expanded. Alternately, it said, a negative list could be announced by the Centre so that the rest of the sectors were opened for VCF activity.

Portfolio investments to be defined as investment by any single investor or investor group, which shall not exceed 10 per cent of the equity of an Indian company. Any investment beyond this threshold shall be considered as foreign direct investment (FDI). The committee has also dealt with migration of FPI into FDI, and situations where FDI investments fall below 10 per cent. (C)

976) The Reserve Bank of India on June 11, 2013 directed units located in Special Economic Zones to realise and repatriate to India the full value of goods/software/services that have been exported within a period of _____ from the date of export. The objective is to boost the supply of dollars in the economy and check the depreciation of the Rupee.

- a) 3 months
- b) 6 months
- c) 9 months
- d) 12 months
- e) 15 months

With the rupee closing at record low against the dollar, the Reserve Bank of India on June 11, 2013 announced a couple of measures to prop it up. The central bank said units located in Special Economic Zones should realise and repatriate to India the full value of goods/software/services that have been exported within a period of 12 months from the date of export. Any extension of time beyond the 12-month period for repatriation of export proceeds may be granted by the central bank on case to case basis. (D)

977) The Reserve Bank of India on June 11, 2013 enhanced the value of export related remittances received through Online Payment Gateway Service Providers to _____ a transaction. The objective is to increase the supply of dollars in the economy and check the depreciation of the Rupee.

- a) \$2,500
- b) \$5,000
- c) \$7,500
- d) \$10,000
- e) \$15,000

The Reserve Bank of India on June 11, 2013 enhanced the value of export related remittances received through Online Payment Gateway Service Providers from \$3,000 to \$10,000 a transaction. The objective is to enhance the supply of dollars. (D)

978) The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) was given the authority to approve all road projects of up to _____ from June 2013.

- a) Rs 100 crore
- b) Rs 250 crore
- c) Rs 500 crore
- d) Rs 750 crore
- e) Rs 1000 crore

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on June 13, 2013 delegated powers to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to approve all road projects of up to Rs 500 crore irrespective of the mode of implementation. Currently, the MoRTH had the power to approve projects of up to Rs 500 crore that were implemented on an engineering procurement contract (EPC) basis and funded entirely by the Government. However the Ministry did not have that power for projects implemented on public-private partnership (PPP) basis, which involved investment from private sector.

According to an official release, "At present, projects of Rs 500 crore or above require investment approval of the CCEA but projects below Rs 500 crore have varying appraisal and approval levels, depending on the source of funding and mode of implementation of projects."

National Highways projects above Rs 500 crore would now be appraised by a Committee chaired by Secretary, Expenditure or the public private partnership appraisal committee (PPPAC). Approval will be given by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. (C)

- 979)** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 13, 2013 directed the fast-tracking of infrastructure projects and unlocking of Rs. 7 lakh crore worth bank funded projects stuck for various reasons and lack of clearances at the Central and State level. **CCI** in "Online CCI Projects Tracking System" stands for:
- Corporate Compliance Index
 - Corporate Competition Index
 - Cabinet Committee on Industry
 - Competition Commission of India
 - Cabinet Committee on Investment

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on June 13, 2013 directed the fast-tracking of infrastructure projects and unlocking of Rs. 7 lakh crore worth bank funded projects stuck for various reasons and lack of clearances at the Central and State level.

The Prime Minister has directed the constitution of a Project Monitoring Group within the Cabinet Secretariat for monitoring all such projects whose total number comes to around 215. This cell would be in the nature of a Project Monitoring Group for all large projects, both public and private and would pro-actively pursue them so that these investment projects are commissioned on time.

Pulok Chatterjee, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said a list of projects of the public sector from various Ministries such as Coal, Power, and Shipping had been compiled. FICCI had also submitted a list of 52 projects in the private sector with an investment greater than Rs.1000 crore, which were delayed due to various bottlenecks.

The Cabinet Secretary apprised that the Cabinet Secretariat has prepared an "Online CCI Projects Tracking System" portal for tracking projects of over Rs.1000 crore. **(E)**

- 980)** The Supreme Court in June 2013 rejected the appeal of leading _____ companies challenging the Competitive Appellate Tribunal's order to deposit Rs 630 crore on the Rs 6300 crore imposed as penalty on them by the Competitive Commission of India (CCI) for "cartelisation".
- Sugar
 - Fertiliser
 - Cement
 - Coal
 - Steel

The Supreme Court on June 12, 2013 rejected the appeal of leading cement companies challenging the Competition Appellate Tribunal's (Compat) order to deposit Rs 630 crore of the Rs 6,307-crore penalty slapped on them by the Competitive Commission of India (CCI) for "cartelisation" by jacking up prices.

The alleged cartelisation was done between 2009 and 2011 when the average price of cement — around Rs 150 per bag — rose to Rs 220-Rs 270, recording an abnormal increase of over 40 per cent and making the cost of housing steep. The Builders Association of India had earlier approached the CCI against the huge increase in cement prices, which it attributed to the cartelisation.

The CCI, in turn, in August 2012 imposed the staggering Rs 6,300-crore penalty on the leading companies. The huge fine was to be incurred by the Cement Manufacturers' Association, ACC, Ambuja Cement, Ultra Tech, Grasim Cements, Lafarge India, JK Cement, India Cements, Madras Cements, Century Cements and Binani Cement — all accused of creating a cartel to indulge in unfair trade practices. The court asked the companies to deposit their respective shares of the deposit money in the form of FDRs (fixed deposits receipt) with the tribunal before June 24. The tribunal had passed the order on May 17 on the condition that it would hear the companies' appeal provided they deposited Rs 630 crore, which was 10 per cent of the penalty. **(E)**

- 981)** The Coal Ministry has issued show-cause notices to leading steel and power generating companies in June 2013 for:
- For selling coal meant for captive use in open market
 - Not paying license fees due for allocation of coal mines
 - Not developing coal mines allocated to them as per schedule
 - Not paying full royalties to states where the coal mines allocated to them are based
 - Not observing the environmental conservation norms in developing coal mines allotted to them

The Coal Ministry on June 11, 2013 issued show-cause notices to 12 companies for failing to develop coal mines according to schedule. If the companies are unable to convince the inter-ministerial group looking into the issue then there is a possibility of de-allocation. While NTPC has been at the receiving end for the second time this year, other companies which have been served notice include SAIL, Damodar Valley Corporation, Maharashtra State Mining

Corp, MP State Mining Corp, West Bengal Power Development Corp, Tenughat Vidhyut Nigam, Bhushan Steel & Power, Abhijeet Infrastructure, Rungta Mines, OCL India, and Ocean Ispat. **(C)**

- 982)** A. Sakthivel is the Chairman of India's export promotion organisation in which of the following?
- Toys
 - Gems & jewellery
 - Textiles
 - Leather products
 - Sea food

Exports of apparels and ready made garments are likely to get a big boost with India attaining the status of a factory complaint country with international retail chains and brands placing orders which are likely to exceed \$3 billion. Retail chain stores and international brands such as Walmart, GAP, American Eagle, JC Penny, Target, Sears, Tommy, Nike, Abecombic & Fitch, Old Navy, and Sara Lee are among the few known to maintain highest standards of factory compliance. The latest move to source merchandise from India will fetch an additional \$3 billion in foreign exchange for the country. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) Chairman A. Sakthivel said on June 12, 2013 that India had been chosen due to the persistent improvement in factory capacity building. This was done with the help of the AEPCC Common Code of Conduct – DISHA ('Driving Industry towards Sustainable Human Capital Advancement') – an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles. **(C)**

- 983)** Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) was in news in June 2013 for a/an _____ of its shares:
- Initial Public Offer
 - Rights Issue
 - Preferential Issue
 - Offer For Sale
 - Debt Issue

The Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) Offer For Sale (OFS) for divestment of 9.33% paid up equity of the Government of India shareholding in the MMTC was done on June 13, 2013 on both the stock exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE. The Issue was oversubscribed by 1.55 times. Based on the total valid bids received, at an indicative price of Rs.60.86 as against the floor price of Rs 60/- for the face value of Re one per share, the Government expects to realize proceeds of Rs. 567.90 crores. The OFS received participation from financial institutions, retail investors and some FIs. The Investors category-wise participation was 65 per cent from Insurance Companies, 21 per cent from Banks and 14 per cent from retail investors. The divestment was done to make the Company compliant to the public shareholding requirements under the Securities Contract Regulations (Rules) (SCRR).

Offer For Sale (OFS) is a new mechanism for selling shares and is used by listed companies only. Under this method, the floor price or base price is set by the issuer, after which various investors bid. The highest bidder gets the maximum number of shares. This mechanism is different from the traditional follow-on-offer method. Also, it takes little time to complete and does not entail too many formalities, such as road shows or filling up forms. Although it is said that all categories of investors — institutional, high net worth, individuals, retail and employees — can participate in the offer, there was neither be any quota nor any discount for any category of investors. **(D)**

- 984)** Which global rating agency revised India's sovereign credit outlook to stable from negative on June 12, 2013?
- Standard & Poor's
 - Moody's
 - Deloitte
 - DBRS
 - Fitch

Bringing cheer to the government struggling to arrest the rupee's slide, global rating agency Fitch on June 12, 2013 revised India's sovereign credit outlook to stable from negative. Taking note of the government's efforts to contain fiscal deficit, Fitch Ratings revised India's outlook to stable from negative and affirmed the "BBB-" rating.

Fitch said it expected the economy to recover after real GDP (gross domestic product) grew just 5 per cent in 2012-13 against 6.2 per cent a year ago. India's economic recovery, however, is likely to remain slow until a healthier investment climate is created, which helps to lift potential growth again, it said. "As a result, Fitch is forecasting only a modest recovery with real GDP expected to expand 5.7 per cent and 6.5 per cent in 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively," the rating agency said.

Meanwhile Fitch on June 14, 2013 upgraded the outlook of 10 Indian financial institutions (FI), including foreign subsidiary of Bank of Baroda. The outlook has been upgraded to stable from negative while affirming the ratings at BBB-, Fitch said in a statement. The institutions which have been upgraded include five public sector banks, an

overseas subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, two private banks and two wholly government owned FIs. Ratings of State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Bank of Baroda (New Zealand) Limited, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Canara Bank and IDBI Banks have been upgraded. In the private sector, ratings of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have been upgraded; the other two institutes are Exim Bank and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO). The change in the outlook on the ratings follows the revision of the outlook on India's ratings to stable from negative, the Fitch statement said. (E)

- 985)** 24. Which of the following, in its report titled "Global Economic Prospects" released in June 2013, has forecast 5.7% GDP growth for the Indian economy in 2013-14?
- IMF
 - WEF
 - OECD
 - UNCTAD
 - World Bank

World Bank sees India growth rising to 5.7% in 2013-14: Although risks from advanced economies have eased and growth is firming, despite ongoing contraction in the Euro Area, the pick-up in developing countries will be modest because of capacity constraints in several middle income countries, says the World Bank. In its latest Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released on June 13, 2013. The World Bank sees India's economic growth rising to 5.7 per cent in 2013-14. Growth is projected to accelerate to 6.5 per cent in 2014-15 and 6.7 per cent in 2015-16. However, the GDP growth forecast of 5.7 per cent for 2013-14 is lower than the 6.1 per cent growth projected in the January edition of this report. The World Bank said the Global GDP is expected to expand to about 2.2% this year and strengthen to 3% and 3.3 % in 2014 and 2015 respectively. (E)

- 986)** Which private sector company, in partnership with Sojitz of Japan, has bagged a contract worth Rs. 6700 crore from Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India in June 2013 – the single largest rail contract awarded in the country?
- Jindal Steel
 - BHEL
 - Bharat Forge
 - SAIL
 - L&T

A consortium of L&T and Sojitz, a Japanese infrastructure major, has bagged a contract worth Rs 6,700 crore from Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India. This is the single largest rail contract to be awarded in the country. The job involves laying an 643 km of rail track between Rewari in Haryana and Palanpur in Gujarat. The tracks will support higher axle load — of 25 tonnes per axle — and will also be able to carry double-stack containers. This stretch is a part of the 1,483-km Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to be constructed between Dadri near New Delhi and JN Port near Mumbai. The project has to be completed within four years. Having a Japanese partner was one of the pre-conditions of the funding agency, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, which has extended low-cost, long-term funds. (E)

- 987)** The _____ tribal community of Tamil Nadu was granted Geographical Indication (GI) certificate for their unique embroidery, which is known for its striking colours, in June 2013.
- Lambda
 - Majhi
 - Toda
 - Siddi
 - Kodava

Toda tribal representatives on June 13, 2013 formally received a Geographical Indication (GI) certificate for their unique embroidery, which is known for its striking colours. District Collector Archana Patnaik handed over the certificate to the representatives at a function held in Udhamangalam, Tamil Nadu. The recognition came after five years of effort by Toda Nalavaazhvu Sangham, Key Stone Foundation and Poompuhar (Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation). The status not only ensures uniform pricing for Toda embroidery products but also insulates the art from being duplicated. Of the nearly 1,600 tribal people in nearly 69 hamlets, a little more than 400 are said to be actively involved in embroidery. The product range has now widened from Pootkhulu (shawl) to wall hangings, table mats, shoulder bags and gents and ladies shopping bag. GI is a name or a sign used on prized goods to indicate their specific geographical location or origin, says Keystone Foundation trustee Mathew John. The three organisations are the Registered Proprietors of the GI. The art of Toda embroidery, known as pukhoor, has been passed on to generations. (C)

- 988)** Which state's 'BhooChetana' scheme of boosting farm productivity and incomes in rural areas is being replicated in The Philippines?
- Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Karnataka
 - Maharashtra
 - Andhra Pradesh

The success of the Bhoochetana, a scheme to boost agricultural productivity in Karnataka, is being replicated by the Philippines government under the same name. Assistant Research Programme Director of the Hyderabad-based ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), Suhas P. Wani, said on June 13, 2013 that Bhoochetana is being implemented in the Philippines. ICRISAT is providing information on technical inputs and training to Filipinos. Bhoochetana is being implemented in three different benchmark localities in the Philippines, each covering 10,000 hectares of land. Wani expressed confidence that the scheme would be successful and would help boost production, which in turn will help alleviate poverty and end malnutrition. (C)

- 989)** Indira Gandhi Delhi _____ University for Women – India's first _____ university for women was inaugurated by Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on June 13, 2013.
- Medical, medical
 - Journalism, journalism
 - Agriculture, agriculture
 - Technical, technical
 - Textile, textile

The country's first technical university for women was inaugurated by Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on June 13, 2013. The erstwhile Indira Gandhi Women Institute of Technology has been upgraded as a State University by the Delhi Government. It will now be known as Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW). Dikshit said 85 per cent seats in the university are meant for girls from Delhi. While the Chief Minister released the admission brochure of the university, Delhi Education Minister A. K. Walia launched its website. He said there will be total intake of 480 girls across courses in information security, mobile computing, robotics and automation and VLSI design apart from B.Tech, MCA, M.Tech and other part-time courses. (D)

- 990)** National award winning actress and director Aparna Sen headed the jury of the second _____ International Film Festival organised from July 5 to 7, 2013
- Jaipur
 - Kashmir
 - Ladakh
 - Malwa
 - Sikkim

National award winning actress and director Aparna Sen headed the jury of the second Ladakh International Film Festival (LIFF) organised from July 5 to 7, 2013. The focus this year was on 'women in cinema'. The tag line of the festival was "celebrating womanhood." (B)

- 991)** What is the programme of encouraging Naxals in LWE-affected districts of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to surrender known as?
- Campaign Navjeevan
 - Campaign Kiran
 - Campaign Chetna
 - Campaign Subah
 - Campaign Unnati

Twenty-eight extremists from different Naxal dalams in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh border areas have surrendered before Gadchiroli police due to its initiative called 'Campaign Navjeevan'. Exposing them for the first time on June 11, 2013 in a programme called Manomilan (meeting of hearts) at Gadchiroli police headquarters, Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammad Suvez Haque said the Naxals' identities were made public only after taking their permission. Under Campaign Navjeevan, senior police officers visited families of Naxals belonging to the State and appealed them to surrender assuring them of fair treatment. It was launched without fanfare in December 2012. (A)

- 992)** The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) formally declared the Kerala's Kuttanad region's below sea-level farming system as GIAHS in June 2013. What does GIAHS stand for?
- Globally Indigenous Agricultural Heritage Sites
 - Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites

- c) Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
- d) Globally Innovative Agricultural Heritage Systems
- e) Globally Innovative Agricultural Heritage Sites

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) formally declared the Kuttanad below sea-level farming system as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) at the International Forum on GIAHS held at Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan from May 29 to June 1, 2013. The GIAHS official website says "Farmers of Kuttanad have developed and mastered the spectacular technique of below sea-level cultivation over 150 year ago. They made this system unique as it contributes remarkably well to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including several livelihood services for local communities". The global focus on the Kuttanad unique system of farming will be reinforced by the setting up of proposed international-level institute for below sea-level farming in Kuttanad. Already a Ramsar site, the bio-diversity of Kuttanad will have to be protected by the State government and its people. (C)

993) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the French Open in June 2013?

- a) Svetlana Kuznetsova and Vera Zvonareva
- b) Vania King and Yaroslava Shvedova
- c) Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina
- d) Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci
- e) Daniela Hantuchova and Agnieszka Radwanska

Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina of Russia won their first Grand Slam title together by defeating defending champions Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci of Italy 7-5, 6-2 in the Women's Doubles final of the French Open on June 9. (C)

994) Who among the following won the Mixed Doubles title at the French Open in June 2013?

- a) Frantisek Cermak and Lucie Hradecka
- b) Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic
- c) Jurgen Melzer and Iveta Benesova
- d) Mahesh Bhupathi and Elena Vesnina
- e) Casey Dellacqua and Scott Lipsky

Czech Republic's Frantisek Cermak and Lucie Hradecka won their first Mixed Doubles title together at the French Open on June 6 when they beat Daniel Nestor of Canada and Kristina Mladenovic of France 1-6, 6-4, 10-6. (A)

995) Which of the following combinations of titles and the trophies given at the French Open tennis tournament organised in June 2013 is/are incorrect?

- I. Men's Singles - Coupe des Mousquetaires
 - II. Women's Singles - Coupe Suzanne Lenglen
 - III. Men's Doubles - Coupe Jacques Brugnon
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Men's Singles - Coupe des Mousquetaires; Women's Singles - Coupe Suzanne Lenglen; Men's Doubles - Coupe Jacques Brugnon (E)

996) Jagmohan Dalmiya was appointed Interim President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on June 2, 2013. He is also the President of the Cricket Association of _____.

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Bengal
- c) Delhi
- d) Karnataka
- e) Rajasthan

Raj Kundra suspended from IPL: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) interim head, Jagmohan Dalmiya presented a comprehensive 12-point action plan to restore the game's reputation following the recent spot-fixing scandal at a meeting of the working committee in New Delhi on June 10, 2013. Dalmiya, who is also the President of Cricket Association of Bengal, was made the interim President of BCCI on June 2, 2013 after N. Srinivasan stepped down. Dalmiya has announced the suspension of Rajasthan Royals' co-owner Raj Kundra, pending inquiry, from all cricketing activities for his alleged involvement in betting. Kundra is the second team official after son-in-law of N. Srinivasan and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) Team Principal Guruswami Meiyappan to be suspended from the Indian

Premier League (IPL). Meanwhile the BCCI appointed Sanjay Patel as the Board secretary and Ravi Sawant as treasurer, replacing Sanjay Jagdale and Ajay Shirke, who resigned after the spot-fixing scandal. (B)

997) Which of the following statements on 'RuPay' payment platform is/are correct?

- I. Debit cards have been issued
 - II. Credit cards have been issued
 - III. It has been launched by CCAvenue Payment Gateway
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, and Union Bank of India launched debit cards based on the indigenously developed RuPay payment platform in 2012.

The RuPay platform has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India as a rival to global payment product companies such as MasterCard and Visa.

The RuPay branded debit cards are accepted at all 91,000 ATMs and over 6 lakh point-of-sale (POS) terminals in the country. "Smaller banks which were not in a position to join the card payment system due to high cost of initial participation fee and quarterly minimum processing fee would henceforth be able to participate in RuPay because there are no such fees under RuPay," said A. P. Hota, MD and CEO, NPCI.

Since the transaction processing will happen domestically through the NPCI-operated retail payments and settlement platform, it would lead to lower cost of clearing and settlement for each transaction. Banks will have to pay almost 40 per cent lower fees to the RuPay scheme as compared to the international schemes. Besides, banks will pay only in rupees instead of foreign currency. (A)

NPCI plans to partner banks to introduce RuPay-based credit cards by March 2015.

998) Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel won the Canadian Grand Prix at _____ on June 9, 2013.

- a) Montreal
- b) Toronto
- c) Vancouver
- d) Calgary
- e) Edmonton

Red Bull's triple world champion Sebastian Vettel won the Canadian Grand Prix at Montreal on June 9, 2013 and extended his overall lead in the championship to 36 points over Ferrari's Fernando Alonso, who finished second. Lewis Hamilton was third. (A)

999) The government in June 2013 gave its in-principle approval for India's bid to host the Under-17 _____ World Cup on 2017.

- a) Hockey
- b) Cricket
- c) Football
- d) Athletics
- e) Badminton

The government has given the go-ahead to India's bid to host the U-17 Football World Cup in 2017, thus boosting the country's chances of organising the tournament that is already being backed by FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke. "The Union Cabinet today gave its approval to the proposal for submitting guarantees sought by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) from the Government of India for their bid to host the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 World Cup Football Tournament in 2017 in India," a statement issued by the Sports Ministry said on June 13, 2013. Till now uncertainty loomed large over India's bid as FIFA, world football's governing body, needed guarantees on tax exemption, security, transport and accommodation of players, visa and foreign exchange. India's first bid was rejected early this year due to insufficient assurances from the government. But with the government giving the green signal in providing guarantees that would meet FIFA's basic requirements; it has paved the way for a strong bid. (C)

1000) Who among the following won the Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship in the final played in Pune on June 10, 2013?

- a) Petroleum Sports Control Board
- b) Railways
- c) Air India

- d) Punjab
- e) Karnataka

Air India upset reigning champions Punjab 6-2 to lift the third Hockey India Senior Men's National championship, which concluded at the Dhyanchand Stadium in Pimpri, Pune on June 10, 2013. Meanwhile, Karnataka defeated Haryana 3-2 to finish third in the championship. (B)

1001) The Union Youth Affairs & Sports Ministry on June 12, 2013 said it will construct synthetic turfs for football, hockey and athletics and multipurpose indoor halls across the country under _____ Scheme.

- a) Utility Sports Infrastructure
- b) Unified Sports Infrastructure
- c) Uniform Sports Infrastructure
- d) Unity Sports Infrastructure
- e) Urban Sports Infrastructure

Sports ministry on June 12, 2013 said it will construct synthetic turfs for football, hockey and athletics and multipurpose indoor halls across the country under Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS). "Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) to develop sports infrastructure in the country," the Ministry said in a release. "Under this scheme, sanction is accorded for laying of synthetic playing surface (for football, hockey and athletics) and for construction of Multipurpose indoor hall." (E)

1002) Which of the following statements on Mobile Banking Services in India is/are correct?

- I. Transactions up to Rs 10,000 can be facilitated by banks without end-to-end encryption
- II. Banks are permitted to offer mobile banking facility to their customers without any daily cap for transactions involving purchase of goods/services
- III. Banks are permitted to put in place per transaction limit depending on their own risk perception for transactions involving purchase of goods/services

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only
- e) I, II and III

Mobile Banking Transactions in India – Operative Guidelines for Banks: Updated July 1, 2013

Introduction

Banks are permitted to offer mobile banking services after obtaining necessary permission from the Department of Payment & Settlement Systems, Reserve Bank of India. Mobile Banking services are available to bank customers irrespective of the mobile network. Customers need to first register for Mobile Banking with their bankers and download the Mobile Banking application on their mobile handsets.

Regulatory & Supervisory Issues

Only banks who have implemented core banking solutions are permitted to provide mobile banking services.

The services shall be restricted only to customers of banks and/or holders of debit/credit cards issued as per the extant Reserve Bank of India guidelines.

Only Indian Rupee based domestic services shall be provided. Use of mobile banking services for cross border inward and outward transfers is strictly prohibited.

Banks may also use the services of Business Correspondent appointed in compliance with RBI guidelines, for extending this facility to their customers.

The guidelines issued by Reserve Bank on "Know Your Customer (KYC)", "Anti Money Laundering (AML)" and "Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)" from time to time would be applicable to mobile based banking services also.

Banks shall put in place a system of document based registration with mandatory physical presence of their customers, before commencing mobile banking service.

Transactions up to Rs 5000/- can be facilitated by banks without end-to-end encryption. The risk aspects involved in such transactions may be addressed by the banks through adequate security measures.

Banks offering mobile banking service must ensure that customers having mobile phones of any network operator are in a position to avail the service. The mobile banking service should be network independent.

Banks are permitted to offer mobile banking facility to their customers without any daily cap for transactions involving purchase of goods/services. However, banks may put in place per transaction limit depending on the bank's own risk perception, with the approval of its Board. (C)

1003) Banks offering Mobile Banking Service are permitted to facilitate transfer of funds from the accounts of their customers for delivery in cash to the recipients. The maximum value of such transfers shall be _____ per transaction.

- a) Rs 5,000
- b) Rs 10,000
- c) Rs 15,000
- d) Rs. 20,000
- e) Rs. 25,000

Mobile Banking Transactions in India – Operative Guidelines for Banks: Updated July 1, 2013

Remittance of funds for disbursement in cash

In order to facilitate the use of mobile phones for remittance of cash, banks are permitted to provide fund transfer services which facilitate transfer of funds from the accounts of their customers for delivery in cash to the recipients. The disbursal of funds to recipients of such services can be facilitated at ATMs or through any agent(s) appointed by the bank as business correspondents. The recipient can be a non-account holder also.

Such fund transfer service shall be provided by banks subject to the following conditions:-

In case of cash out, the maximum value of such transfers shall be Rs 10,000/- per transaction. Banks may place suitable cap on the velocity of such transactions, subject to a maximum value of Rs 25,000/- per month, per beneficiary.

The disbursal of funds at the agent/ATM shall be permitted only after identification of the recipient.

Banks may carry out proper due diligence of the persons before appointing them as authorized agents for such services.

Banks shall be responsible as principals for all the acts of omission or commission of their agents. (B)

1004) Which of the following was India's largest item of agricultural export in 2012-13 according to data released by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) in June 2013?

- a) Basmati rice
- b) Gaur gum
- c) Saffron
- d) Flowers
- e) Cotton

For a second year, guar gum has emerged as India's largest item of agricultural export. And, responsible for pushing the country's overall farm exports to Rs 120,000 crore in 2012-13, show data from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) on June 14, 2013.

Of India's total agricultural exports of Rs 120,000 crore in 2012-13, guar gum accounted for 18 per cent, DGCIS figures show. In 2010-11, guar gums total share in India's overall export of agricultural items was just seven per cent.

Guar gum has seen rising demand from oil companies on its use as a controlling agent in oil wells for facilitating easy drilling and preventing fluid loss. Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, it has registered 624 per cent rise in exports in value terms.

India is the world's largest producer of the gum. On average, the country produces 1-1.5 million tonnes of guar annually.

Almost 40 per cent of guar gum produced in the country is used for industrial purposes.

Basmati and non-basmati rice, traditionally the flagbearers of Indian agricultural exports, have also risen in export value, but have not managed to upstage guar gum as the primary item.

Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, export of basmati rice increased 71 per cent in value terms, while that of non-basmati rice rose a massive 6,000 per cent, pushing India to the pole position in this segment globally in 2012.

The share of basmati rice in India's total agricultural exports from 2010-11 to 2012-13 dropped from 26 per cent to 16 per cent. However, the share of non-basmati rice showed a considerable jump from 0.52 per cent in 2010-11 to 12 per cent in 2012-13, primarily because of the government's decision to lift the ban on its export.

Another item that logged impressive growth in exports, according to the data, was flowers rising 43 per cent in value terms between 2010-11 and 2012-13, to Rs 423 crore. (C)

1005) India has functioning nuclear power plants at all of the following places except:

- Trombay
- Tarapur
- Kalpakkam
- Kakrapar
- Kaiga

India has operational nuclear power plants in six states currently. Plants at Kudankulam are yet to become operational.

Name of the Plant	Location
Tarapur Atomic Power Station	Tarapur, Maharashtra
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan
Madras Atomic Power Station	Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
Narora Atomic Power Station	Narora, U.P.
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	Kakrapar, Gujarat
Kaiga Generating Station	Kaiga, Karnataka (A)

1006) International treaties FMCT and MTCR refer to trade in which of the following respectively?

- Missiles in both
- Missiles, Chemical weapons
- Missiles, Uranium & Plutonium
- Uranium & Plutonium, Missiles
- Chemical weapons, Missiles

A fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) is a proposed international agreement that would prohibit the production of the two main components of nuclear weapons: highly-enriched uranium (HEU), and plutonium. Discussions on this subject are being held within the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), a body of 65 member nations established as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament. The CD requires consensus for action to take place. Consequently, negotiations for an FMCT have not taken place, though preliminary discussions are ongoing.

Those nations that joined the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-weapon states are already prohibited from producing or acquiring fissile material for weapons. An FMCT would provide new restrictions for the five recognized nuclear weapon states (NWS—United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China), and for the four nations that are not NPT members (Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea). The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 190 parties have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

Established in April 1987, the voluntary Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks. The regime urges its 34 members, which include most of the world's key missile manufacturers, to restrict their exports of missiles and related technologies capable of carrying a 500-kilogram payload at least 300 kilometers or delivering any type of weapon of mass destruction. (D)

1007) India's Sai Praneeth was in news in June & July 2013 for achievements in which sport?

- Golf
- Squash
- Tennis
- Badminton
- Table tennis

In June 2013, Sai Praneeth was in news for beating former Olympic and world champion Taufik Hidayat in a first round match at the Indonesian Super Series Premier badminton tournament in Jakarta on June 12, 2013. In July 2013, Praneeth beat K. Srikanth in straight games to lift the men's singles title in the V. V. Nataraj Memorial Amanora All India Senior Badminton tournament in Pune. (D)

1008) The Union Government has approved the renaming of Bengaluru International Airport after _____ in July 2013.

- Tipu Sultan
- Kempe Gowda
- Sir C. V. Raman
- Basaveshwara
- Sir M. Visvesvaraya

The Union Cabinet on July 17, 2013 approved renaming the Bengaluru International Airport after Kempe Gowda, the city's founder. Chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, it cleared the proposal mooted by the Karnataka Government. The State Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council had passed unanimous resolutions seeking renaming of the airport in 2012. Announcing the decision, an official press release noted that the airport, commissioned in 2008 and built over an area of 4,000 acres, is the fifth busiest in the country. It is owned and operated by a consortium — Bangalore International Airport Private Ltd. (B)

1009) Who among the following is the co-author of 'An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions' alongwith Jean Dreze, a book released in July 2013?

- Amartya Sen
- Kaushik Basu
- Nandan Nilekani
- Raghuram Rajan
- Jagdish Bhagwati

In the book 'An Uncertain Glory - India and its Contradiction' released in July 2013, two leading economists of India set out to expose a deeper and impassioned understanding of the country as they attempt to mark out the argument for indulging in the study of inequalities and opportunities afforded to residents notwithstanding the country's penchant for high economic development. **About The Authors: JEAN DREZE** is an Indian development economist of Belgian origin. His works include The Political Economy Of Hunger, Hunger And Public Action, The Economics Of Famines, Public Report On Basic Education In India, and India: Development and Participation. Born in Belgium, Dreze became an Indian citizen in 2002 and is the conceptualizer of NREGA. He is currently an honorary Professor at the Delhi School of Economics and also a Professor at Allahabad University. **AMARTYA SEN** is an Indian Nobel laureate economist and philosopher. His other books include The Argumentative Indian, The Idea of Justice, Development as Freedom, and Peace and Democratic Society. Sen received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998. He is currently the Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard. (A)

1010) Which of the following ranked India lowest in basic money management skills among Asia-Pacific countries in its Index of Financial Literacy launched in August 2013?

- Visa
- HSBC
- Moody's
- MasterCard
- American Express

India has been ranked lowest in basic money management skills among Asia-Pacific countries, according to MasterCard's latest Index of Financial Literacy on August 1, 2013. India with 59 index points was ranked at the 15th place among the 16 countries surveyed ahead of Japan which was at the bottom with 57 index points. In overall financial literacy, New Zealand continued to rank number one with a score of 74 index points, ahead of Singapore (72 index points) and Taiwan (71 index points). The survey was conducted between April 2013 and May 2013 with 7,756 respondents aged between 18 and 64 in 16 Asia-Pacific countries. The survey was conducted on three aspects of financial literacy, including consumers' basic money management skills, investment knowledge and financial planning. (D)

1011) Who among the following Rajya Sabha members is the author of 'Speak Up, Speak Out' released in July 2013?

- Arun Jaitley
- Derek O'Brien
- Dinesh Trivedi
- Naveen Jindal
- Mani Shankar Aiyar

Books released in July 2013 include: 'Seven Elements That Have Changed The World' by John Browne; 'In Custody' by Nitya Ramakrishnan; 'Speak Up, Speak Out' by Derek O'Brien; 'The Captainship — First-Gen Entrepreneurs' Edited by Anya Gupta; 'Chanakya's New Manifesto — To Resolve the Crisis Within India' by Pavan K. Varma; Nitish Engineering — Reconstructing Bihar by Sanjay Kumar Sinha; 'Corruption — The Rot Within' by Y.G. Muralidharan (B)

1012) Samar Mukherjee, who passed away at the age of 100 in July 2013, was a member of which the following parties?

- CPI
- CPI(M)
- BJP
- Congress
- Trinamool Congress

Veteran leader and the oldest member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Samar Mukherjee, whose 100th birthday was celebrated by the party in November 2012, passed away in Kolkata on July 18, 2013. Mukherjee joined the Communist Party of India in 1940 and became the member of the CPI(M) in 1964. Mukherjee represented Howrah in the Lok Sabha for three consecutive terms between 1971 and 1984. Earlier, he was a member of the West Bengal assembly from 1957 to 1971. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1986. (B)

1013) Barun De, who passed away at the age of 80 in July 2013, was an acclaimed:

- Historian
- Playwright
- Journalist
- Geologist
- Economist

Eminent historian Barun De, 80, whose main area of research was 'Modern India,' passed away in Kolkata on July 16, 2013. De was considered a fountain of knowledge on the history of colonial India. His work focussed on the British colonial rule during the 18th century and early 19th century. He was founder-director of two institutions in Kolkata – The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (1973) & The Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies (1993). (A)

1014) Which country on July 14, 2013 agreed to take payments for oil it sells to India entirely in rupees?

- UAE
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Saudi Arabia

Iran on July 14, 2013 agreed to take payments for oil it sells to India entirely in rupees after US and western sanctions blocked all other payment routes. India has been, since July 2011, paying in euros to clear 55% of its purchases of Iranian oil through Ankara-based Halkbank. The remaining 45% due amount was remitted in rupees in accounts Iranian oil company opened in Kolkata-based Uco Bank. Payments in euro through Turkey ceased from February 6 this year but the rupee payments for 45% of the purchases continued through Uco Bank. As Iran did not indicate an alternate mode of taking payment for 55% of the oil sold to Indian refiners, over \$1.5 billion in dues got accumulated. Tehran has now agreed to take this overdue amount in rupees. (B)

1015) Which island was surrendered to Sri Lanka by India in 1976?

- Analativu
- Karaitivu
- Neduntivu
- Nachuvantivu
- Katchatheevu

The Supreme Court on June 15, 2013 issued notice to the Centre on a writ petition filed by DMK president M. Karunanidhi for a direction to retrieve Katchatheevu. A three-Judge Bench of Chief Justice Altamas Kabir and Justices Ibrahim Kalifulla and Vikaramjit Sen issued notice after hearing senior counsel T.R. Andhyarujina, appearing for the petitioner. In his writ petition, Karunanidhi also sought a declaration as unconstitutional and void the agreements between India and Sri Lanka dated 26th and 28th of June 1974 and the agreement dated 23rd March 1976 and the related communications pertaining to such agreements surrendering Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. (E)

1016) Which of the following organised the India Innovation Summit in Chicago, USA in July 2013?

- CII
- CSIR
- FICCI
- NASSCOM
- ASSOCHAM

The India Innovation Summit was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Chicago on July 18, 2013 in partnership with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA), the US-India Business Council (USIBC), PanIT Alumni Association and TIe Midwest. CII president S Gopalakrishnan said the need of the hour is to empower a large number of people using mobile connectivity and cloud computing platforms and make them a part of the knowledge revolution, which will ultimately contribute to economic growth. National Innovative Council's Chairman Sam Pitroda, also the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation, stressed upon the need to leverage emerging technologies, including the social media to address the issue of poverty in the country. (A)

1017) Match the pairs of countries and ambassadors appointed in July 2013.

	COUNTRY		AMBASSADOR
I.	Zambia	1.	Patrick Rumedyo Tembo
II.	Kenya	2.	Florence Imisa Weche
III.	Wajib	3.	Abdel Samad Lebanon

- I-1, II-2, III-3
- I-3, II-2, III-1
- I-1, II-3, III-2
- I-2, II-3, III-1

Envoys of Zambia, Myanmar, Kenya and Lebanon presented their credentials to President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 17, 2013. The envoys who presented their credentials were: - Brigadier General Patrick Rumedyo Tembo (Retd), High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia; U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Florence Imisa Weche, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya; Wajib Abdel Samad, Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon. (A)

1018) Who among the following was appointed new Prime Minister of Bhutan following the elections organised in July 2013?

- Ugyen Dorji
- Yeshey Zimba
- Sangay Ngedup
- Tshering Tobgay
- Khandu Wangchuk

The People's Democratic Party (PDP), led by Tshering Tobgay has swept the elections to the General Assembly of Bhutan. It won 32 out of 47 seats while the outgoing party, the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party), could manage only 15 seats, a steep fall from 45 it had bagged in the 2008 elections. The results were declared on July 13, 2013. The elections were marked by a heavy voter turnout of 80 per cent. This is the second national polls in Bhutan after the country became a democracy in 2008. (D)

1019) World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Pascal Lamy released the WTO annual report in Geneva in July 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- World trade growth was lower in 2012 than 2011
 - In 2012 GDP of developing countries surpassed that of developed economies
 - EU and African countries signed an agreement to end a 20-year old dispute over exports of bananas
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

World Trade Organization Director General Pascal Lamy released the WTO annual report in Geneva on July 18, 2013. The Annual Report 2013 provides an overview of WTO activities in 2012 and early 2013. World trade growth fell to 2.0 per cent in 2012 (5.2 per cent in 2011) and is expected to reach 3.3 per cent in 2013. The next WTO Ministerial Conference will be held in Bali, Indonesia in December 2013. The objective is to hammer out a multilateral agreement on trade facilitation, some aspects of agriculture trade and important development issues. A trade facilitation agreement would make importing and exporting easier, less costly and more efficient. The year 2012 marked the first time in world economic history that the GDP of developing countries surpassed that of developed economies.

Events of 2012: January: Director-General attends World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; April: WTO welcomes Montenegro as its 154th member; May: welcomes Samoa as its 155th member; July: Launch of World Trade Report 2012 on non-tariff measures; August: WTO welcomes entry of Russia and Vanuatu, bringing total membership to 157; November: EU and Latin American countries sign agreement ending 20-year banana disputes; December: General Council announces next Ministerial Conference to be held in Bali in December 2013; Nine candidates are nominated for post of Director-General to succeed Pascal Lamy.

The Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference was organised in Geneva, Switzerland from December 15 to 17, 2011. The topmost decision-making body of the WTO, the Ministerial Conference usually meets every two years. It brings together all members of the WTO. The Ministerial Conference can take decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements. **Ministerial Conferences till date:** Geneva, 15-17 December 2011; Geneva, 30 November - 2 December 2009; Hong Kong, 13-18 December 2005; Cancún, 10-14 September 2003; Doha, 9-13 November 2001; Seattle, November 30 - December 3, 1999; Geneva, 18-20 May 1998; Singapore, 9-13 December 1996 (E)

- 1020)** Where was the World Stamp Exhibition 2013 organised by the Federation International de Philatelie (FIP) in August 2013?
 a) Manila
 b) Bangkok
 c) Jakarta
 d) Vientiane
 e) Bandar Seri Begawan

The World Stamp Exhibition 2013 was organised in Bangkok from August 2 to 14, 2013. Thailand Post has been chosen by Federation International de Philatelie (FIP) to host the exhibition in order to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the launch of Thailand's first stamp. It showcased more than 2,400 stamp collections, worth up to \$32 million. (B)

- 1021)** In which South America country was the eruption of Tungurahua volcano in news in July 2013?
 a) Peru
 b) Chile
 c) Brazil
 d) Ecuador
 e) Honduras

Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano, which has been rumbling on and off since 1999, registered a "strong explosion" on July 21, 2013, belching ash and gases skyward, the Geophysics Institute reported. It issued an "orange alert", the second highest warning level. The gas and dust from the explosion at the volcano on the eastern Andean range, soaring over 5,000 m, could be seen as far away as the capital Quito, about 153 km north of the volcano. Its name means "Throat of Fire" in the indigenous Quechua language. (D)

- 1022)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 16 penalised 22 banks for violating several norms, including the rules on know your customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering. Which is the only foreign bank penalised?
 a) Citibank
 b) Barclays Bank
 c) Stanchart Bank
 d) Deutsche Bank
 e) Bank of America

In one of the major crackdowns on banks in recent times, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 16 penalised 22 for violating several norms, including the rules on know your customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering. Penalties ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 3 crore were imposed on 12 public sector banks, nine private sector banks and a foreign lender, Deutsche Bank. The action follows scrutiny of bank books, internal control and compliance systems and processes of bank officers during April, after online portal Cobrapost alleged rampant violation of KYC and anti-money laundering rules in bank branches in their sting operation. Earlier, following the Cobrapost allegations, RBI investigated the books of top private banks and fined ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank for similar norm violations. The RBI clarified that while instances of KYC norms violations have been found, the recent investigations did not reveal any prima facie evidence of money laundering. (D)

- 1023)** Where was the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) organized by the Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) in August 2013?
 a) Mumbai
 b) Chennai
 c) New Delhi
 d) Bangalore
 e) Ahmedabad

The India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) was organized by the Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) in Mumbai between August 8 and 12, 2013. (A)

- 1024)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 16, 2013 permitted companies from manufacturing, infrastructure and _____ sector having ventures abroad can raise money through external commercial borrowings (ECB) to repay loans taken for foreign investments and acquisitions.
 a) Hotel
 b) Aviation
 c) Retailing
 d) Agriculture
 e) Real estate

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 16, 2013 said that companies from manufacturing, infrastructure and hotel sector having ventures abroad can raise money through external commercial borrowings (ECB) to repay loans taken for foreign investments and acquisitions. The objective is to boost flow of foreign exchange into the country. ECB can

be availed of for repayment of all term loans having average residual maturity of five years. ECB availed of under the scheme will have to be repaid out of forex earnings from the overseas Joint Ventures (JVs)/Wholly-owned Subsidiaries (WOS)/assets abroad. Currently, Indian companies in the manufacturing, infrastructure sector and hotel sector are allowed to avail of ECB for repayment of outstanding rupee loan(s) availed of from the domestic banking system and/or for fresh rupee capital expenditure under the approval route. The aggregate limit for availing ECBs during a financial year is \$10 billion.

The finance ministry on July 15, 2013 identified Usha Ananthasubramanian (55), executive director of Punjab National Bank, to be the chief executive of Bharatiya Mahila Bank, which will launch its operations from November with six branches. Ananthasubramanian is leading the core management team (comprising employees from various public-sector banks) set up to put in place by October 31 the systems and processes necessary to start the bank's operations. The government will formally announce the name of the CEO after the Reserve Bank of India has issued the licence. That the country will have an (A)

- 1025)** Who among the following was selected as the first Chief Executive of the proposed Bharatiya Mahila Bank by the RBI in July 2013?
 a) Latha Alagappan
 b) Mallika Srinivasan
 c) Maya Venkataraman
 d) Preeja Chidambaram
 e) Usha Ananthasubramanian

The finance ministry on July 15, 2013 identified Usha Ananthasubramanian (55), executive director of Punjab National Bank, to be the chief executive of Bharatiya Mahila Bank, which will launch its operations from November with six branches. Ananthasubramanian is leading the core management team (comprising employees from various public-sector banks) set up to put in place by October 31 the systems and processes necessary to start the bank's operations. The government will formally announce the name of the CEO after the Reserve Bank of India has issued the licence. That the country will have an all-women bank was announced by Finance Minister P Chidambaram in his Budget speech earlier this year. The bank will get an initial capital of Rs.1,000 crore. A five-member panel, headed by former Canara Bank CMD M B N Rao, prepared the blueprint for the bank. (E)

- 1026)** The RBI on July 16, 2013 extended the deadline for introduction of cheque truncation system (CTS). Which of the following statements about CTS is correct?
 I. Banks will not require physical delivery of cheques to the clearing house
 II. Customers will not require physical submission of cheques at bank branches
 III. CTS will reduce the time from the point of issue of cheque to the point of time the actual debit takes place
 a) I only
 b) I and II only
 c) II and III only
 d) III and I only
 e) I, II and III

July 31 was the deadline for withdrawal of old format cheques but many such cheques still being presented for clearing Non-CTS-2010 cheques (Cheque Truncation System) will continue to be cleared even after the deadline of July 31, 2013. The Reserve Bank of India, in a notification issued on July 16, 2013, extended the deadline for CTS to December 31, 2013.

Considered to be a major milestone in the history of Indian banking, Cheque Truncation System aims to make cheque clearance more efficient and reduce the clearance time of cheques.

CHEQUE TRUNCATION

Truncation is the process of stopping the flow of the physical cheque issued by a drawer to the drawee branch. The physical instrument will be truncated at some point en-route to the drawee branch and an electronic image of the cheque would be sent to the drawee branch along with the relevant information like the MICR fields, date of presentation, presenting banks etc. Thus with the implementation of cheque truncation, the need to move the physical instruments across branches would not be required. This would effectively reduce the time required for payment of cheques, the associated cost of transit and delay in processing, etc., thus speeding up the process of collection or realization of the cheques.

Definition

A cheque truncation is defined by the new Section 6(b) of Negotiable Instruments Act as 'a cheque which is truncated during the course of a clearing cycle, either by the Clearing House or by the bank, whether paying or receiving

payment, immediately on generation of an electronic image for transmission, substituting the further physical movement of the cheque in writing.'

Characteristics

The paper cheque will be replaced by the electronic image in the process of truncation. Truncation is to be done only during the course of a clearing cycle to reduce the time taken for realisation. Truncation can be done by the banks involved or clearing house. The drawer or holder cannot truncate a cheque. The paper cheque, after truncation, is to be kept in the custody of the bank/clearing house that truncated the cheque. Addition of digital signature of the truncating Bank/Clearing House to the electronic image of the cheque truncation is optional.

Ways in which truncation can be done

1: Using MICR data: MICR cheques have the cheque number, city, bank and branch numbers, and transaction code pre-coded. During encoding at the collecting bank, the amount, as well as the payee's name, is inserted in the MICR line. The entire MICR line is then captured electronically. The electronic information is then exchanged with other for clearing (Inter Bank Data Exchange or IBDE). The cheques do not move any further.

2: Using image processing: Cheque image processing involves scanning of both sides of the cheque and storing the image in digital form. The cheque itself is moved to some offsite storage and the image is used for further processing.

Advantages

Speeding up the collection of cheques (b) enhancing the customer service, (c) reducing the scope for clearing related frauds, (d) minimizing the cost of collection of cheques, (e) reducing the reconciliation problems (f) eliminating the logistics problems etc. **(D)**

- 1027)** Who among the following was appointed as the new chief executive and managing director at IFCI Ltd, a government-owned non-banking finance company, in July 2013?
- Santosh Nayar
 - Anurag Jain
 - JP Devadhar
 - N. K. Sodhi
 - A.S. Lamba

Santosh B. Nayar was on July 15, 2013 appointed as the new chief executive and managing director at IFCI Ltd, a government-owned non-banking finance company. His appointment comes at a time when the credit profile of Delhi-based finance outfit has deteriorated due to pressure on interest margin, dent in profits and rise in bad loans. Nayar, moves from State Bank of India where he was group executive and deputy managing looking after corporate banking group. The net profit of IFCI for the financial year ended March 2013 dipped to Rs 450.87 crore from Rs 663.62 crore in the year ended March 2012. The Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) stood at Rs 3,661 crore in March 2013, up from Rs 2,608 crore at end of March 2012. The net NPAs of Rs 1,454 crore in March 2013 (10.2% of net advances) compared to Rs 327 crore (1.9%) at end of March 2012. **(A)**

- 1028)** The _____ of a bond and the yield are inversely related.
- Price
 - Coupon
 - Face value
 - None of the above

A bond is an instrument used by a company or a government for borrowing money for a specified period of time at a certain interest rate – fixed or floating. A bond is a debt instrument and the buyer of these is a company's or a government's creditor.

The face value of a bond, also called the par value, is the amount that a bondholder gets when a bond matures. The coupon is the interest rate that the bondholder receives (usually half yearly) till the date of maturity which is when the money borrowed is paid back.

Another term associated with a bond is yield. It refers to the return one earns from investing in a bond. Yield is equal to coupon (interest) amount divided by the bond price. That is, the bond price and the yield are inversely related.

The price of a bond keeps on changing in response to many factors. A bond is said to be trading at a premium when its price exceeds the face value and is said to be at a discount when its price is below the face value.

Let's assume you buy a bond with a face value of Rs 1000 at a coupon (interest rate) of 7 per cent with a 10 year maturity. You will then receive an interest of Rs 70 per year for the next 10 years at the end of which you will be paid back Rs 1000.

How do changing interest rates affect bond prices and yields? If the prevailing rates of interest in an economy rise then the newer bonds will be offered at higher rates of interest compared to the older bonds.

Consequently, investors would prefer these to the older bonds which would no longer be in demand. The prices of the older bonds will therefore have to fall justifying the lower returns offered by them.

So, rising interest rates imply lower prices and higher yields for existing bonds. Likewise, if the prevailing interest rates fall, it will make the existing bonds that offer higher interest rates more attractive. This in turn will push up their prices and bring down the yields.

In India, bonds or dated government securities (G – Secs) are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government of India with the maturity period ranging up to 30 years. Corporate bonds are issued by companies with tenors of up to usually 15 years. **(A)**

- 1029)** The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 promulgated on July 18, 2013 gives SEBI the authority to regulate any pooling of funds under an investment contract involving a corpus of _____ or more
- Rs.50 crore
 - Rs.10 crore
 - Rs.50 crore
 - Rs.100 crore
 - Rs.200 crore

President Pranab Mukherjee promulgated the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 on July 18, 2013. This was consequent to the approval of the Cabinet, which met on July 17, 2013, to amend Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act and related Acts for providing more powers to the capital markets regulator for enforcement against illegal Collective Investment Schemes and to curb insider trading. With the amendments in force now, SEBI would have powers to regulate any pooling of funds under an investment contract involving a corpus of Rs.100 Crore or more, attach assets in case of non-compliance and Chairman SEBI would have powers to authorize the carrying out of search and seizure operations, as part of efforts to crack down on ponzi schemes. **(D)**

- 1030)** Retail investors and high net-worth (HNI) individuals can invest in inflation-indexed bonds (IIBs) through the online investment portal 'Samridhi' launched by which of the following in July 2013?
- SBI
 - Axis Bank
 - IDBI Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - HDFC Bank

IDBI Bank has modified its online investment portal 'Samridhi' to enable retail investors and high net-worth (HNI) individuals to invest in inflation-indexed bonds (IIBs) in July 2013. The Government introduced such bonds in June to offer investors an alternative to investing in physical assets, such as gold and real estate. The bonds seek to provide inflation protection to both principal and interest payments. To ensure liquidity, IDBI Bank will play the role of a market-maker, providing bid-ask quotes for the bonds. To encourage investment in these instruments, the bank will not charge any brokerage. An investor can buy and sell bonds worth Rs 10,000 (minimum face value) and in multiples of Rs 10,000 thereafter, subject to a maximum of Rs 25 lakh per deal. All that an investor needs to have to transact in IIBs through the portal is a bank account (with any bank), demat account and an Internet connection on a desktop, laptop or mobile phone. **(C)**

- 1031)** Who among the following resigned from the board of the Reserve Bank of India in July 2013?
- Azim Premji
 - Anil Kakodkar
 - Kiran Karnik
 - Yezdi H. Malegam
 - Kumar Mangalam Birla

Kumar Mangalam Birla on July 23, 2013 said he had resigned from the board of the Reserve Bank of India to avoid any conflict of interest as his group firm applied for a bank licence. Birla was a nominated as a member of the directors of the Central Board of the RBI in 2006. His group firm Aditya Birla Nuvo is among 26 entities, which have applied for a bank licence. The last date for applying for a bank licence expired on July 1. The RBI is expected to grant new licences by March 2014. **(E)**

- 1032)** Which foreign bank's business banking, credit cards and mortgage businesses in India was acquired by the Ratnakar Bank in August 2013?
- HSBC
 - Citibank
 - Bank of America

- d) Royal Bank of Scotland
e) Standard Chartered Bank

Ratnakar Bank on August 9, 2013 said it will acquire Royal Bank of Scotland's business banking, credit cards and mortgage businesses in India. In the process, the Kolhapur-headquartered private sector bank will gain over 1.2 lakh RBS customers across the three business segments. RBS employees associated with these businesses are proposed to be absorbed by the bank. RBS has a high-value current account and forex business. Its mortgage business is 8-12 months old and this will add to the portfolio. The acquisition of RBS' credit card business will help Ratnakar Bank foray into a new line of business. The three business segments are expected to help the bank enhance its CASA (current account savings account) deposits. RBS customers will also get access to Ratnakar Bank's network of 131 branches and 217 ATMs. (D)

- 1033** In Defence Production, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit is _____ under the Automatic route from July 16, 2013.
a) 26%
b) 49%
c) 51%
d) 74%
e) 100%

The Union Government has increased limits and relaxed rules for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in key sectors including defence, telecom, insurance, commodity exchanges and power exchanges. These major policy decisions were taken on July 16, 2013 at a meeting convened by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. They are aimed at boosting the flow of foreign funds in the light of a depreciating rupee against the dollar and a bid to turn around declining investor sentiment.

For basic and cellular services in the **telecom** sector, the government hiked the limit under the automatic route to 49 per cent and from 74 per cent to 100 per cent under the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route.

The 26 per cent FDI cap on **defence production** would now be under the automatic route and beyond 26 per cent the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) will take a decision on a case-to-case basis.

In **petroleum & natural gas refining, commodity exchanges, power exchanges, stock exchanges, depositories and clearing houses**, the cap has gone up to 49 per cent under the automatic route.

For **Asset Reconstruction Companies**, the 49 per cent cap has been brought under the automatic route and from 49 per cent to 100 per cent under the FIPB route. For **credit information companies**, the cap under automatic route has been hiked to 74 per cent.

In the case of **single-brand retail trading**, the 49 per cent limit has been brought under the automatic route and from 49 per cent to 100 per cent under the FIPB route.

Tea and other plantation companies: For this sector, up to 49 per cent FDI could come via automatic route, while that above this threshold will have to be vetted by FIPB.

Courier services: Courier services already enjoy 100 per cent FDI but now full investment could come via automatic route.

In the **insurance** sector, the government hiked the 26 per cent FDI limit to 49 per cent under the automatic approval route. This will come into effect only after approval by Parliament.

Decisions taken on FDI in the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on 16.7.2013		
Sector	Cap	Route
1. Petroleum and Natural Gas and Refining	49%	Automatic
2. Commodity Exchanges	49%	Automatic
3. Power Exchanges	49%	Automatic
4. Stock Exchanges, Depositories, Clearing houses	49%	Automatic
5. Asset Reconstruction companies	Upto 49%	Automatic
	49% to 100%	FIPB
6. Credit Information companies	74%	Automatic

7. Single Brand Retail trading	Upto 49%	Automatic
	49% to 100%	FIPB
8. Basic and Cellular Services, etc.	Upto 49%	Automatic
	49% to 100%	FIPB
9. Courier Services	100%	Automatic
10. Defence Production	Upto 26%	Automatic
	Above 26%	CCS to decide on a case-to-case basis
11. Tea and other plantation companies	Upto 49%	Automatic
	49% to 100%	FIPB

Ans –(E)

- 1034** Which of the following was world's largest bourse in terms of volume in equity trade in June 2013, according to the World Federation of Exchanges?
a) BSE
b) NSE
c) MCX
d) LSE
e) NYSE

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on July 18, 2013 regained its position as the world's largest bourse in terms of volume in equity trade in June, according to latest data from the World Federation of Exchanges. After maintaining its lead in the first three months of 2013, NSE had slipped to the second slot in April and May. NSE registered 11.2 crore trades on its platform, making it the world's top exchange among the 50 bourses listed with WFE. Meanwhile, NSE was also ranked first in the number of equity trades for the first half of 2013 with 71.18 crore trades. NSE was followed by NYSE Euronext and Nasdaq OMX at the second and the third positions. China's Shenzhen SE was fourth. BSE stood at the eighth place. Among the top ten are Korea Exchange (5th), Shanghai SE (6th), Japan Exchange Group-Tokyo (7th), Canada's TMX Group (9th) and BM&FBOVESPA (10th). (B)

- 1035** The ownership of minerals such as iron ore and coal vested with the _____, the Supreme Court ruled on July 15, 2013
a) Union Government
b) State Government
c) Owner of the land
d) None of the above

Ownership of minerals should be vested with the owner of the land and not with the government, the Supreme Court has said. A three-judge bench, headed by R M Lodha, on July 15, 2013 said there was no law in the country which declared that the state was the owner of sub-soil or mineral wealth. Referring to various Acts regulating extraction of underground natural resources, the Bench said the laws did not anywhere declare the proprietary right of the state. It rejected the argument that individual owners could not claim any proprietary right on the sub-soil resources as Section 425 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, prohibited carrying out of any mining activity in this country except in accordance with a permit, licence or mining lease. The bench passed the order on a petition filed by a few land owners of Kerala challenging the verdict of the high court which had passed the order in favour of the state government. (C)

- 1036** Who among the following was appointed as the Presiding Officer at the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) in July 2013?
a) Santosh Nayar
b) Anurag Jain
c) JP Devadhar
d) N. K. Sodhi
e) A.S. Lamba

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on July 16, 2013 got a new Presiding Officer with the appointment of JP Devadhar, a former Justice at Bombay High Court. The post at SAT, a statutory body that hears the appeals filed against the orders passed by capital market regulator SEBI, was lying vacant since November, 2011, when the last presiding officer Justice N. K. Sodhi retired. Apart from the Presiding Officer, the other two members at SAT are: Jog Singh and A. S. Lamba. (C)

- 1037)** Which state's Dharmavaram saris were cleared for inclusion in Geographical Indications (GI) registry recently?
- Tamil Nadu
 - Kerala
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Karnataka
 - Maharashtra

Nagpur oranges, the tribal Warli art of Maharashtra, Dharmavaram saris and Kerala's Kaippad rice have been cleared for inclusion in Geographical Indications (GI) registry in the country at a consultative expert meeting organised by Controller General of Patents at Hyderabad on July 26, 2013. They will be notified after providing four months for the public to file its objections. The Warli tribal art, representing the folklore of the Warli tribe, is mostly practised by women and has become popular among the art connoisseurs in recent times. The famous saris coming from Dharmavaram, a weaving cluster in Ananthapur of Andhra Pradesh, have been described by the Andhra Pradesh Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. as saris with broad solid colour borders with contrast pallus woven with brocaded gold patterns. Kaippad rice is the system of paddy cultivation in brackish water. (C)

- 1038)** Which state has launched the Priyadarshini Awas Yojana (PAY) for houses for economically and socially-deprived sections in July 2013?
- Delhi
 - Haryana
 - Rajasthan
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh

At least 50,000 families have been identified for Haryana's Priyadarshini Awas Yojana (PAY), aimed to provide houses to economically and socially-deprived sections. "The process of registration and sanction of funds to the listed beneficiaries is going in full swing," said an official release in Chandigarh on July 19, 2013. The PAY is a demand-based 100 per cent state-funded scheme, which aims at providing houses to 200,000 families in the rural areas. The project is estimated to cost Rs 1,350 crore. Each of the selected beneficiaries will be provided grant of Rs 90,100, including Rs 81,000 for house and Rs 9,100 for toilet. The PAY scheme aims at facilitating housing delivery in rural areas to such eligible families on the permanent waiting list of Andhra Awas Yojana that have not been given the benefit yet. The District Rural Development Agency has been entrusted with the task of identifying the beneficiaries. (B)

- 1039)** Which state added 'nutrition' to its Food Security Act passed in July 2013?
- Goa
 - Kerala
 - Rajasthan
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Himachal Pradesh

Chhattisgarh government had amended its Food Security Act 2012 to add 'nutrition' as it had been providing nutritious items to the beneficiaries under the scheme. The amendment bill was passed in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on July 16, 2013. The new Act would now be called "Chhattisgarh Food and Nutrition Security Act, 2012". The Chhattisgarh Food Security Bill 2012 was passed on December 21, 2012. Under the Act, about 90 per cent of the population of Chhattisgarh will have public distribution system entitlements, mostly under the priority and Antyodaya categories, entitled to 35 kg of rice per month at a token price of Rs 2 and Rs 1 (Rs 2 for BPL and Rs 1 for Antyodaya), besides 2 kg of pulses (chana) at Rs 5 per kg and free iodised salt. "Since the scheme would provide chana, dal and iodised salt that have rich nutritious values, the Act had been amended to include nutrition security also," Chief Minister Raman Singh said. The Act also guarantees free nutritious meals or take-home rations in anganwadis, schools and other institutions for children below the age of six, school children, pregnant and lactating women, destitute persons and other vulnerable groups. (D)

- 1040)** Which state launched the 'Hausla' awareness campaign to improve family health in 75 districts in July 2013?
- Haryana
 - Rajasthan
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Madhya Pradesh

Launching the 'Hausla' awareness campaign to improve family health in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on July 15, 2013 said "better health for our mothers and children spells a better future for the whole State". The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister urged UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and government and non-government agencies, as well as the general public to contribute towards the success of this campaign. (D)

- 1041)** Which state announced plans to expand its Jala Samvardhane scheme for community management and rejuvenation of tanks to improve availability of water resources in July 2013?

- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh

Karnataka Water Resources Minister M.B. Patil on July 17, 2013 indicated to the Legislative Council that the State might revive the Jala Samvardhane scheme aimed at community management and rejuvenation of tanks. The Jala Samvardhane scheme, is an ambitious project of Karnataka to rehabilitate 5000 traditional tanks at an estimated cost of Rs 1000 crore over a period of five years with WB assistance with the intention of restoring the lost command area under these tanks on account of siltation, disrepair etc. (B)

- 1042)** Who among the following created a new world record for batting the maximum number of hours at The Oval cricket ground in London after batting for 26 hours on July 16, 2013?
- Joe Roots
 - Alby Shale
 - Wilkes Hall
 - Curt Howard
 - Ron Cunningham

A British graduate on July 16, 2013 broke the record for batting the maximum number of hours at The Oval cricket ground in London after batting for 26 hours. Alby Shale, a 22-year-old from Oxfordshire in southern England, began his marathon stand in the indoor nets at 6:45 am on July 15 and finally declared his innings at 8:45 am on July 16. The attempt was in aid of the Rwanda Cricket Stadium Foundation – a charity set up to build the first proper cricket ground in the African country. The previous batting record of 25 hours was set in October by Australian batsman Jade Child. (B)

- 1043)** Who among the following sprinters were banned for failing dope tests in July 2013?
- Tyson Gay
 - Yohan Blake
 - Asafa Powell
 - Both (a) & (b)
 - Both (a) & (c)

Tyson Gay and Asafa Powell sent shockwaves through the athletics world on July 14, 2013 when both sprinters failed drug tests. Gay, the 30-year-old American who was world champion in 100 m in 2007 and the fastest man in the world in 2013, tested positive for a banned substance and immediately withdrew from the world championships in Moscow in August. Jamaica's Powell, a former 100m world record holder, tested positive for a banned stimulant at his country's national trials for Moscow. American Gay had posted the fastest 100m time of 2013 with 9.75sec. Powell is the fourth fastest man in history, behind Usain Bolt, Tyson Gay and Yohan Blake. Among women athletes, Jamaica's double Olympic 200m champion Veronica Campbell-Brown also failed dope test. (E)

- 1044)** Who among the following won the 19th Commonwealth Chess Championship organised at Port Elizabeth in South Africa in July 2013?
- G. Akash
 - Abhijeet Gupta
 - M.R. Lalith Babu
 - Dibyendu Barua
 - Soumya Swaminathan

Former world junior champion Abhijeet Gupta (2543) won the 19th Commonwealth chess championship by garnering nine points from 11 rounds at Port Elizabeth in South Africa on July 16, 2013. Grandmaster Abhijeet, along with Ukraine's Fedorchuk Sergey (2667) and the Netherlands' Tivikov Sergei (2654) finished on top but was declared winner as per Buchholz system. India's Dibyendu Barua (2431), G. Akash (2332), Soumya Swaminathan (2301) and defending champion M.R. Lalith Babu (2571) finished joint second along with four others with 8.5 points. South African president Jacob Zuma lauded Abhijeet on his achievement and handed a gold medal to the 23-year-old Grandmaster. (B)

- 1045)** Which newspaper group announced plans to launch an English daily named 'National Standard' in South India in July 2013?
- The Times of India
 - Hindustan Times
 - Indian Express
 - Dainik Bhaskar
 - The Hindu

The Mumbai-based Indian Express Group is ready to launch new English daily, National Standard, in South India. The newspaper would initially be launched in Bangalore. This would be followed by launches in Chennai and Hyderabad. Shekhar Gupta, editor-in-chief of The Indian Express, on July 25, 2013 confirmed the development. On the agreement signed between the two Express groups, Gupta said according to the 1995 agreement, "We cannot launch a paper called Indian Express in the south". In 1999, eight years after the death of the group's founder Ramnath Goenka, the group was split between family members. While editions in the South and Odisha began to be brought out under the name The New Indian Express, north-focused editions, based in Mumbai, changed the name from Indian Express to The Indian Express. (C)

1046) Anil Khanna is associated with administration of which sport in India?

- Tennis
- Squash
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Table tennis

The President of the All India Tennis Association (AITA), Anil Khanna, was elected as one of the Directors of the International Tennis Federation Board for a fifth term in the ITF's Centenary AGM held in Paris on July 19, 2013. Khanna had earlier served four two-year terms till 2011, when his place from Asia was taken by a member from Thailand, the last time. Tarik Cherif (Tunisia), Sergio Elisás (Chile), Jean Gachassin (France), Jack Graham (Canada), David Haggerty (US), Stephen Healy (Australia), Juan Margets (Spain), Roman Murashkovsky (Russia), Stuart Smith (Britain), Rene Stammback (Switzerland), Jon Vegosen (US) and Georg von Waldenfels (Germany) were the others to be elected to the ITF Board as Directors. Francesco Ricci Bitti will continue to serve as the president of ITF till 2015. (A)

1047) Martina Hingis was inducted into which sport's International Hall of Fame in July 2013?

- Tennis
- Squash
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Table tennis

Former tennis great Martina Hingis was inducted into the International Hall of Fame in Newport, USA on July 13, 2013. Thelma Coyne Long, Cliff Drysdale, Charlie Pasarell and Ion Tiriac also entered the elite group for their contribution to the sport. Hingis, former Women's World No. 1 in both singles and doubles, collected 15 Grand Slam titles in total. (A)

1048) Who won the Men's Under-20 FIFA World Cup organised in July 2013?

- Spain
- France
- Germany
- Uruguay
- Cameroon

France clinched a maiden under-20 FIFA World Cup title on July 13, 2013 after defeating Uruguay 4-1 on penalties following a goalless draw in Istanbul. French goalkeeper Alphonse Areola saved spot-kicks from Emiliano Velazquez and Giorgian De Arrascaeta in the shootout before Dimitri Foulquier swept the winning penalty beyond Uruguay's Guillermo De Amores. Earlier, Ghana secured third place after beating Iraq 3-0. The results: Final: France 0 vs Uruguay 0, France wins 4-1 on penalties. Third place play-off: Ghana 3 (Attamah 35, Assifuah 45+1, Acheampong 78) bt Iraq 0. (B)

1049) The CONCACAF Gold Cup organised in July 2013 is a tournament in which sport?

- Cycling
- Football
- Athletics
- Fencing
- Canoeing

The United States capped off a dominant tournament with a 1-0 victory over Panama to capture the CONCACAF Gold Cup in Chicago on July 14, 2013. CONCACAF stands for Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football. Landon Donovan (USA), Chris Wondolowski (USA) and Gabriel Torres (Panama) were the top scorers in the tournament with five goals each. Former German footballer Juergen Klinsmann was the coach of the US team. (B)

1050) Which club signed Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri for a two-year contract in July 2013?

- Shillong Lajong
- Prayag United
- JSW Sports
- Pune FC

e) Dempo

After mutually ending his contract with the Sporting Clube de Portugal reserve side, Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri on July 19, 2013 joined I-League new entrants JSW Sports in a two-year deal in one of the biggest signings of the domestic transfer market. Chhetri had one more year left in his two-year deal with the Portuguese side but he has ended his contract with Sporting Clube de Portugal on mutual agreement. (C)

1051) Shuttle Express is an initiative of:

- Indian Golf League
- Indian Premier League
- Indian Hockey League
- Indian Football League
- Indian Badminton League

Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal July 12, 2013 launched The Indian Badminton League's (IBL) school programme initiative at Noida. The programme, called Shuttle Express, will be taken next to Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow and Bangalore. The league is an initiative by the Badminton Association of India, with Sporty Solutionz as its commercial partner. Matches will be played in these cities over two days and the national finals will be held in Mumbai, which will be telecast live from August 28 to 31, as part of the IBL. Besides the cash reward the finalist will get an opportunity to train at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad. (E)

1052) Which of the following was given to the winner of the Tour de France race organised in July 2013?

- Green Jersey
- Blue Jersey
- White Jersey
- Yellow Jersey
- Brown Jersey

Britain's Chris Froome won the 100th edition of the 3404 km Tour de France and the coveted Yellow Jersey on July 22, 2013. It is Britain's second successive victory in the race - Froome's Team Sky colleague Sir Bradley Wiggins became the first Briton to win it in 2012. Froome had finished runner-up in 2012, and became the favourite for this year's race after Wiggins elected not to defend his title because of injury problems. The 28-year-old brought the yellow jersey home in emphatic style, ahead of Colombia's Nairo Quintana and Joaquim Rodriguez of Spain. Top 5: 1. **Chris Froome** (GB) Team Sky; 2. **Nairo Quintana** (Colombia) Movistar; 3. **Joaquim Rodriguez** (Spain) Katusha; 4. **Alberto Contador** (Spain) Saxo-Tinkoff; 5. **Roman Kreuziger** (Czech Republic) Saxo-Tinkoff (D)

1053) The Union government decided to extend the coverage of Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme to which of the following from July 2013. It will be administered in the form of:

- Powder
- Syrup
- Injection
- Tablets
- None of the above

In a major initiative to address adolescent anaemia, the government launched a Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme from Karnataka from July 17, 2013. Supervised Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) was administered, and sessions were held in schools and Anganwadi centres to counsel adolescents and their care-givers on nutrition and related health issues. WIFS, which is already being implemented in some States for pregnant and lactating mothers, will cover the population in the age group 10-19. Almost 50 per cent of nutritional deficiency-related anaemia is Iron Deficiency Anaemia which is a result of under-nutrition and poor dietary intake of iron. Anaemia in adolescents results in poor physical growth, reduced school performance and diminished concentration in daily tasks. In adolescent girls, it enhances the risk of preterm delivery and of their having low birth weight babies who are not likely to reach the age of one. The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has suggested to the States that a day in a week, preferably Monday, be earmarked for providing IFA tablets to adolescents. (D)

1054) Which of the following has developed an eco-friendly hydrogen-powered bus in association with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in July 2013?

- Mahindra & Mahindra
- Asia Motor Works
- Ashok Leyland
- Tata Motors
- Volvo

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Tata Motors have developed a hydrogen-powered bus. The Tata Starbus - Fuel Cell is a compressed natural gas (CNG) type of bus using hydrogen bottles as fuel. "This environment-friendly bus is ideal for stop and go applications and is built on rear module low entry platform, equipped with a ramp facility, pneumatic door operations, and climate control features. The fuel cell technology makes this bus

completely clean and silent on-road," Tata Motors said on August 2, 2013. The vehicle has been developed following several years of research as Tata Motors had entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 2006 with ISRO to design and develop such a product. Accordingly, Tata Motors had set up a fuel cell power system test laboratory in Bangalore and later at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. (D)

- 1055)** The Supreme Court on July 18, 2013 declared the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) unconstitutional. The case referred to admissions for which of the following courses?
- Law
 - Medical
 - Journalism
 - Engineering
 - Management education

The Supreme Court on July 18, 2013 declared the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) unconstitutional. The Medical Council of India (MCI) and the Dental Council of India (DCI) had introduced the test for admission to graduate and postgraduate courses. Allowing a batch of petitions, a Bench of Chief Justice Altamas Kabir and Justices Anil R. Dave and Vikramajit Sen said in a majority 2-1 verdict that the test had the effect of depriving the States, state-run universities and all medical colleges and institutions, including those enjoying the constitutional protection, of their right to admit students to MBBS, BDS and postgraduate courses as per their own procedures, beliefs and dispensations. The Christian Medical College, Vellore; the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; several associations of private medical colleges; DD Medical College and DD Hospital, Tamil Nadu; and various individual colleges had filed petitions in High Courts and obtained an interim stay on the applicability of the NEET to them. On the MCI's petitions, these cases were transferred to the Supreme Court. (B)

- 1056)** According to the report, Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges in India, released in July 2013, environmental degradation costs India about \$80 billion, equivalent to 5.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), on an annual basis. The report has been prepared by:
- UNEP
 - WB
 - ADB
 - IMF
 - WEF

Environmental degradation costs India about \$80 billion, equivalent to 5.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), on an annual basis according to a World Bank report released on July 17, 2013. The report, Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges in India, focuses on particle pollution from the burning of fossil fuels, which has serious health consequences amounting to about three per cent of India's GDP, along with losses due to lack of access to clean water supply, sanitation and hygiene and natural resources depletion. Of this, the impacts of outdoor air pollution account for the highest share at 1.7 per cent, followed by cost of indoor air pollution at 1.3 per cent. According to the World Bank report, India can make green growth a reality, by putting in place strategies to reduce environmental degradation at the minimal cost of 0.02 per cent to 0.04 per cent of average annual GDP growth rate. The report analyses the physical and monetary loss of environmental health and natural resources, the trade-offs between economic growth and environmental sustainability, and provides a valuation for biodiversity and ecosystem services in India. "Like in many other countries, the debate over growth versus environment is also active in India. This report suggests there are low-cost options that could significantly bring down environmental damage without compromising long-term growth objectives," said Onno Ruhl, World Bank country director in India. The study, commissioned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, provides estimates of social and financial costs of environmental damage in India. (B)

- 1057)** Which of the following cities was named as the "most inventive city in the world" by Forbes magazine in July 2013 because of its highest per capita share in patents filed in 2012?
- Amsterdam
 - Rotterdam
 - The Hague
 - Eindhoven
 - Amstelveen

From cancer-busting ultrasound techniques to ways to boost vitamins in tomatoes, Dutch tech-hub Eindhoven's avalanche of patents has just earned it the crown of "most inventive city in the world." The city of around 750,000 has become a beacon of high-tech hope and is even compared to Silicon Valley in the United States. With 22.6 patents filed for every 10,000 residents, US-based Forbes magazine named Eindhoven the world's most inventive city in July 2013. Using a commonly-used metric for mapping innovation, called 'patent intensity', Forbes based its award on statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). (D)

- 1058)** Which of the following MNC banks has launched its new customer loyalty program christened 'Express Rewards' in India that allows customers to redeem the points for direct cash credit into their accounts in July 2013?
- HSBC
 - Citibank
 - Stanchart Bank
 - Deutsche Bank
 - Bank of America

Deutsche Bank customers can now convert reward points earned on banking transactions into cash later under its new loyalty program. Christened 'Express Rewards', the loyalty program allows customers to redeem the points for direct cash credit into their accounts via online or phone banking. The program has been launched to encourage bank account usage, especially e-banking, said the bank in a news release on July 15, 2013. Customers can earn reward points through a variety of transactions including online utility bill payments, purchases made through the Deutsche debit card, shopping online using db DirectDebit facility, auto debit transactions for Home loan or Personal loan EMI's. (D)

- 1059)** "Tears you apart" is a campaign launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in July 2013 to create awareness about the risks of:
- HIV
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
 - Anaemia
 - Malnutrition

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on July 17, 2013 launched a nation-wide National Tobacco Control Campaign called "Tears you apart". The Campaign aims to raise public awareness about the dangers of smokeless tobacco consumed by tens of millions of Indian every day. Smokeless tobacco is the most-used form of tobacco in India among lower socioeconomic groups and women in particular preferring smokeless tobacco over smoking forms. Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) found that 21 crore Indian use smokeless tobacco. 26% of adults consume smokeless tobacco in India – 33% of adult males and 18.4% of adult females. Smokeless tobacco includes: gutkha, zarda, paan masala, zarda, paan with tobacco, and khaini. The Campaign has been developed with technical support from World Lung Foundation. The Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) regulations prohibit use of tobacco or nicotine in any food product. About 33 states/UTs have issued instructions for implementation of the said regulation which prohibit production, storage and sale of gutkha and paan masala containing tobacco. (C)

- 1060)** The CCEA has allocated Rs.630 crore in July 2013 for a scheme of making the common person aware of the benefits envisaged in various Government welfare programmes. What is the scheme called?
- Development Communication and Information Delivery
 - Empowerment Communication and Information Delivery
 - Development Coordination and Information Dissemination
 - Empowerment Communication and Information Dissemination
 - Development Communication and Information Dissemination

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on July 17, 2013 approved the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for implementing the Plan Scheme "Development Communication and Information Dissemination" during the 12th Plan period (2012-17) with an outlay of Rs.630 crore. The Plan scheme envisages making the common person aware of the benefits envisaged in various Government schemes so that the benefit of these schemes is realized to the maximum possible extent. The scheme will be implemented by the media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through various modes of awareness generation such as; outdoor publicity, electronic and print media, Public Information Campaigns, press tours, conducted tours, people to people contact, special outreach programmes, live art and culture shows, the new media etc. (E)

- 1061)** Which of the following organised the International Conference on Achieving Literacy for All in New Delhi in July 2013?
- WB
 - FAO
 - WHO
 - UNICEF
 - UNESCO

India is to achieve 80% literacy rate in the next two years. This was stated by the HRD Minister M.M. Pallam Raju while inaugurating an International Conference on Achieving Literacy for All in New Delhi on July 18, 2013. The literacy rate of India is 73 per cent at present as per the 2011 Census. Speaking on the occasion, the UN Resident Coordinator Lise Grande complimented India for fighting illiteracy and making achievements in the field of education sector. However, she said that India should continue with its struggle against illiteracy. More than seventy crore people globally do not know reading, writing and arithmetic and most of them are in India, China, Pakistan and

Bangladesh. The three-day International Conference focussed on effective, innovative approaches to scale up literacy, reduce gender disparities and create a literate world. The Conference has been organized by National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), India along with UNESCO and UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). (D)

1062) The Supreme Court on July 18, 2013 ruled that there can be no reservation in appointment for faculty posts in speciality and super speciality courses in _____ colleges.

- Law
- Medical
- Journalism
- Engineering
- Management education

The Supreme Court on July 18, 2013 ruled that there can be no reservation in appointment for faculty posts in speciality and super speciality courses in medical colleges including the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). A five-judge constitutional bench headed by Chief Justice Altamas Kabir said it cannot take a contrary view expressed in 1992 by a nine-judge bench in the Indra Sawhney case, also known as the Mandal case, that there could be no compromise with merit at the super speciality stage. The court pronounced its verdict on the plea of the Faculty Association of AIIMS against a Delhi High Court judgement. (B)

1063) The Supreme Court refused to reduce the age of juvenile from _____ years and dismissed a plea that minors involved in heinous crimes should not be protected under the law in a verdict delivered in July 2013.

- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18

The Supreme Court on July 18, 2013 refused to reduce the age of juvenile from 18 to 16 years and dismissed a plea that minors involved in heinous crimes should not be protected under the law. A bench headed by Chief Justice Altamas Kabir said that interference in Juvenile Justice Act is not necessary and dismissed a batch of PILs which were filed in the aftermath of the December 16 brutal gangrape and murder case in which a minor was also allegedly involved. (E)

1064) The Delhi High Court on July 16, 2013 asked social networking site Facebook to upload a disclaimer on its home page that children below the age of _____ years cannot open an account on it.

- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16

The Delhi High Court on July 16, 2013 asked social networking site Facebook to upload a disclaimer on its home page that children below the age of 13 years cannot open an account on it. A division bench asked Facebook to not allow children Under 13 years from opening an account. Senior advocate Parag Tripathi, appearing for Facebook, assured the court that the site "will upload the disclaimer on its home page that children 13 years cannot open the account". The court also asked the Central government to tell it as to what law it had for the online protection of children from being abused through the social networking sites. The court was hearing a plea that said minors were allowed to open an account with social networking sites, including Facebook, which was illegal as Indian laws don't permit it. The public interest litigation petition was filed by former Bharatiya Janata Party ideologue K.N. Govindacharya. (B)

1065) A Supreme Court-appointed Judicial Commission on the use of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) submitted its report in July 2013. The Commission was headed by:

- Justice V. S. Sirpurkar
- Justice Santosh Hegde
- Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- Justice Markandey Katju
- Justice R. V. Raveendran

Highlighting the misuse of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA, a Supreme Court-appointed Judicial Commission on July 16, 2013 has noted that the Act has failed to tackle insurgency and that the armed forces were indulging in gross violation of human rights by operating under the shield of the controversial law. The Commission, which was headed by former judge Santosh Hegde with former Chief Election Commission J.M. Lyngdoh and retired IPS officer A.K. Singh as its members, was formed by the apex court to investigate alleged cases of extra judicial killings in Manipur. (B)

1066) The first _____ Survey of India was conducted by George Abraham Grierson.

- Seismic
- Maritime
- Wildlife
- Linguistic
- Topographic

While people in India presently speak in 780 different languages, the country has lost nearly 250 languages in the last 50 years. This was disclosed by The People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) in Kolkata on July 16, 2013. PLSI completed a comprehensive linguistic survey of the country and would publish its reports in 50 volumes contained in 72 books in September. This is the first linguistic survey carried out in the country after Irish linguistic scholar George Abraham Grierson conducted the Linguistic Survey of India from 1898 to 1928. The PLSI – a public consultation and appraisal forum – collaborated with 85 institutions and universities in the country to conduct the research. (D)

1067) Which neighbouring country receives subsidised supply of LPG and kerosene from India?

- Nepal
- Bhutan
- Myanmar
- Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh

Following the coming to power of a new government in Bhutan in July 2013, New Delhi expects that monarch Jigme Khesar Wangchuk's line on maintaining the primacy of the India relationship will be carried forward. The relationship has been under considerable stress over the last year, with outgoing Prime Minister Jigme Y Thinley's decision to meet former Chinese prime minister Wen Jiabao at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 upsetting New Delhi. India had recently reduced the subsidy for gas and kerosene to Bhutan. This was seen as a mark of India's displeasure with the Thinley regime. (B)

1068) The Medical Council of India approved the creation of 3000 additional MBBS seats in July 2013. What is the number of seats available in the country currently?

- 30,000
- 45,000
- 60,000
- 75,000
- 90,000

Government is set to create 3,000 new MBBS seats across the country taking the total number to over 48,000 in a move aimed at attaining the optimum doctor- population ratio. As a one-time measure, the Medical Council of India, the apex medical education regulator, on July 16, 2013 allowed government and recognised private medical colleges with 10 years of standing to increase their MBBS seats. While those medical colleges with 50 seats at present will be allowed to increase their seats to 100 and those with 100 seats now will be permitted to hike them to 150, as per the scheme. The grant of permission for new MBBS seats will be decided by July 31 following applications from various government and private medical colleges which have applied for increase of their seats. MCI has notified a new set of regulations – the 'Enhancement of Annual intake capacity in Undergraduate Courses in Medical Colleges for academic session 2013-14 only regulations, 2013'. MCI will have to later carry out a physical verification and inspection of medical facilities and infrastructure at medical colleges where the seats are being increased. There are a total of 362 medical colleges in the country, with over 45,000 MBBS seats in them across the country. (B)

1069) July 28, 2013 was observed as World _____ Day.

- Cancer
- TB
- Diabetes
- Hepatitis
- Parkinson's disease

Viral hepatitis – a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E – affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, causing acute and chronic disease and killing close to 1.4 million people every year. On World Hepatitis Day, 28 July 2013, WHO and partners focus on the fact that although the burden of disease caused by viral hepatitis is growing, it remains largely ignored or unknown to many policymakers, health workers and the public. The theme for 2013 was 'This is hepatitis. Know it. Confront it'. (D)

1070) Which of the following pairs of people and their companies in IT/e-commerce sector is/are matched correctly?

- Tim Cook – Cisco
- Steve Ballmer – Amazon
- Jeff Bezos – Microsoft
- Marissa Meyer – Yahoo
- None of the above

Tim Cook is CEO of Apple; Steve Ballmer is CEO of Microsoft; Jeff Bezos is CEO of Amazon; Marissa Meyer is CEO of Yahoo (D)

- 1071)** Which state organised the annual Hemis Festival in June 2013 to commemorate the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tantric Buddhism in Tibet?
- J&K
 - Sikkim
 - Manipur
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh

The annual Hemis Festival was organised on June 18-19, 2013 in Leh, Jammu & Kashmir to commemorate the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tantric Buddhism in Tibet. (A)

- 1072)** Which of the following pairs of Indians who are CEOs of multinational companies is matched correctly?
- Ivan Menezes – Diageo
 - Rakesh Kapoor – Mastercard
 - Ajay Banga – Reckitt Benckiser
- I only
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - I, II and III

Rakesh Kapoor is CEO at Reckitt Benckiser; Ajay Banga is President & CEO at Mastercard; Ivan Menezes is CEO at Diageo (A)

- 1073)** Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed on _____, 2013.
- July 26
 - July 27
 - July 28
 - July 29
 - July 30

As the nation marked the 14th anniversary of the Kargil war on July 26, 2013, Defence Minister A. K. Antony and the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force paid tributes to the martyrs at Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi. A candlelight tribute was also paid to martyrs on the eve of the Kargil Vijay Diwas in Jammu and Kashmir's Dras sector. A number of events were organised across the country to commemorate the heroism displayed by the soldiers who laid down their lives during the Indo-Pak war in Kargil in 1999. The Kargil war, which began in May 1999, lasted more than two months before Pakistani soldiers withdrew from the mountain tops they had occupied overlooking the Srinagar-Leh highway. In the battle with Pakistani forces, the Army nearly lost 500 officers, soldiers and jawans, many of whom were posthumously felicitated with gallantry awards (A)

- 1074)** The Bombay Police (Amendment) Act, 2005 was in news in July 2013 for which of the following reasons?
- Encroachment of government land
 - Permission for political rallies
 - Action against power thefts
 - Ban on dance bars
 - Security of VVIPs

The Supreme Court on July 16, 2013 upheld a Bombay High Court verdict quashing the state government's 2005 order banning dance bars in Mumbai. A bench comprising Chief Justice Altamas Kabir and Justice S. S. Nijjar also vacated its stay order on implementation of the high court judgement. The Maharashtra government had in 2005 brought in an amendment in the Bombay Police (Amendment) Act, 2005, which was challenged in the High Court by an association representing restaurants and bars. The High Court in 2006 had quashed the government's decision. The state government had moved the apex court against the High Court's order that same year. Various organisations representing dance bars, restaurants and bar girls had argued that the preamble of the Bombay Police (Amendment) Act, 2005, which had been struck down by the high court as unconstitutional, holds that dance performances for public amusement were permissible. (D)

- 1075)** Petitions filed by advocate Manohar Lal Sharma and others refer to which of the following?
- 2G scam
 - Adarsh land scam
 - Coal allotment scam
 - Defence procurement scam
 - Commonwealth Games scam

In its reply to the Centre's proposal on conferring autonomy, the CBI on July 16, 2013 told the Supreme Court that it was agreeable to the Director and officers being appointed by a Committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader

of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or a judge nominated by him. But the views of the outgoing CBI Director should be considered, the agency said. The Centre had, in its affidavit, explained the steps it proposed to take to insulate the CBI from government interference in its investigations as well by amending the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act. The affidavit came on the petitions filed by advocate Manohar Lal Sharma and others in the coal allotment scam case. On the Centre's move to fix two-year tenure for the CBI Director, the agency said it should be three years. The CBI agreed with the proposal that investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under all statutes except the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) "shall vest with the Central government." Investigation of PCA cases would be done under the supervision of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). (C)

- 1076)** June 12, 2013 was observed as which of the following?
- World Malaria Day
 - World No Tobacco Day
 - World Tuberculosis Day
 - World Blood Donor Day
 - World Autism Awareness Day

12 June 2013 -- World Blood Donor Day, celebrated on 14 June every year, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. With the slogan "Give the gift of life: donate blood", this year's campaign, the 10th anniversary of World Blood Donor Day, will focus on the value of donated blood to the patient, not only in saving life, but also in helping people live longer and more productive lives. (D)

- 1077)** Which of the following was changed in its mid-quarter review of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 17, 2013?
- Bank rate
 - Repo Rate
 - Cash Reserve Ratio
 - All the above
 - None of the above

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 17, 2013 expressed concern over inflationary pressures emanating from high food prices and a depreciating rupee in its mid-quarter review of monetary policy. The central bank left key rates that include the repo and the cash reserve ratio (CRR) unchanged at 7.25 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. The repo is the rate at which the RBI provides short-term liquidity to banks while the CRR is the portion of bank deposits that must be maintained with the apex bank. Explaining why he chose not to cut interest rates, RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao said there could be upside pressure on inflation due to the impact of a declining rupee apart from recent increases in administered prices and persisting imbalances, particularly relating to food. The central bank was unequivocal in pointing out that only a "durable receding" of inflation would open up the space for monetary policy to consider rate cuts to address risks to growth. (E)

- 1078)** The RBI on June 21, 2013 decided to carve out a separate sub-sector called Commercial Real Estate – Residential Housing (CRE-RH) from the Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Sector. The CRE-RH would consist of loans to builders/developers for residential housing projects. The CRE-RH segment will attract a lower standard asset provisioning of _____ as against 1.00% for the CRE segment.
- 0.25%
 - 0.40%
 - 0.50%
 - 0.75%
 - 0.90%

As loans to the residential housing projects under the Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Sector exhibit lesser risk and volatility than the CRE Sector taken as a whole, the RBI on June 21, 2013 decided to carve out a separate sub-sector called Commercial Real Estate – Residential Housing (CRE-RH) from the CRE Sector.

CRE-RH would consist of loans to builders/developers for residential housing projects (except for captive consumption) under CRE segment. Such projects should ordinarily not include non-residential commercial real estate. However, integrated housing projects comprising of some commercial space (e.g. shopping complex, school, etc.) can also be classified under CRE-RH, provided that the commercial area in the residential housing project does not exceed 10% of the total Floor Space Index (FSI) of the project. In case the FSI of the commercial area in the predominantly residential housing complex exceeds the ceiling of 10%, the project loans should be classified as CRE and not CRE-RH.

The above-mentioned CRE-RH segment will attract a lower risk weight of 75% and lower standard asset provisioning of 0.75% as against 100% and 1.00%, respectively for the CRE segment.

Banks are required to make provisions and risk-weight for their housing loans to individuals as per the amount of loans as also the Loan to Value (LTV) ratio for such loans. It has been decided to rationalise the prudential norms on risk-weight, provisioning and LTV ratio for individual housing loans, CRE and CRE-RH exposures, as under:

Category of Loan	LTV Ratio (%)	Risk Weight (%)	Standard Asset Provisioning (%)
(a) Individual Housing Loans			
(i) Up to Rs. 20 lakh	90	50	0.40
(ii) Above Rs. 20 lakh and up to Rs. 75 lakh	80	50	0.40
(iii) Above Rs.75 lakh	75	75	0.40
(b) CRE-RH	N A	75	0.75
(c) CRE	N A	100	1.00

Note: 1 - The LTV ratio should not exceed the prescribed ceiling in all fresh cases of sanction. In case the LTV ratio is currently above the ceiling prescribed for any reasons, efforts shall be made to bring it within limits.

2 - Banks' exposures to third dwelling unit onwards to an individual will also be treated as CRE exposures **Ans: D**

1079) The Reserve Bank on June 10, 2013 imposed a monetary penalty on Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank for violating RBI instructions under the:

- Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 2006
- The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The Reserve Bank on June 10, 2013 imposed a monetary penalty on Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank for violating Reserve Bank of India instructions. The details of the penalty are: Axis Bank Ltd. – Rs. 500.10 lakh; HDFC Bank Ltd. – Rs. 450.00 lakh; ICICI Bank Ltd. – Rs. 100.10 lakh. The penalties have been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the Reserve Bank under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. It may be recalled that the Reserve Bank of India had carried out a scrutiny of books of accounts, internal control, compliance systems and processes of these three banks at their corporate offices and some branches during March/April 2013 to investigate into the allegations of contravention of KYC/AML guidelines against them. **(B)**

1080) Which of the following launched an Infrastructure Debt Fund scheme in which Canara Bank and HUDCO are the Strategic Investors and Corporation Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce are among the other investors in June 2013?

- IDFC
- SIDBI
- IFCI
- REC
- IIFCL

Finance Minister Chidambaram launched the maiden Infrastructure Debt Fund (IDF) scheme of IIFCL Mutual Fund in New Delhi on June 18, 2013. The IDF will complement commercial banks in providing the required long term funding to infrastructure sector and help in addressing their Asset Liability Mismatch (ALM) problems.

The IDF scheme will mainly undertake investment in debt securities or securitized debt instruments of infrastructure companies, infrastructure capital companies or infrastructure projects, SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), Bank Loans etc. with the investment objective of capital appreciation and trade on the Stock Exchange, aimed at development of bond market in the country.

IIFCL is targeting an initial corpus of USD 1 billion by attracting both domestic and international investors.

Investors and promoters

IIFCL Asset Management Company Limited (IAMCL), an Asset Management Company (AMC) promoted by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) to manage the IIFCL Mutual Fund (IDF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three (3) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) including Canara Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce & Corporation Bank and two (2) Financial Institutions (FIs) including the IIFCL & HUDCO to launch maiden Infrastructure Debt Funds for catalysing investments by way of securitised debt instruments of Infrastructure Projects/Companies.

IIFCL Mutual Fund (IDF) has launched its maiden Infrastructure Debt Fund scheme with the support of investors – Canara Bank and HUDCO being the Strategic Investors and Corporation Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce & IIFCL being the other investors.

The Finance Minister later handed over In-Principle sanction approval letters issued by IIFCL Asset Management Company Limited (IAMCL) to one Power Project in Jharkhand and one Rural Water Project in Andhra Pradesh. Both the projects are in operational phase. **(E)**

1081) Who among the following benefit from depreciation in the value of Rupee against the dollar?

- Foreign tourists visiting India
- Indian students going for studies abroad
- Indian refineries using imported crude oil
- All the above
- None of the above

The rupee sank on June 20, 2013 to its lowest level ever at almost 60 to the dollar. One reason behind the fall in the rupee has been the country's high CAD, which is the difference between inflow and outflow of foreign currency. India's CAD had touched a record high of 6.7 per cent of the gross domestic product in the December quarter of last fiscal. This deficit was so far largely financed by inflows from foreign investors. However, the scary prospect is that fund inflows could start drying up after the US starts tapering its quantitative easing programme.

A depreciating rupee is not good news to many, particularly those who need dollars. Parents of students who are going abroad for studies will have to shell out more money or ask for higher loans from banks to fund the studying and other costs. While these costs are borne in dollars, banks provide education loans largely in rupees. A fall in rupee's value will also hurt importers. However a fall in rupee's value is good news for export-oriented sectors like software and pharmaceuticals. It also benefits foreign tourists visiting India. All of them get more rupees when they convert their dollars earnings. **(A)**

1082) How many Ministers are there in the Union Cabinet after the new appointments made in June 2013?

- 47
- 57
- 67
- 77
- 87

In a cabinet reshuffle on June 18, 2013, two seniors from poll-bound Rajasthan, Sis Ram Ola and Girija Vyas, made a comeback to the cabinet, as did another veteran, Oscar Fernandes from Karnataka. So did another entrant from a poll-bound state, K S Rao, a longtime Lok Sabha member from AP. With the fresh inductions, the strength of the Union Council of Ministers has gone up to 77.

New Ministers appointed at the Centre:

CABINET MINISTERS

Sis Ram Ola: Labour and Employment

Oscar Fernandes: Road Transport and Highways

Girija Vyas: Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation

Kavuri Sambasiva Rao: Textiles

MINISTERS OF STATE

Manikrao H. Gavit: Social Justice & Empowerment

Santosh Chowdhary: Health & Family Welfare

E.M.S. Nachiappan: Commerce and Industry

Jesudasu Seelam: Finance

CABINET MINISTER WITH NEW PORTFOLIO:

Mallikarjun Kharge, Minister for Labour and Employment, was allocated the portfolio of the Minister for Railways

CABINET MINISTERS: Oscar Fernandes: The Union Minister for Roads, Highways and Surface Transport Minister is a Rajya Sabha MP Karnataka. **Sis Ram Ola:** The new Labour and Employment is represents the Jhunjhunu constituency in Rajasthan in Lok Sabha. **Girija Vyas:** Union Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister Girija Vyas represents the Chittorgarh Lok Sabha constituency. **Kavuri Sambasiva Rao,** the new Textiles Minister, represents the Eluru Lok Sabha constituency in Andhra Pradesh. **Mallikarjun Kharge,** is a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Gulbarga constituency in Karnataka

MINISTERS OF STATE: Among new Ministers of State, Jesudasu Seelam, a former IAS officer, is a Rajya Sabha MP from Andhra Pradesh. He got Finance. 78-year old Manikrao Gavit, a Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha from the Nandurbar constituency in Maharashtra, has been allotted Social Justice and Empowerment portfolio. Santosh Chowdhury, the Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur Constituency of Punjab, was given Health & Family Welfare Ministry. EMS Nachiappan, a Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu was given Commerce and Industry. (D)

- 1083)** The Ministry of Environment and Forests had declared the 135-km stretch between Gaumukh and Uttarkashi, along the _____ River in Uttarakhand, as an eco-sensitive zone under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 in December 2012
- Tons
 - Sharda
 - Bhagirathi
 - Mandakini
 - Alaknanda

Heavy rains wreaked havoc in the hill states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh on June 16, 2013 leaving thousands stranded including pilgrims in transit in various valleys. In one of the largest operations in several decades, the Army and the Air Force on June 19, 2013 mounted massive rescue and relief operations in the flood and landslide affected areas of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. IAF's C 130J aircraft was launched for reconnaissance mission as a part of 'Operation Rahat' besides deploying other 20 aircrafts. The Army put in place and commenced execution of 'Operation Surya Hope' with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance and logistic needs in the flood-affected regions.

The Centre on June 21, 2013 appointed former Union Home Secretary V. K. Duggal as the nodal officer for relief and rescue operations in rain-ravaged Uttarakhand, saying lack of proper coordination was hampering its mitigation efforts.

The floods disrupted the Char Dham pilgrimage route of the Hindus and Hemkund Sahib – the sacred shrine of the Sikhs.

A notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on December 18, 2012 had declared the entire watershed around the 135-km stretch between Gaumukh and Uttarkashi, along the Bhagirathi river, as an eco-sensitive zone under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. This, in practice, bans all construction activity in the area. The State government has been opposing it stoutly, arguing that such an order will adversely affect development and the economic progress of the region. (C)

- 1084)** The Ministry of Rural Development launched the GOALS project for youth in Left Wing Extremism-affected states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha in June 2013. 'GOALS' is Governance and _____ Livelihoods Security.
- Advanced
 - Augmented
 - Assistance
 - Agriculture
 - Accelerated

In keeping with the efforts to enhance livelihood opportunities, the Ministry of Rural Development in June 2013 introduced a Governance and Accelerated Livelihoods Security project (GOALS) in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, which are affected by Left Wing Extremism. "I believe this is an important initiative that will facilitate improved access to services and entitlement and ensure sustainable and commercially viable enterprises, particularly for the women and youth of these backward areas," said Union Minister of Rural Development Jairam Ramesh in a letter to the Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh, and Odisha and Governor of Jharkhand. GOALS will be executed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. The objective is "strengthening the effectiveness of governance and livelihood promotion programmes" in Naxal-affected districts. (E)

- 1085)** Which of the following had the worst crime rate (with 817 cases registered per 1 lakh population) among cities in 2012 according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures, released in June 2013?
- Lucknow
 - Kochi
 - Indore
 - Gwalior
 - Kollam

Crime rate statistics in terms of offences coming under the ambit of the Indian Penal Code during 2012 have put Kerala on top with 455.8 cases for every 1,00,000 persons. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures, released in June 2013, put Madhya Pradesh, with a rate of 298.8, second, and Tamil Nadu, with a rate of 294.8, third.

In terms of absolute numbers, Madhya Pradesh is the topper with 2,20,335 offences. Maharashtra follows with 2,02,700 cases registered. Tamil Nadu comes third with 2,00,474 cases. Here Kerala is in the seventh position with 1,58,989 cases.

A total of 23,87,188 IPC cases were registered last year. In 2011 the IPC crime rate was 192.2 for every one lakh population. In 2012 it rose to 196.7, marking an increase of 2.3 percentage points.

Among the cities, Kochi is on top with a rate of 817.9. Indore follows with 762.6. Gwalior comes third with a figure of 709.3. Kollam comes fourth with a rate of 637.3.

The share of violent crimes in the total number of IPC crimes is 11.5 per cent: it was 11 per cent in 2011. State-wise, the highest rate of violent crimes is reported from Assam (54.2), followed by Manipur (44.6), Kerala (42.7) and Delhi (34.7).

At the all-India level the rate of violent crimes is 22.7 for a population of one lakh. Exactly 34,434 murder cases were registered last year: Uttar Pradesh topped with 4,966, or 14.4 per cent of the total.

There were 35,138 attempt to murder cases registered, and the highest was in Bihar — 5,452 or 15.5 per cent of the total. Rape cases numbered 24,923: the highest was in Madhya Pradesh, with 3,425. In 98.2 per cent of the rape cases, the offenders were known to victims.

The proportion of IPC crimes committed against women under total IPC crimes has increased during last five years from 8.9 per cent in 2008 to 9.4 per cent in 2012.

The cases under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act increased by 12 per cent from 2,435 in 2011 to 2,563 in 2012 with Tamil Nadu topping this list with 500 cases. Of a total of 2,44,270 cases of crimes against women registered, 53 major cities accounted for 36,662 cases. (B)

- 1086)** Who among the following resigned as the Convenor of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in June 2013?
- Sushil Kumar Modi
 - Sukhbir Singh Badal
 - Nitish Kumar
 - Sharad Yadav
 - Uddhav Thackeray

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on June 16, 2013 broke the 17-year-old alliance between his party, the JD(U), and the BJP. JD(U) national president Sharad Yadav also relinquished his position as the NDA Convenor. (D)

- 1087)** The Nitish Kumar government won the confidence vote in the Bihar Assembly in June 2013 following the end of an alliance between his JD(U) and the BJP. How many seats are there in the Assembly?
- 143
 - 193
 - 243
 - 293
 - 343

The Nitish Kumar government on June 19, 2013 sailed through the confidence vote in the Bihar Assembly with the support of four Congress legislators, an equal number of Independents and the lone CPI member, three days after the JD(U) snapped ties with the BJP. The government secured 126 votes, four more than the 122 required for simple majority in the 243 member assembly. A total of 126 votes, including 117 of JD(U), 4 of Congress, 1 of CPI and 4 of Independents, were cast in favour of the confidence motion. Twenty-four votes were recorded against the government — 22 of the RJD and two Independents. The 91 BJP members walked out, accusing the chief minister of "betraying" the people's mandate. The lone Lok Janshakti Party legislator abstained. (C)

- 1088)** The Union Ministry of Tourism announced the launch of a new campaign called "_____ days of the Indian Himalayas" to publicise the tourism potential of the Himalayas and promote this incredible tourist product internationally Tourism on June 19, 2013.
- 333
 - 444

- c) 555
- d) 666
- e) 777

K. Chiranjeevi, Union Minister of Tourism on June 19, 2013 announced the launch of a new campaign to publicise the tourism potential of the Himalayas and promote this incredible tourist product internationally. To be called "777 days of the Indian Himalayas", the campaign will have a twofold objective, one to attract more international tourists to India during the lean summer season and second, to remind the world that 73 percent of the Himalayan region is in India. This decision was taken after a meeting with the office bearers of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI). The Indian tourism industry has hailed this decision. (E)

- 1089)** Which of the following has developed a personal distress signalling device 'Nirbhaya' that will send SOS messages to police besides near and dear ones during any emergency faced by its user in June 2013?
- a) Bharat Electronic Ltd
 - b) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
 - c) Indian Satellite Research Organisation
 - d) Indian Institute of Science
 - e) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Mumbai has developed a personal distress signalling device 'Nirbhaya' that will send SOS messages to police besides near and dear ones during any emergency faced by its user. The compact low cost tele-distress alarm device will be linked to a cell phone that would send SMSs to the police and the family in case of distress, "whatever be its nature... kidnap, attack, robbery or heart attack," according a release by the BARC. The device, that is rugged and cannot be destroyed easily, has been named 'Nirbhaya.' after the December 16 Delhi gangrape victim. It can be easily carried around in a pocket or purse and requires a cell phone for its functionality, the release said. During an emergency, the user has to press a single switch on the device and it will automatically send signal on bluetooth to multiple cell phones along with its GPS location. (June 17, 2013) (B)

- 1090)** The first of the 10 Globemaster heavy-lift transport aircrafts contracted from the US arrived in India on June 18, 2013. The squadron of the Globemasters will be based at which of the following Air Force Stations?
- a) Hindon
 - b) Ambala
 - c) Thanjavur
 - d) Yelahanka
 - e) Barrackpore

India's ability to defend the 3,500-km Sino-India border got a boost with the arrival of its first Boeing C-17 Globemaster III at Hindon Air Force Station of the Western Air Command in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on June 18, 2013. The Globemaster is widely regarded as the world's most sophisticated, capable and expensive heavy-lift transport aircraft. The Indian Air Force (IAF) had contracted for 10 such aircrafts for Rs 22,800 crore (\$4.12 billion). Boeing is required to deliver the first five C-17s this year, and the remaining five in 2014. The new C-17 squadron -which the IAF has numbered 81 Squadron - is based at Hindon. (A)

- 1091)** Bahukutumbi Raman, who passed away at the age of 77 in June 2013, was associated with which of the following intelligence agencies?
- a) Director-General of Military Intelligence (DGMI)
 - b) Maharashtra Central Investigation Department (CID)
 - c) Intelligence Bureau (IB)
 - d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
 - e) Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

Bahukutumbi Raman, 77, one of the founders of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), passed away in Chennai on June 16, 2013. One of India's foremost security experts and often described as an asset by the Indian intelligence community, Raman was a former additional secretary with the Cabinet Secretariat. He was also the Director of the Institute for Topical Studies, Chennai. Author of several books, Raman was a critic of India's foreign policy. He used to write on security, counter-terrorism and military issues of India and South Asia. One of the few officers who witnessed the creation of RAW in 1968 by RN Kao, his analysis on Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China have been an asset to the intelligence community. In his memoir 'Kaoboy of Research and Analysis Wing: Down Memory Lane', he talked about his days in the agency. (E)

- 1092)** Satpal Dang, who passed away at the age of 93 in June 2013, was a member of which the following parties in Punjab?
- a) CPI
 - b) BJP

- c) BSP
- d) Congress
- e) Akali Dal

Veteran CPI leader and former MLA and Minister Satpal Dang (93) passed away in Amritsar on June 16, 2013. He was born in 1920 in Sheikhpura District of Lahore in Pakistan. Dang had returned the 'Padma Bhushan' conferred on him in 1998 and demanded abolition of all such awards as a person's contribution to society is judged by his deeds and not by honours. (A)

- 1093)** Balraj Mehta, who passed away at the age of 92 in June 2013, was an acclaimed:
- a) Scientist
 - b) Geologist
 - c) Journalist
 - d) Economist
 - e) Historian

Veteran journalist Balraj Mehta passed away in New Delhi on June 19, 2013 at the age of 92. He had a long association with The Indian Express as its economic editor till the 1980's. Later, he used to regularly contribute to the Economic and Political Weekly. (C)

- 1094)** The first Chinese _____ Festival was jointly organised by the governments of India and China in New Delhi from June 18 to June 23, 2013.
- a) Film
 - b) Science
 - c) Tourism
 - d) Culture
 - e) Friendship

The first Chinese Film Festival was jointly organised by the Chinese and the Indian Governments from June 18 to June 23 at in New Delhi. Jackie Chan's latest film 'Chinese Zodiac' was the opening film of the Festival. India and China are looking to strengthen co-operation in the area of films and broadcasting, and are also exploring the potential of co-production of films. This was discussed during the interaction between Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari and Cai Fuchao, the Chinese Minister of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television. India has also invited China to become the 'principal guest country' at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2014, scheduled to be held in Goa. (A)

- 1095)** As many as eighteen Indian films were screened at the _____ International Film Festival showcasing 100 Years of Indian Cinema organised in China from June 15 to 23, 2013.
- a) Harbin
 - b) Beijing
 - c) Chengdu
 - d) Shanghai
 - e) Guangzhou

Eighteen Indian films were screened at the Shanghai International Film Festival showcasing 100 Years of Indian Cinema organised from June 15 to 23, 2013. The opening ceremony was followed by screening of the award winning popular Indian movie 'Wake up Sid'. The SIFF, founded in 1993, is China's only A-category international film festival. In recent years, SIFF has become one of the largest film pageants in Asia-Pacific region in terms of scale and influence. (D)

- 1096)** The Indian government signed an agreement to receive loan of US\$ 255 million from World Bank for the _____ phase of the National AIDS Control Project (NACP) in June 2013.
- a) Second
 - b) Third
 - c) Fourth
 - d) Fifth
 - e) Sixth

An agreement for loan of US\$ 255 million (equivalent) from World Bank for the "National AIDS Control Project (NACP-IV)" was signed on June 18, 2013 between India and the World Bank. N. Mitash, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance signed on behalf of the Government of India and Onno Ruhl, Country Director, World Bank (India) on behalf of the World Bank. The Objective of the project is to increase safe behaviours among high risk groups in order to contribute to India's national goal of reversal of the HIV epidemic by 2017. Project Component: The Project has three components that include implementation at the national, State and district levels: (i)

Scaling-up Targeted Prevention Interventions; (ii) Behavior Change Communications; and (iii) Institutional Strengthening. The closing date of NACP IV is September 30, 2017. (C)

1097) Which country's 'Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Task Force' is being seen as a role model by the Indian government for dealing with terrorist attacks in urban areas?

- Israel
- France
- Russia
- Australia
- United Kingdom

India has evinced interest in the set up of an anti-extremism task force by the UK following the terror attack on the streets of London in May 2013. Minority Affairs Minister K. Rahman Khan, in London for talks with his ministerial counterparts, on June 21, 2013 sought information on the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Task Force chaired by British Prime Minister David Cameron. Rahman said he had plans to set up similar task force in India in reference to his discussions with UK secretary of state for communities and local government Eric Pickles. A British soldier Lee Rigby was killed on Woolwich in London by two suspected Islamists in full public view on May 22, following which the government formed the task force to crack down on extremism. (E)

1098) Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) was set up by the government of which SAARC country?

- Maldives
- Sri Lanka
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Nepal

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on June 18, 2013 said that he was deeply concerned about the welfare and the wellbeing of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister conveyed to the visiting Tamil National Alliance (TNA) delegation that he was dismayed by reports suggesting that the Government of Sri Lanka planned to dilute certain key provisions of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution ahead of elections to the Northern Provincial Council. The visiting Tamil National Alliance (TNA) delegation called on the Prime Minister in New Delhi on June 18. It was noted that the proposed changes raised doubts about the commitments made by the Sri Lankan Government to India and the international community, including the United Nations, on a political settlement in Sri Lanka that would go beyond the 13th Amendment. The changes would also be incompatible with the recommendation of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), set up by the Government of Sri Lanka, calling for a political settlement based on the devolution of power to the provinces. (B)

1099) India was the Guest of Honour Country at the _____ International Book Fair (SIBF) organised from June 19 to 23, 2013.

- Manila
- Seoul
- Tokyo
- Beijing
- Hanoi

Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Jitin Prasada went on a two-day visit (June 20, 21) to Seoul. He represented India as the Guest of Honour Country at the Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) 2013. Since 2013 is being celebrated as the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and South Korea, the significance of the Guest of Honour status of India at SIBF 2013 has increased all the more. Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) was inaugurated by President Park Geun Hye. (B)

1100) With the recognition of six Rajasthan Hill Forts as a serial World Heritage Site in June 2013, India now has 31 sites in UNESCO World Heritage List. 25 of them are Cultural while 6 are in Natural category. Which of the following is India's first Natural site recognised in 1983?

- Kaziranga National Park
- Jim Corbett National Park
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
- Keoladeo National Park
- Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks

The six Rajasthan Hill Forts of Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer, Ranthambore (Sawai Madhopur), Gagron (Jhalawar) and Amber (Jaipur) were recognised as a serial World Heritage Site in the 37th session of the World

Heritage Committee (WHC) organised in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from June 16 to 27, 2013. Taragarh Fort is in Bundi; Nahargarh Fort and Jaigarh Fort are in Jaipur; Mehrangarh Fort is in Jodhpur.

India's Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (31): **CULTURAL (25)** – Agra Fort (1983); Ajanta Caves (1983); Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989); Champamer-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004); Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004); Churches and Convents of Goa (1986); Elephanta Caves (1987); Ellora Caves (1983); Fatehpur Sikri (1986); Great Living Chola Temples (1987); Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986); Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984); Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987); Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013); Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993); Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986); Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhi Gaya (2002); Mountain Railways of India (1999); Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993); Red Fort Complex (2007); Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003); Sun Temple, Konarak (1984); Taj Mahal (1983); The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010); Rajasthan Hill Forts (2013) **NATURAL (6)**: Kaziranga National Park (1985); Keoladeo National Park (1985); Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985); Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988); Sundarbans National Park (1987); Western Ghats (2012) (A)

1101) Where was the Summit meeting of G-8 Leaders organised on June 19, 2013?

- Wales
- England
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- Ireland

Leaders of the Group of Eight nations said the worst has passed for the global economy following summit talks on promoting employment and growth. While the economic outlook is subdued, risks have abated, the G-8 said in a statement on June 19, 2013 Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. G8 is an informal, exclusive body aimed at tackling global challenges. It was established in Rambouillet, France in 1975 with France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US as original members. Canada joined in 1976 while Russia joined in 1998. **Profile: G8** – With no headquarters, budget or permanent staff, the Group of Eight is an informal but exclusive body whose members set out to tackle global challenges through discussion and action. The G8 comprises seven of the world's leading industrialised nations – France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US & Canada and Russia. (A)

1102) The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) won the 21st Century Achievement Award of the Computerworld Honors Program in the _____ category for its Aadhaar programme in June 2013.

- Economic Development
- Emerging Technology
- Human Services
- Mobile Access
- Sustainability

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on June 3, 2013 won the 21st Century Achievement Award of the Computerworld Honors Program in the 'Economic Development' category for its Aadhaar programme. Aadhaar allows residents to prove identity through biometrics; this technology innovation is targeted first at the 400 million people who can't prove their identity, thereby allowing them to participate in transactions and programs that require ID.

The Computerworld Honors Program, now in its 25th year, recognizes organizations that use information technology to promote and advance the public welfare, benefit society and business, and change the world for the better. This year's 267 Laureates are that rare group with the ability to recognize problems and the courage to take bold steps to solve them. They are an inspiring reminder that great things can happen when determined people explore technology's full potential.

All Laureates were selected after a rigorous application and review process. A panel of judges, made up of IT executives and Computerworld editors, chose the five finalists in each category, and from those, one 21st Century Achievement Award winner in each group.

Categories: Collaboration; Economic Development; Emerging Technology; Health; Human Services; Innovation; Mobile Access; Philanthropy; Safety & Security; Sustainability; World Good (A)

1103) Which of the following signed a MoU with Dubai-based DP World in June 2013 to develop a Rs.600-crore standalone container handling facility?

- Paradip
- V O Chidambaram
- Mormugao
- Jawaharlal Nehru (JNPT)
- Kandla

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai, on June 19, 2013, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nhava Sheva Gateway Terminal, a subsidiary of Dubai-based DP World, to develop a Rs.600-crore standalone container handling facility on a 27-hectare plot at JN Port container terminal. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Shipping Minister G. K. Vasan and DP World Chairman Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem. (D)

1104) The government on June 20, 2013 approved the Planning Commission's proposal to merge the 147 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and bring it down to _____ across various sectors for effective implementation and monitoring of the 12th Five Year Plan.

- a) 66
- b) 76
- c) 86
- d) 96
- e) 106

The government on June 20, 2013 approved the Planning Commission's proposal to merge the 147 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and bring it down to 66 across various sectors for effective implementation and monitoring of the 12th Five Year Plan. (A)

1105) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released the key indicators of household consumer expenditure in India on June 20, 2013. What was the average household monthly per capita expenditure in Urban Areas during 2011-12?

- a) Rs. 630
- b) Rs. 1,630
- c) Rs. 2,630
- d) Rs. 3,630
- e) Rs. 4,630

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on June 20, 2013 released the key indicators of household consumer expenditure in India generated from the data collected during July 2011-June 2012 in its 68th round survey. The average household monthly per capita expenditure during 2011-12 stood at around 1,430 for rural areas, a 35.7% increase compared to the 2009-10 survey and 2,630 for urban areas, a 32% jump. In 2009-10, urban expenditure was Rs 1,984.5 a month while the rural consumption figure of Rs 1,053.6 a month. The share of expenditure on food declined substantially from 53.6% to 48.6% in rural areas and from 40.7% to 38.5% in the urban areas. (C)

1106) India Post launched 'Logistics Post Air Service' on June 17, 2013 in a tie-up with:

- a) Jet Airways
- b) Air India
- c) SpiceJet
- d) IndiGo
- e) GoAir

India Post on June 17, 2013 announced the launch of 'Logistics Post Air Service' in association with Air India on select sectors linking 15 airports. The facility will be available at Agartala, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Imphal, Guwahati, Patna, Lucknow and Thiruvananthapuram airports. (B)

1107) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on January 21, 2013 asked Finance Ministry to make public the Rangachary Committee report on taxation of the _____ sector.

- a) Real estate
- b) Automobiles
- c) Capital markets
- d) Petroleum products
- e) Information Technology

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has asked Finance Ministry to make public the Rangachary Committee report on taxation of the IT sector. "Prime Minister directs Department of Revenue to make public report of Rangachary Committee on Taxation of Development Centres & IT Sector," the Prime Minister's Office said on June 21, 2013. The committee, headed by former Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman N Rangachary, was set up by the Prime Minister in July 2012. The panel had submitted its report in September, 2012 (E)

1108) Which state government runs the Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra scheme of skill development of people of the state especially youngsters and those in rural areas?

- a) Goa
- b) Bihar

- c) Kerala
- d) Odisha
- e) Gujarat

The Annual Plan for 2013-14 for the Gujarat was finalised on June 18, 2013 at a meeting between Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat. The Plan size has been agreed at Rs. 59,000 crore which includes the central assistance to the State Plan of about Rs. 3,979 crore. The Planning Commission noted the initiatives taken by the State in areas of infrastructure development, rural roads, and watershed management and also in the skill development. The Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra (KVK) has been recognised for its innovation and success.

Gujarat's Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra, the flagship scheme of the Directorate of Employment and Training to enhance skill development among the people has won the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2011-2012. The award was presented by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 21st April 2013, which is commemorated as National Civil Services Day. (E)

1109) The largest power-plant in North East India was inaugurated at _____ by President Pranab Mukherjee on June 21, 2013.

- a) Sikkim
- b) Tripura
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Nagaland
- e) Arunachal Pradesh

India and Bangladesh should collaborate in the power sector and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to friendship with India is important for the progress of the subcontinent, President Pranab Mukherjee said at Palatana, 62 km south of Agartala, on June 21, 2013. He lauded Bangladesh for extending help to install a gas-based 726 MW project at Palatana. Heavy equipment and turbines for the project were transported through water and roadways in Bangladesh. The President, who was on a two-day visit to the State, was inaugurating the first unit of the project, which is the single largest investment in the power sector so far in the north-east. However, uncertainty looms large over production from the plant owing to serious snags in machinery. OTPC (ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited) claimed the project was one of the largest Clean Development Mechanism projects of the world registered with the United Nations. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq A. Karim was present at the occasion. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas M. Veerappa Moily, junior minister Panabaka Lakshmi, Governor Devanand Konwar and Chief Minister Manik Sarkar were also present. (E)

1110) Which state government launched the Digital Bazar scheme of giving free mobile phones to farmers to enable them to access information on weather forecast, prices of foodgrains and other farming tips through free SMS and voice calls in June 2013?

- a) Goa
- b) Bihar
- c) Kerala
- d) Odisha
- e) Gujarat

The Odisha government on June 18, 2013 launched Digital Bazar scheme by distributing mobile phones among 5,000 farmers, who will benefit by staying updated with real-time market prices of farm produces. Along with prices of farm goods, they will be provided information on weather forecast and other farming tips through SMS and voice call, said a release from the government. The Digital Bazar, created with the help of IIT Kharagpur and Bharata Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), will be providing necessary information to the farmers. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who launched the scheme, said 2013 should be renamed as farmers' welfare year as the government has launched various programmes such as health insurance scheme for the benefit of 50 lakh farming families in the state. Under the 'Digital Bazar' scheme, a total of 20,000 farmers will be provided mobile phones. (D)

1111) Which of the following will host the 29th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (India chapter) in November 2013?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Kochi
- c) Kozhikode
- d) Kollam
- e) Alappuzha

Kochi will host the 29th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (India chapter) on November 8 and 9. Announcing this at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on June 19, 2013, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, accompanied by officials of the World Economic Forum Susanth Rao and Rachael Lang and his economic advisor Shafi Mather, said this was the second occasion that the annual meet of the forum's India chapter was being held outside Delhi. (A)

- 1112)** India won the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy hosted by England in June. The first 2013 ICC Champions Trophy was played in 2002. How many countries have won it more than once?
- 0
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

The 2013 ICC Champions Trophy was a One Day International cricket tournament held in England and Wales between 6 and 23 June 2013. Three cities hosted the tournament's matches: London (at The Oval), Birmingham (at Edgbaston) and Cardiff (at the SWALEC Stadium, known as Cardiff Wales Stadium for the tournament). England, captained by Alastair Cook, collapsed to a five-run defeat by India in a pulsating Champions Trophy final at Edgbaston in Birmingham on June 23, 2013. Chasing a modest 130 in a game reduced to 20 overs per side by rain, the hosts finished on 124-8 after James Tredwell missed the last ball of the innings with six required for victory. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin took 2-14 and slow left-armed Ravindra Jadeja 2-24 to complement his vital unbeaten 33 off 25 balls in India's 129-7.

Indian batsman Shikhar Dhawan won the 'golden bat' for scoring the most runs in the tournament. The opener scored 363 runs from five matches at an average of 90.75. He hit two centuries and a half-century with a highest of 114. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was given the 'golden ball' for picking the most number of wickets, 12, in the tournament. Jadeja was also declared the man of the match against for having scored an unbeaten 33 off 25 balls and taking 2/24 from his four overs.

Country	Years won
India	2002, 2013
Australia	2006, 2009
West Indies	2004
Sri Lanka	2002

India and Sri Lanka were joint winners in 2002. (C)

- 1113)** What was Saina Nehwal's performance in Women's Singles of Singapore Open Badminton organised in June 2013?
- Won the final
 - Lost in the final
 - Lost in semi-final
 - Lost in quarter-final
 - Lost in second round

World champion Wang Yihan won the Women's Singles title at Singapore Open Badminton when she beat her Chinese compatriot and Olympic gold medallist Li Xuerui 21-18, 21-12 on June 22, 2013. India's Saina Nehwal lost to Indonesia's Lindaweni Fanetri 21-17, 13-21, 13-21 in women's singles quarterfinals match on June 21. Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto won the Men's Singles title defeating Thailand's Boonsak Ponsana 20-22, 21-5, 21-17. China's Tian Qing and Zhao Yunlei won the Women's Doubles title while Men's Doubles title went to the Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan. Mixed Doubles title was won by Tontowi Ahmad and Lilyana Natsir of Indonesia. (D)

- 1114)** What was Saina Nehwal's performance in Women's Singles of Djarum Indonesia Open organised in June 2013?
- Won the final
 - Lost in the final
 - Lost in semi-final
 - Lost in quarter-final
 - Lost in second round

Top-seeded Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia beat Marc Zwiebler of Germany 21-15, 21-14 in 39 minutes to win the men's singles title at the Djarum Indonesia Open in Jakarta on June 16, 2013. In the women's singles final, Li Xuerui of

China was taken to three games before prevailing 21-16, 18-21, 21-17 over Juliane Schenk of Germany. Schenk had earlier beaten defending champion India's Saina Nehwal in the semi-final 21-12, 13-21, 14-21 on June 15, 2013. WINNERS: Men's Singles: Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia) beat Marc Zwiebler (Germany) 21-15, 21-14; Women's Singles: Li Xuerui (China) beat Juliane Schenk (Germany) 21-16, 18-21, 21-17; Men's Doubles: Mohd. Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia) beat Lee Yong-dae & Ko Hyun Sung (South Korea) 21-14, 21-18; Women's Doubles: Bao Yixin & Cheng Shu (China) beat Wang Xiaoli & Yu Yang (China) 15-21, 21-18, 21-18; Mixed Doubles: Zhang Nan & Zhao Yunlei (China) beat Joachim Fischer Nielsen & Christina Pedersen (Denmark) 24-22, 20-22, 21-12. (C)

- 1115)** England won the Men's World Team Squash Championship hosted by France in June 2013. What was India's position?
- Fifth
 - Sixth
 - Seventh
 - Eight
 - Ninth

India finished seventh in the Men's World Team Squash Championship organised in Mulhouse, France from June 9 to June 15, 2013. The Indian team comprised Mahesh Mangaonkar and Saurav Ghosal. England won the title beating defending champions Egypt in the final 2-1. (C)

- 1116)** Which of the following pairs of world's leading tennis players and their countries is matched correctly?
- Mikhail Youzhny – Ukraine
 - Marin Cilic – Serbia
 - Daniela Hantuchova – Slovakia
 - Donna Vekic – Czech Republic
 - All the above

Roger Federer won his first title of the year on June 16, 2013, beating Russia's Mikhail Youzhny 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4 in the ATP final at Halle Westphalia, Germany on June 16, 2013. This was the 31-year-old Federer's sixth Halle title and the 77th title win of his career. Meanwhile Andy Murray won the Men's Singles title at Queen's Club, London for the third time after roaring back to defeat defending champion Marin Cilic of Croatia 5-7, 7-5, 6-3. Meanwhile Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova won the WTA Aegon Classic singles title at Birmingham on June 16, 2013 defeating Croatia's Donna Vekic in the final 7-6(5), 6-4. (C)

- 1117)** Who among the following won the Tal Memorial Chess tournament organised in Moscow in June 2013?
- Viswanathan Anand
 - Sergey Karjakin
 - Boris Gelfand
 - Magnus Carlsen
 - Fabiano Caruana

World champion Viswanathan Anand ended his campaign with an easy draw against Sergey Karjakin of Russia in the ninth and final round of the Tal Memorial chess tournament that concluded in Moscow on June 24, 2013. Boris Gelfand of Israel won the tournament finishing with six points ahead of World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway (5.5). Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan, Dmitry Andreikin of Russia and Fabiano Caruana of Italy finished tied third on five points. Hikaru Nakamura of the United States was fifth at 4.5 points. Russia's Sergey Karjakin finished seventh on four points while Anand and Russia's Alexander Morozevich were tied for the eighth spot on 3.5 points each. (C)

- 1118)** South Korea topped the medals tally at the World Cup Stage II Archery organised in Turkey in June 2013. What was India's performance?
- Fifth
 - Sixth
 - Seventh
 - Eight
 - Ninth

Fancied recurve archers including world No 3 Deepika Kumari returned empty-handed as India finished a poor ninth in the World Cup Stage II that concluded in Antalya, Turkey on June 17, 2013. India, with a solitary silver medal in the mixed team event of the compound section, finished ninth along with Austria in the medal standings. Korea reigned supreme with seven medals including three gold, three silver and one bronze, while China (2-0-2) and Denmark (2-0-1) finished second and third respectively. Rajat Chouhan and Manjudha Soy had on June 16 earned the lone silver medal as other Indian archers including Jayanta Talukdar and Deepika Kumari made early exits. (E)

1119) A Chinese supercomputer with a performance of 33.86 petaflops was named world's fastest supercomputer in June 2013. 1 petaflop is 1 _____ calculations per second.

- a) Million
- b) Billion
- c) Trillion
- d) Quadrillion
- e) Quintillion

A Chinese university has built the world's fastest supercomputer, almost doubling the speed of the US machine that previously claimed the top spot and underlining China's rise as a science and technology powerhouse. Supercomputers are used for complex work such as modelling weather systems, simulating nuclear explosions and designing jetliners.

Tianhe-2, a supercomputer developed by China's National University of Defense Technology, is the world's new No. 1 system with a performance of 33.86 petaflops (33,860 trillion calculations per second), according to the 41st edition of the biannual TOP500 list of the world's most powerful supercomputers. The Chinese supercomputer has pushed the previous fastest, Titan of USA, to the second position. The list was announced June 17, 2013 at the 2013 International Supercomputing Conference in Leipzig, Germany.

Tianhe-2, or Milky Way-2, will be deployed at the National Supercomputer Center in Guangzhou, China, by the end of the year. **Titan**, a Cray XK7 system installed at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA and previously the No. 1 system, is now ranked No. 2. Titan achieved 17.59 petaflops. **Sequoia**, an IBM BlueGene/Q system installed at DOE's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, USA also dropped one position and is now the No. 3 system. Sequoia was first delivered in 2011 and has achieved 17.17 petaflops. Fujitsu's "**K computer**" installed at the RIKEN Advanced Institute for Computational Science (AICS) in Kobe, Japan, is now the No. 4 system with a performance of 10.51 Petaflops. A second BlueGene/Q system, **Mira**, installed at Argonne National Laboratory, USA is at No. 5 with 8.59 petaflops. (C)

1120) Senior Congress leader and former _____ Deputy Chief Minister Subhash Yadav passed away on June 26, 2013.

- a) Bihar
- b) Haryana
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Subhash Yadav passed away on June 26, 2013 in New Delhi at the age of 67. (E)

1121) Opening of Taliban embassy in which of the following capitals in June 2013 was opposed by the Afghanistan government?

- a) Doha
- b) Dubai
- c) Riyadh
- d) Manama
- e) Kuwait

A furious Afghan government has signalled to Americans that they can no longer take for granted the positioning of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of NATO forces from the country at the end of 2014. A statement released by Afghanistan's National Security Council on June 19, 2013 said the "fourth round of talks on security agreement between Afghanistan and the U.S. which is currently underway in Kabul has been suspended as there is a contradiction between what the U.S. government says and what it does regarding peace talks." The Afghans feel let down by the Americans on the opening of the Taliban office on June 18 in Doha. Apparently, the Afghan government was under the impression that the Taliban office in the Qatari capital would be an unostentatious venue to advance peace talks, but after its opening, they were surprised that it has the trappings of a quasi-embassy. (A)

1122) Who among the following is the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs?

- a) Geeta Babbar
- b) Ranjan Mathai
- c) Sailas Thangal
- d) Syed Akbaruddin
- e) E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy

India on June 21, 2013 voiced its support to Afghanistan's opposition to the Taliban having opened a political office in Doha and asserted that the reconciliation process in the war-torn country should not undermine its legitimate government or confer legitimacy to insurgent groups. Kabul had on June 18 backed out of peace talks scheduled with the Taliban. "The reconciliation process should not seek to create equivalence between an internationally recognised Afghan government and insurgent groups, confer legitimacy to [these] groups or convey the impression [that there are] two competing state authorities [in] Afghanistan," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said. India has cautioned Afghanistan over peace talks with the Taliban and observed that the new initiative should not violate the "red lines" drawn up by the international community. (D)

1123) Tuareg tribe is native to:

- a) Central America
- b) Middle East
- c) North Africa
- d) Eastern Europe
- e) Greenland

Rebels in north Mali have signed a peace deal with the government to hold presidential elections on July 28 and pave the way for billions of dollars of western aid to rebuild the war-torn west African nation. The agreement was signed in Burkina Faso on June 18, 2013 between the Malian government and the Tuareg-led National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNL). In January, France deployed troops in its former colony after a coalition of secessionist forces, including the MNL, threatened to overrun Bamako, the Malian capital. While the intervention succeeded in driving the rebels from many strongholds including the historic city of Timbuktu, rebel fighters continue to hold Kidal, a Tuareg stronghold near the Algerian border. Since then, international donors have been pushing Mali to hold general elections as a pre-condition to channelling aid for reconstruction. The June 18 agreement dismisses the possibility of a separate Tuareg nation by reaffirming the territorial integrity of Mali. The Tuareg are the principal inhabitants of the Saharan interior of North Africa. The Tuareg language has an estimated 1.2 million speakers. Most Tuareg live in the Saharan parts of Niger, Mali, and Algeria. Being nomadic, they move constantly across national borders. (C)

1124) The US National Security Agency (USA) in June 2013 claimed that the internet and phone surveillance programme run by the US has helped in preventing many terrorist attacks. Who among the following is the Director of NSA?

- a) Thomas Akers
- b) Joseph Dunford
- c) Keith B. Alexander
- d) Michael J. Aguilar
- e) Vernon P. Anderson

The U.S. authorities claimed to have foiled a plot to bomb the New York Stock Exchange because of the sweeping surveillance programmes at the heart of a debate over national security and personal privacy. General Keith Alexander, Director of the National Security Agency, on June 18, 2013 said the two recently disclosed programmes — one that gathers U.S. phone records and another that is designed to track the use of U.S.-based Internet servers by foreigners with possible links to terrorism — are critical. General Alexander said more than 50 attacks were averted because of the surveillance. These included plots against the New York subway system and a Danish newspaper office that had published cartoon depictions of Muhammad. (C)

1125) Microblogging website Tumblr is owned by:

- a) Yahoo!
- b) Twitter
- c) Google
- d) Facebook
- e) Microsoft

Internet giant Yahoo! said in a letter to users that it has received up to 13,000 requests for information from U.S. law enforcement agencies in a six-month period ending May 31. The letter was posted on the company's Tumblr page on June 17, 2013. Between December 1, 2012 and May 31, 2013 "we received between 12,000 and 13,000 requests, inclusive of criminal, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), and other requests". According to the letter, the most common requests "concerned fraud, homicides, kidnappings, and other criminal investigations". (A)

1126) Worried over its impact on water supply, Egypt has objected the launch of 6000 MW Grand _____ Renaissance Dam on the Nile River in June 2013.

- a) Chadian
- b) Libyan
- c) Sudanese
- d) Ethiopian

e) Moroccan

The Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Ethiopia sought to defuse a brewing diplomatic row over the construction of a dam on the Nile, by promising to "swim" rather than "sink together". In a joint statement issued in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on June 18, 2013, they agreed to further consultations on the environmental, social and down stream impacts of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Ethiopia insists that the 6000 MW \$4.7 billion hydroelectric project near the source of the Blue Nile is crucial for development, while Egypt has expressed fears over the potential loss of fresh water. Ethiopia is the source of the Blue Nile, a tributary that accounts for nearly 60 per cent of Nile water. (D)

1127) Gezi Park, which was in news for massive public protests in June 2013, is in:

- Cairo
- Tunis
- Tripoli
- Istanbul
- Damascus

Hundreds of anti-government demonstrators were injured as Turkish police used excessive force to clear Istanbul's Gezi Park on June 15, 2013. What initially started as peaceful protests by environmental groups to stop a planned building project in the Istanbul Park has descended into anger at what the demonstrators call Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian rule. The plan calls for Gezi Park, one of Istanbul's few remaining green spaces, to be replaced with a replica of an Ottoman-era barracks housing a shopping mall. (D)

1128) Who among the following is Chinese woman astronaut in news for going on a space mission in June 2013?

- Wang Yihan
- Tian Qing
- Zhao Yunlei
- Wang Yaping
- Wang Xiaoli

China has launched its fifth manned space mission with three astronauts, including its second female astronaut, to carry out experiments in space over 15 days. The Shenzhou-10 spacecraft blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Centre in northwestern Gansu province at 5.38 p.m. (3.08 p.m. IST) on June 11, 2013. The spacecraft will dock with the Tiangong space laboratory module — the second named docking mission after Shenzhou-9 in June 2012. This mission will be the longest yet for the country's rapidly advancing space programme, and is seen as a crucial step in plans to build a space station by 2020. China's space programme is seen as behind only the U.S. and Russia in its feats. The Shenzhou-9 had created history by carrying into space China's first woman astronaut, Liu Yang, a People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force pilot. Following in her footsteps is Wang Yaping (33). She is accompanied by Nie Haisheng (48), a Major General in the PLA who was also a part of the Shenzhou-6 mission in 2005, and Zhang Xiaoguang (47). (D)

1129) Britain's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, regarded as safe tax havens, signed an agreement promising more transparency at the G8 Summit held in June 2013. Which of the following is not among the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies?

- Bahamas
- Bermuda
- Cayman Islands
- Gibraltar
- None of the above

Britain's campaign for a crackdown on tax evasion by multinationals and wealthy individuals appeared to be bearing fruit on June 15, 2013 after its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, regarded as safe tax havens, signed an agreement promising more transparency. The agreement, reached ahead of the G8 Summit starting in Northern Ireland on June 10, was hailed by Prime Minister David Cameron as a "very positive step forward". Those who signed the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters included leaders of Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Anguilla, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. They agreed to set up a register of companies who have accounts in their jurisdiction. British tax authorities would be allowed access to the register. (A)

1130) The Institute for Religious Works (IOR) is a bank based in:

- Tokyo
- Mecca
- Vatican
- Jerusalem

e) Kathmandu

Pope Francis signed off June 15, 2013 on naming Monsignor Battista Mario Salvatore Ricca as interim prelate of the Institute for Religious Works (IOR). It's a key job that has been left vacant since 2011. The prelate oversees the bank's activities, attends its board meetings and critically, has access to all its documentation. (C)

1131) World _____ Day was celebrated on June 21, 2013.

- Arts
- Dance
- Music
- Theatre
- Poetry

Popular rock band Indian Ocean has shot a video protesting against use of animals in circuses in New Delhi on the occasion of World Music Day on June 21, 2013. The World Music Day celebrated on June 21 has become a worldwide phenomenon as countries across the world rejoice in their own unique way to celebrate the day. The day, also known as Fete de la Musique, was a music festival which began in France in 1982. French Minister of Culture Jack Lang conceived the idea in 1981. On this day, musicians perform for free in parks, museums, train stations, castles etc. (C)

1132) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Iran in June 2013?

- Saeed Jalili
- Mohsen Rezaee
- Ali Akbar Velayati
- Hassan Rouhani
- Mohammad Gharazi

Presidential elections were held in Iran on June 14, 2013. Hassan Rouhani of the Combatant Clergy Association was victorious, elected in the first round of voting with 50.88% of the vote. Tehran Mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf of Islamic Society of Engineers finished second with 16.46% of the vote. Nearly 36.792 million Iranians voted, 72.77% of eligible voters. The Guardian Council screened 680 registered candidates, approving just eight to run in the election; Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, Ali Akbar Velayati, Saeed Jalili, Mohsen Rezaee, Mohammad Gharazi, Hassan Rouhani and Mohammad Reza Aref. Haddad-Adel and Aref later withdrew from the race in the days leading up to the election. Incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did not run for re-election as he was limited to two terms or 8 years in office under the Iranian constitution. (D)

1133) Who among the following was appointed as the new Director of the US government's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in June 2013?

- Thomas Pickard
- Floyd Clarke
- James Comey
- John E. Otto
- William Webster

US President Barack Obama on June 21, 2013 nominated a former justice department official under President George W Bush as the next FBI director. If confirmed by the Senate, James Comey will replace outgoing director Robert Mueller III, serving for 10 years. Mueller took up his post shortly before the 9/11 attacks and is retiring as director on 4 September. (C)

1134) Michael Hastings, who passed away at in June 2013 the age of the 33, was an acclaimed:

- Singer
- Journalist
- Scientist
- Film Producer
- Industrialist

Michael Hastings, the Rolling Stone journalist who triggered the 2010 downfall of US Afghanistan commander General Stanley McChrystal, died in a car crash in Los Angeles on June 18, 2013. Hastings, whose profile of McChrystal quoted the four-star general as criticizing President Barack Obama and his senior advisers, was 33. McChrystal was summoned to Washington by Obama in June 2010 and swiftly relieved of his command after comments attributed to him and his aides in the magazine article, headlined "The Runaway General." In the profile, McChrystal aides mocked Vice President Joe Biden, called the president's national security adviser "a clown," and said the general was "disappointed" by his first meeting with Obama. (B)

1135) Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold is the first Grand Prix Badminton title won by which among the following Indian players in June 2013?

- K. Srikanth
- G. Gopiraju
- Sai Praneeth
- Chetan Anand
- Parupalli Kashyap

K Srikanth became the latest badminton sensation to emerge from India as he lifted his maiden men's singles title with a stunning straight-game triumph over top-seeded local favourite Boonsak Ponsana at the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold in Bangkok on June 9, 2013. The 20-year-old from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh beat world number eight Ponsana 21-16 21-12 in a 34-minute match to script the biggest win of his still nascent career. (C)

1136) Funding for the 660-MW multi-purpose Kishau dam project on river Tons was approved by the Centre in May 2013. The River Tons flows between which two states?

- Kerala and Goa
- Punjab and Haryana
- Sikkim and Meghalaya
- Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
- Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

Centre will borne ninety per cent of the cost for setting up the 660-MW multi-purpose Kishau dam project on river Tons which flows between Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the state government said in Dehradun on May 28, 2013. The decision was taken at a meeting in New Delhi convened by the Union Water Resources Ministry with officials of both Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Uttarkhand will also get help from Centre to make the detailed project report in the joint venture with Himachal Pradesh government. The decision comes following the pressure mounted by both the states at the Centre in recent months to bear 90 per cent of the cost of the project. The remaining 10 per cent of the expenses would be borne by other states which will seek facility of irrigation and potable water from the project, he said. The multi-purpose project would generate 660 megawatt of electricity besides being capable of irrigating 97076 hectares of agricultural land. Besides Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh would also benefit from the project to be built on Tons river, a tributary of the Yamuna, which flows from Dehradun district in Uttarakhand to Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh. (E)

1137) Who among the following is the author of 'The Black Coat' released in June 2013?

- Jamil Ahmad
- Neamat Imam
- Mohsin Hamid
- Khaled Hosseini
- Mohammed Hanif

The Black Coat is a controversial historical novel by Bangladeshi-Canadian author Neamat Imam. It is a "a meditation on power, greed and the human cost of politics." The Sunday Guardian commented that it is "destined to be a future classic" and will be used as the "gold standard for any book which seeks to engage with South Asian politics or history." Published in June 2013, 'The Black Coat' presents a dark and dystopian portrait of Bangladesh under Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sheikh Mujib is commonly regarded as the Father of the Bengali Nation, the greatest hero Bangladesh has ever had, but in this novel Imam depicts him as a totalitarian ruler who distorted truth and suppressed political opposition to strengthen his tyranny. (B)

1138) Which of the following sites in India was designated as a world biosphere reserve under its Man and the Biosphere Programme in May 2013?

- Simlipal
- Nokrek
- Great Nicobar
- Gulf of Mannar
- Nanda Devi

United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) has designated India's Great Nicobar Islands as a world biosphere reserve under its Man and the Biosphere Programme. Member countries establish such reserves and the world body recognizes them under the programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. They are considered as sites of excellence, where new and optimal practices to manage nature and human activities are tested and demonstrated.

The Great Nicobar Biosphere island reserve, whose tropical wet evergreen forest hosts a wealth of animal species and medicinal plants, joins a global list of places named by UNESCO for promoting sustainable development based on local community efforts and science.

Great Nicobar joins the reserves at Simlipal (Orissa), Nokrek (Meghalaya), Panchmarhi (Madhya Pradesh), Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu), the Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu), Sunderban (West Bengal) Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand) Simlipal (Odisha) and Achanakmar-Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh) which are already on UNESCO's list. (C)

1139) Which of the following EU countries in June 2013 signed an umbrella agreement with India on financial and technical cooperation in the field of energy, environment and management of natural resources?

- France
- Holland
- Sweden
- Germany
- Denmark

Seeking to further strengthen bilateral ties, India and Germany on June 6, 2013 signed an umbrella agreement on financial and technical cooperation in the field of energy, environment and management of natural resources. "The agreement we have signed today is a record in our commitment. It clearly shows our determination to further strengthen our long-standing partnership with India in the field of development cooperation," German Ambassador Michael Steiner said in a statement in New Delhi. It said India and Germany had negotiated about 723 million euros worth projects in 2012 as part of a pact on development cooperation between them. The Agreement on Financial and Technical Cooperation generally contains priority areas such as energy, environmental issues and management of natural resources, the statement said. (D)

1140) Which of the following has launched an ambitious program against global hunger titled 'Feed the Future'?

- UNICEF
- WHO
- FAO
- USA
- EU

India, the United States and Australia have joined hands to develop new climate-resilient varieties of rice and wheat, two of the "big three" primary crops required to feed the world. As part of this endeavour, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is supporting a new public-private research partnership between the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPF) and India's Vibha Agrotech, an official release said on May 23, 2013. The new lines will be evaluated under representative field conditions and the most successful will be transferred into the varieties that farmers grow, USAID said.

The ambitious program is part of Feed the Future, the US Government's global hunger and food security initiative. Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, which establishes a foundation for lasting progress against global hunger. With a focus on smallholder farmers, particularly women, the programme supports partner countries in developing their agriculture sectors to spur economic growth that increases incomes and reduces hunger, poverty and undernutrition. (D)

1141) What is the scheme of pre-payment of loans taken at high interest rates by fresh loans at low-interest rates called?

- Debt Swap
- Credit Switch
- Debt Restructuring
- Credit Default swaps
- Collateralised Debt Transfer

The Government of India formulated a Debt Swap Scheme realising the mounting burden of interest payments on the states, and to supplement their efforts towards fiscal management. The scheme was in operation from 2002-03 to 2004-05. The scheme capitalized on the current low interest regime, to enable States to prepay expensive loans contracted from GOI, with low coupon bearing small savings and open market loans. The scheme covered outstanding high cost loans with interest rate of 13% and above. An amount of Rs 106076 crore was prepaid to GOI by the States from small savings loans and open market borrowings. (A)

1142) Who among the following was conferred the Nomura Award in Singapore in June 2013 for "improving the world for future generations"?

- Ela Bhatt
- Kiran Bedi

- c) Vandana Shiva
- d) Medha Patker
- e) Aruna Roy

Former IPS officer Kiran Bedi was on June 11, 2013 honoured with USD 10,000 'Nomura Award' in Singapore for her humanitarian works. The activist has decided to donate the reward money for the education of prisoners' children. Bedi was given the award constituted by Nomura Group of Japan for "improving the world for future generations". The group is one of the leading financial services group. (B)

- 1143)** _____, the founding Director of the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), an autonomous organisation under the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), who passed away in May 2013.
- a) Anjali Doshi
 - b) Maitreyee Handique
 - c) Shubhra Gupta
 - d) Vina Mazumdar
 - e) Saumya Bhattacharya

Noted academic and a leading figure of the country's women's movement, Dr Vina Mazumdar, passed away on May 30, 2013 at the age of 86. A strong votary of increased women's representation in Parliament and legislature, Mazumdar was the secretary of the Committee on the Status of Women in India that brought out the first report on the condition of women in the country, 'Towards Equality', in 1974. The report became a turning point both for women's studies and the women's movement in the country. She was the founding Director of the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), an autonomous organisation under the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), where she remained a National Research Professor till the end. Her memoir, 'Memories of a Rolling Stone', speaks of her liberal upbringing, Kolkata of 1940s, activism and policy making of 60s and 70s, her rebellious daughters and singer- husband Shankar. (D)

- 1144)** According to a RBI notification on credit information of customers in July:
- a) Banks require borrowers' consent to share credit information with credit information companies
 - b) Banks don't require borrowers' consent to share credit information with credit information companies
 - c) Banks cannot share borrowers' credit information with credit information companies
 - d) None of the above

Banks and financial institutions need not seek borrowers' consent to share credit information with credit information companies, according to the Reserve Bank of India in July 2013.

The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act provides statutory backing for sharing of credit information by credit institutions with credit information companies (CICs).

With CIC Act coming into force, the "consent clause" has become redundant, the RBI said in a notification in July 2013. Previously, consent clause (for sharing information with CICs) was needed in the loan/credit documents.

The CIC Act provides for collection (from members) and furnishing (to specified users) of credit information by credit information companies. CICs are repository of credit information — both current and historical data on existing and potential borrowers.

These institutions maintain data base of credit information — both positive and negative — on the borrower which can be accessed by the intending lending institution.

Negative financial data includes adverse information on the borrower such as delinquencies, defaults, penalties, frauds or bankruptcies. Adverse public record data can also find its way to the negative credit file. Positive financial data includes historical record of facilities availed and good and satisfactory performance of loan repayment. (C)

- 1145)** The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been restructured into National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) – Aajeevika – with effect from April 1, 2013. Which of the following statements on financial support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM is/are correct?
- I. Loan upto Rs. 50,000 per SHG can be provided in the first dose
 - II. No collateral can be charged upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs limit to the SHG
 - III. No lien should be marked against savings bank account of the SHG
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been restructured into National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) – Aajeevika by the Ministry of Rural Development with effect from April 1, 2013.

NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions of the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods services. NRLM seeks to mobilize the poor into functionally effective community owned institutions such as Self-Help groups (SHGs) to promote their financial inclusion and strengthen their livelihoods.

Highlights of NRLM:

Women SHGs: Women SHGs under NRLM consist of 10-15 persons. In case of special SHGs i.e. groups in the difficult areas, groups with disabled persons, and groups formed in remote tribal areas, this number may be a minimum of 5 persons.

Financial Assistance to the SHGs: Revolving Fund (RF): NRLM would provide a Revolving Fund (RF) support to SHGs in existence for a minimum period of 3/6 months. Only such SHGs that have not received any RF earlier will be provided with RF, as corpus, with a minimum of Rs. 10,000 and up to a maximum of Rs. 15,000 per SHG. The purpose of RF is to strengthen their institutional and financial management capacity and build a good credit history within the group.

Capital Subsidy has been discontinued under NRLM: No Capital Subsidy will be sanctioned to any SHG from the date of implementation of NRLM.

Introduction of Interest subvention: NRLM has a provision for interest subvention, to cover the difference between the Lending Rate of the banks and 7%, on all credit from the banks/financial institutions availed by women SHGs, for a maximum of Rs 3,00,000 per SHG. The SHGs will also get additional interest subvention of 3% on prompt payment, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%.

Loan amount: Emphasis is laid on the multiple doses of assistance under NRLM. This would mean assisting an SHG over a period of time, through repeat doses of credit. The amount of various doses of credit should be as follows: **First dose:** 4-8 times to the proposed corpus during the year or Rs. 50, 000 whichever is higher. **Second dose:** 5-10 times of existing corpus and proposed saving during the next twelve months or Rs. 1 lakhs, whichever is higher. **Third dose:** Minimum of Rs. 2 lakhs, based on the Micro Credit plan prepared by the SHGs and appraised by the Federations/Support agency and the previous credit history. **Fourth dose onwards:** Loan amount can be between Rs. 5-10 lakhs for fourth dose and/or higher in subsequent doses. The loan amount will be based on the Micro Credit Plans of the SHGs and their members.

Repayment schedule could be as follows: The **first dose** of loan will be repaid in 6-12 instalments. **Second dose** of loan will be repaid in 12-24 months. **Third dose** will be sanctioned based on the micro credit plans, the repayment has to be either monthly/quarterly /half yearly based on the cash flow and it has to be between 2 to 5 Years. **Fourth dose onwards:** repayment has to be either monthly/quarterly /half yearly based on the cash flow and it has to be between 3 to 6 Years

Security and Margin: No collateral and no margin will be charged upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs limit to the SHGs. No lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted while sanctioning loans. (E)

- 1146)** July 1, 2013 was observed as the _____ Day.
- a) Banks'
 - b) Microfinance Institutions'
 - c) Company Secretaries'
 - d) Chartered Accountants'
 - e) Cost and Work Accountants

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), India's premier and world's second largest accounting body, has entered its 65th year of existence. The Institute celebrated its 64th Foundation Day in New Delhi on July 1, 2013 as the 'CA Day'. Today, ICAI has over 2 lakh members and more than 11 lakh students; and is well on its way to set newer benchmarks while taking accountancy beyond professional footprints. Subodh Kumar Agrawal, President, ICAI, said that the Institute since its inception has grown in size and stature by leaps and bounds. (D)

- 1147)** Which petroleum PSU is launching a co-operative dairy business named 'Kamdhenu' in a tie-up with the Assam government in July 2013?
- a) IOC
 - b) BPCL
 - c) HPCL

- d) GAIL
e) OIL

It may be unheard of for an energy company, but Oil India Ltd. (OIL) plans to tie-up with the Assam government to start a co-operative dairy business along the lines of Gujarat's successful 'Amul' model. The project named 'Kamdhenu' envisages setting up of a milk production facility in Upper Assam to establish the dairy business in 3-5 years. OIL said in Guwahati on July 2, 2013. "Assam is a milk-deficient state. Availability of good milk is a big issue here. So, as part of our corporate social responsibility, we have decided to join hands with the state government to start a co-operative dairy business here," said OIL Chairman and Managing Director Sunil Kumar Srivastava. (E)

1148) Former Telecom Secretary R. Chandrashekhar was selected to head which of the following organisations from January 2014?

- a) CII
b) TRAI
c) FICCI
d) TDSAT
e) NASSCOM

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) on July 5, 2013 said former telecom secretary R. Chandrashekhar would be the President of the IT software services industry body after Som Mittal's tenure ends in January 2014. This decision was taken at Executive Council meeting of National Association of Software and Service Companies in Pune. (E)

1149) M. S. Raghavan was appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of which of the following banks in July 2013?

- a) IDBI Bank
b) UCO Bank
c) Indian Bank
d) Allahabad Bank
e) Indian Overseas Bank

IDBI Bank on July 5, 2013 said M. S. Raghavan has taken charge as its chairman and managing director. (A)

1150) Who among the following was appointed as the new Managing Director of UTI Asset Management Company in July 2013?

- a) Leo Puri
b) R. M. Malla
c) Vishwapati Trivedi
d) Pradeep Kumar Sinha

Leo Puri was on July 3, 2013 appointed Managing Director of UTI Asset Management Company. UTI AMC has been without a full-time Managing Director ever since U.K. Sinha moved to SEBI as Chairman in February 2011. Puri is a dual Master's degree holder from Oxford and Cambridge University, UK, with over three decades of professional experience. Since 1994, he has been based in India. Vishwapati Trivedi on July 2, 2013 assumed the charge of Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping. (A)

1151) Which state has decided to introduce a novel concept called gross environment product (GEP) that will collectively reflect the ecological status of the state's air, forests, rivers, soil and glaciers?

- a) J&K
b) Sikkim
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Uttarakhand
e) Arunachal Pradesh

Uttarakhand, jolted by floods and landslides in June 2013, announced on July 5, 2013 it would become India's first state to take into account ecological parameters with gross domestic product (GDP) to measure growth and prosperity. The state government said it has decided to introduce a novel concept called gross environment product (GEP) that will collectively reflect the ecological status of the mountain state's air, forests, rivers, soil and glaciers. Environmental scientists have long argued that India needs to incorporate ecological measures while assessing economic growth and development. Uttarakhand said it would be the first state in the country to implement the idea. "This will be a mission (for) all state departments and agencies and reflected yearly in the state's charter of growth," the Uttarakhand government said. (D)

1152) Which state launched 'Phulwari', a scheme to curb malnutrition among children aged 6 months to 3 years, in July 2013?

- a) Bihar
b) Jharkhand
c) Rajasthan
d) Rajasthan
e) Chhattisgarh

The Chhattisgarh government on July 4, 2013 launched 'Phulwari', a scheme to curb malnutrition among children aged 6 months to 3 years. (E)

1153) Which of the following, in July 2013, declared itself as the first "smoke-free" State in the country in compliance with the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003?

- a) J&K
b) Sikkim
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Uttarakhand
e) Arunachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh was on July 2, 2013 declared the first "smoke-free" State in the country in compliance with Section 4 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. The State has achieved 85.42 per cent compliance with the relevant parameters. Health Minister Kaul Singh Thakur said the State government was committed to eliminating tobacco products and had hiked taxes on bidis and cigarettes from 11 and 18 per cent to 22 and 36 per cent, respectively in the 2013-14 Budget. (D)

1154) Which state has recognised King Sanajaoba as its last monarch?

- a) Sikkim
b) Tripura
c) Manipur
d) Meghalaya
e) Arunachal Pradesh

Manipur government is planning to refurbish the century-old palace building under Historical Monument Act and not encroaching on the rights of the titular King Sanajaoba. Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh told the state Assembly on July 1, 2013. Stating that before merging with India in 1949, Manipur had been an independent kingdom for thousands of years, he said the government recognised Sanajaoba as the last king and there was no question of encroaching the customary rights of the king. (C)

1155) Who among the following won the Golden Boot for scoring the highest number of goals in the Confederations Cup tournament that concluded on June 30, 2013?

- a) Neymar
b) Andres Iniesta
c) Fred
d) Paulinho
e) Fernando Torres

Brazil's Neymar won the Golden Ball for the Best Player at the Confederations Cup his team defeated Spain 3-0 in the final played at Rio de Janeiro on June 30, 2013. Fernando Torres of Spain won the Golden Boot for scoring the highest number of goals in the tournament. This was Brazil's third consecutive win having earlier won the tournament in South Africa (2009) and Germany (2005). **About FIFA Confederations Cup:** The FIFA Confederations Cup is an international association football tournament for national teams, currently held every four years by FIFA. It is contested by the holders of each of the six FIFA confederation championships (UEFA, CONMEBOL, CONCACAF, CAF, AFC, OFC), along with the FIFA World Cup holder and the host nation, to bring the number of teams up to eight. (E)

1156) Who among the following won the only individual gold medal for India at the 20th Athletics Championships that concluded at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium in Pune on July 7, 2013?

- a) Renjith Maheswary
b) Jithin Thomas
c) Krishna Poonia
d) Vikas Gowda
e) Sudha Singh

India finished sixth at the 20th Athletics Championships that concluded at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium in Pune on July 7, 2013. India won two golds, six silvers and 9 bronzes. The two gold medals were won by M R Poovamma, Tintu Luka, Anu Mariam Jose and Nirmala in 4X400 metres Relay (Women) and Vikas Gowda – Discus throw. China finished at the top spot with 16 golds, six silvers and five bronzes. Bahrain were a distant second with five golds, seven silvers and three bronzes while Japan was third with four golds, six silvers and 10 bronzes. Saudi Arabia (4 golds, 2 silvers, 1 bronze) were fourth while Uzbekistan (3 golds, 4 silvers, 1 bronze) finished fifth. Meanwhile Suresh Kalmadi lost his bid for the fourth consecutive term as president of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA) in Pune on July 1, 2013 when he lost the contest to Brig. Dahlan Jumaan Al-Hamad of Qatar by two votes (20-18). (D)

1157) Who among the following is the only Indian sportsperson invited at the IOC International Athletes Forum organised in Singapore in June 2013?

- a) Vikas Gowda
b) Sushil Kumar
c) Rahul Dravid
d) Abhinav Bindra
e) Leander Paes

Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra on July 1, 2013 said he found the sixth IOC International Athletes Forum held in Singapore from June 27 to 29, "good and informative." "I hope India also moves towards having Athletes Commission in the National Olympic Committee and all the National Sports Federations," said Bindra, who represented the International Shooting Federation in the Forum. The athletes from around the world had three plenary sessions and many group discussions, according to a release from the IOC, as they focused on the subject of athletes commissions, their structure, best practice and ways to improve their functioning, communications etc. (D)

1158) Which of the following are matched correctly?

- I. Vice President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) – Praful Patel
 - II. CEO of Mittal Champions Trust – Manisha Malhotra
 - III. CEO of Olympic Gold Quest – Viren Rasquinha
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Various stakeholders of the HIL on July 1, 2013 discussed plans to make the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) more competitive and spectacular in its second edition, scheduled to be held from January 23 to February 23 next. At a workshop organised in New Delhi, the HIL advisory board counted the positives of the inaugural edition and deliberated how to accommodate a sixth franchise next year. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president and the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Arun Jaitley, who is also an HIL Advisory Board member, said the HIL might become a global brand like the Indian Premier League. CEO of Mittal Champions Trust Manisha Malhotra and international hockey player and the CEO of Olympic Gold Quest, Viren Rasquinha, also attended the workshop as special guests. (C)

1159) Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg won the British Grand Prix on June 30, 2013. Where was the race organised?

- a) Sepang International Circuit
- b) Circuit Gilles Villeneuve
- c) Silverstone Circuit
- d) Marina Bay Street Circuit
- e) Suzuka Circuit

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on June 30, 2013 while Red Bull driver Australia's Mark Webber finished second. On an afternoon that also saw triple world champion Sebastian Vettel's Red Bull break down while leading, Ferrari's Fernando Alonso boosted his title hopes with an unexpected third place. Vettel has 132 points to the Spaniard Alonso's 111 after eight of 19 races. (C)

1160) Which South Korean city hosted the Asian Table Tennis Championships organised in July 2013?

- a) Gyeongju
- b) Ulsan
- c) Seoul
- d) Incheon
- e) Busan

TEAM TITLES: Indian women finished a disappointing eighth after losing 3-1 to Malaysia in the team event while Indian Men finished seventh in the Asian table tennis championships organised in Busan, South Korea from June 30 to July 7, 2013. China won both Men's and Women's team titles. Japan was second in Men's while Hong Kong was runners-up in women's category. **INDIVIDUAL TITLES:** Women's Singles – Liu Shiwen (China); Men's Singles – Ma Long (China); Men's Doubles – Zhou Yu & Yan An (China); Women's Doubles – Zhu Yuling and Chen Meng (China); Mixed Doubles – Lee Sangsu and Park Youngsook (South Korea) (E)

1161) Which Russian city hosted the 27th World Universities Summer Games organised in July 2013?

- a) Kaliningrad
- b) Kazan
- c) Samara
- d) Yekaterinburg
- e) Volgograd

The 27th World Universities Summer Games were organised at Kazan, Russia from July 6 to 16, 2013. Hosts Russia topped the medals tally followed by China, Japan, South Korea and Belarus. India was 52nd with one silver medal. Shot-putter Inderjeet Singh won the only medal for India when he won a silver with a personal best of 19.70m while gold was won by Russia's Alexander Lesnoi (20.30m). (B)

1162) Anirban Lahiri, S. Chikkarangappa, Sanjay Kumar, Rahil Gangjee and Arshpreet Thind are Indian players from which sport?

- a) Golf
- b) Billiards

- c) Bridge
- d) Squash
- e) Chess

Anirban Lahiri won his 12th career title at the Eagleton Golf Resort in Bangalore on July 5, 2013. The 26-year-old shot three-under-69 in the final round, making a four-day total of 20-under-268 and securing the PGTI Eagleburg Open. S. Chikkarangappa finished second ahead of Sanjay Kumar. Rahil Gangjee finished fourth (276) while Arshpreet Thind fifth (279). (A)

1163) Where was the Asia-Pacific Security Forum organised in July 2013?

- a) Manila
- b) Bangkok
- c) Jakarta
- d) Vientiane
- e) Bandar Seri Begawan

North Korea came under fire at an Asia-Pacific Security Forum at the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum organised at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei on July 2 as foreign ministers called on the defiant communist state to end its nuclear weapons programme. The ASEAN Regional Forum includes 26 countries across the Asia-Pacific and the European Union. China is the main ally of North Korea, which defiantly carried out its third nuclear weapons test in February and threatened to attack the United States. The issue of the South China Sea also simmered on after the Philippines accused Beijing of a military build-up to enforce its claims to the disputed waterway. (E)

1164) What is the highest denomination in which a banknote can be issued under the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934?

- a) Rs. 20,000
- b) Rs. 10,000
- c) Rs. 5,000
- d) Rs. 2,000
- e) Rs. 1000

At present, banknotes in India are issued in the denomination of Rs.10, Rs.20, Rs.50, Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1000. The Reserve Bank can also issue banknotes in any other denomination that the Central Government may specify. There cannot be banknotes in denominations higher than ten thousand rupees in terms of the current provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Coins can be issued up to the denomination of Rs.1000. (B)

1165) What is the highest denomination in which a coin can be issued under the Coinage Act, 1906?

- a) Rs. 5,000
- b) Rs. 2,000
- c) Rs. 1000
- d) Rs. 500
- e) Rs. 100

Coins can be issued up to the denomination of Rs.1000 as per the Coinage Act, 1906. (C)

1166) The RBI issued an update on guidelines on raising of funds by Financial Institutions through various instruments on July 1, 2013. Which of the following statements on Term Deposits (TDs) is not correct?

- a) Minimum Maturity period is one year
- b) Maximum Maturity period is five years
- c) FIs are free to fix the interest rates
- d) Minimum size of a TD is Rs.10000
- e) No interest is payable on premature deposits

The RBI on July 1, 2013 issued an update on norms governing raising of resources by Financial Institutions through instruments such as Term Deposits, Term Money Borrowings, Certificates of Deposits (CDs), Commercial Papers (CPs) and Bonds/Debentures

The terms and conditions relating to **Term Deposits** are: **Aggregate Amount:** An FI may accept term deposits within the overall umbrella limit fixed by RBI, i.e., term deposits along with other instruments viz., term money borrowings, CDs, CPs and ICDs should not exceed 100% of its net owned funds, as per the latest audited balance sheet.

Maturity Period: 1 to 5 years.

Interest Rates: FIs are free to fix the interest rates.

Minimum Size: Rs.10000

Brokerage: 1% of the deposits accepted.

Premature Withdrawal: (i) In the case of premature withdrawal before completion of one year due to death of depositor, medical exigencies, educational expenditure and other such reasons, the following norm should be applied:

(a) Premature withdrawal before six months - no interest to be paid (b) Premature withdrawal between six months and one year - interest rate not exceeding savings bank rate as specified by RBI for scheduled commercial banks be paid (ii) Beyond 1 year, FIs have freedom to fix their own penal rate of interest on premature withdrawal of deposits
Rating: Rating from the rating agencies approved by the SEBI is mandatory.
Other terms and conditions: FIs should not provide any loan against the term deposits accepted. (E)

1167) The RBI issued an update on guidelines on raising of funds by Financial Institutions through various instruments on July 1, 2013. Which of the following statements on 'Term Money' borrowings is not correct?

- Minimum Maturity Period should be 3 months
- Maximum Maturity Period should be 6 months
- FIs are free to fix interest rates.
- FIs can borrow 'term money' from Scheduled Commercial Banks and Co-operative banks only
- None of the above

The RBI on July 1, 2013 issued an update on norms governing raising of resources by Financial Institutions through instruments such as Term Deposits, Term Money Borrowings, Certificates of Deposits (CDs), Commercial Papers (CPs) and Bonds/Debentures

The terms and conditions relating to **Term Money Borrowings** are:

Aggregate Amount: An FI may accept term deposits within the overall umbrella limit fixed by RBI, i.e., term deposits along with other instruments viz., term money borrowings, CDs, CPs and ICDs should not exceed 100% of its net owned funds, as per the latest audited balance sheet.

Maturity Period: Not less than 3 months and not exceeding 6 months.

Interest Rates: FIs are free to fix interest rates.

Borrowings from: FIs are eligible to borrow 'term money' from Scheduled Commercial Banks and Co-operative banks only. (E)

1168) The RBI issued an update on guidelines on raising of funds by Financial Institutions through various instruments on July 1, 2013. Which of the following statements on 'Certificates of Deposit (CDs)' is not correct?

- Minimum amount of a CD should be Rs.1 lakh
- Minimum Maturity period is one year
- Maximum Maturity period is three years
- FIs can sanction loans against CDs
- None of the above

The RBI on July 1, 2013 issued an update on norms governing raising of resources by Financial Institutions through instruments such as Term Deposits, Term Money Borrowings, Certificates of Deposits (CDs), Commercial Papers (CPs) and Inter-Corporate Deposits (ICDs).

The terms and conditions relating to **Certificates of Deposit (CDs)** are:

Eligibility: CDs can be issued by select all India Financial Institutions that have been permitted by the RBI to raise short-term resources within the umbrella limit fixed by the RBI.

Aggregate Amount: An FI may issue CDs within the overall umbrella limit fixed by the RBI, i.e., issue of CDs together with other instruments viz., term money, term deposits, CPs and inter corporate deposits should not exceed 100% of its net owned funds, as per the latest audited balance sheet.

Denomination: Minimum amount of a CD should be Rs.1 lakh i.e., the minimum deposit that can be accepted from a single subscriber should not be less than Rs.1 lakh. CD issued will be in multiples of Rs.1 lakh.

Eligible subscribers: CDs can be issued to individuals (other than minors), corporations, companies, trusts, funds, associations, etc. Non Resident Indians may also subscribe to CDs, but only on non-repatriable basis which should be clearly stated on the Certificate. Such CDs cannot be endorsed to another NRI in the secondary market.

Maturity: FIs can issue CDs for a period not less than 1 year and not exceeding 3 years from the date of issue.

Discount/Coupon Rate - Fixed & Floating: CDs may be issued at a discount on face value but may also be issued as coupon bearing instruments. FIs are also allowed to issue CDs on floating rate basis provided the methodology of compiling the floating rate is objective, transparent and market based. FIs are free to determine the discount/coupon rate.

Format: FIs should issue CDs only in the dematerialized form.

Transferability: Physical CDs are freely transferable by endorsement and delivery. Dematted CDs can be transferred as per the procedure applicable to other demat securities. There is no lock-in period for the CDs.

Loans/Buybacks: FIs cannot sanction loans against CDs nor can they buy back their own CDs before maturity. (D)

1169) The RBI issued an update on guidelines on raising of funds by Financial Institutions through various instruments on July 1, 2013. Which of the following statements on 'Commercial Papers (CPs)' is not correct?

- CPs can be issued in denomination of Rs.1 lakh or multiples thereof
- CPs can be issued for maturities between a minimum of 7 days and maximum up to one year from the date of issue.
- CPs should be issued at a discount to face value
- The issuing FI can buyback the CP before maturity
- None of the above

The RBI on July 1, 2013 issued an update on norms governing raising of resources by Financial Institutions through instruments such as Term Deposits, Term Money Borrowings, Certificates of Deposits (CDs), Commercial Papers (CPs) and Bonds/Debentures.

The terms and conditions relating to **Commercial Papers (CPs)** are:

Eligibility: All India Financial Institutions that have been permitted to raise resources under the umbrella limit fixed by the RBI are eligible to issue CPs.

Aggregate Amount: An FI may issue CPs within the overall umbrella limit fixed by RBI i.e., issue of CPs together with other instruments viz., term money, term deposits, CDs and inter corporate deposits should not exceed 100% of its net owned funds, as per the latest audited balance sheet.

Period of Issue: The total amount proposed through issue of CPs should be raised within a period of two weeks from the date on which the issuer opens the issue for subscription. CPs may be issued on a single date or in parts on different dates provided that in the latter case, each CP shall have the same maturity date. Every issue of CPs, including renewal, should be treated as a fresh issue.

Denomination: CPs can be issued in denomination of Rs.5 lakh or multiples thereof. The amount invested by single investor should not be less than Rs.5 lakh (face value).

Rating Requirement: FIs shall obtain credit rating for issuance of CP from any one of the SEBI registered CRAs. The minimum credit rating shall be 'A3' as per rating symbol and definition prescribed by SEBI. The issuers shall ensure at the time of issuance of the CP that the rating so obtained is current and has not fallen due for review.

Eligible subscribers: CPs may be issued to and held by individuals, banking companies, other corporate bodies registered or incorporated in India and unincorporated bodies, non-resident Indians (NRIs) and foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

Maturity: CPs can be issued for maturities between a minimum of 7 days and maximum up to one year from the date of issue. However, the maturity date of the CPs should not extend beyond the date up to which the credit rating of the issuer is valid.

Discount: CPs should be issued at a discount to face value and the rate of discount may be determined by the FI.

Transferability: CPs in physical form will be freely transferable by endorsement and delivery. The transferability of CPs in demat form will be governed by the guidelines issued by FIMMDA.

Mode of Issuance: A CP shall be issued in the form of a promissory note and held in physical form or in a dematerialized form through any of the depositories approved by and registered with SEBI, provided that all RBI regulated entities can deal in and hold CP only in dematerialised form through such depositories. b. Fresh investments by all RBI-regulated entities shall be only in dematerialised form.

Buyback of CP: a. Issuers may buyback the CP, issued by them to the investors, before maturity. b. Buyback of CP shall be through the secondary market and at prevailing market price. c. The CP shall not be bought back before a minimum period of 7 days from the date of issue. (A)

1170) The Union government approved the establishment of "Rajiv Gandhi National _____ University" in Raebareilly in July 2013.

- Space
- Aviation
- Atomic Energy
- Mass Communication
- Information Technology

The government on July 11, 2013 approved the proposal for setting up of a National Aviation University (NAU) named the 'Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University' at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh as a Central University. It will be established as a Central University and as an autonomous body under the administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation. (B)

1171) The government has increased the total family income ceiling for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students for availing of central sector scholarships to _____ per annum, with effect from the selection year 2013-14.

- Rs. 2.50 lakh
- Rs. 3.50 lakh
- Rs. 4.50 lakh
- Rs. 5.50 lakh
- Rs. 6.50 lakh

The government on July 11, 2013 decided to increase the total family income ceiling under the central sector scholarship scheme of "Top Class Education" for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students" from the existing Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 4.50 lakh per annum, with effect from the selection year 2013-14. (C)

1172) Which of the following will upgrade the cooking skills of cooks employed in the mid-day meal scheme in an announcement made in July 2013?

- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Home Affairs

- c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- e) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

With an aim to educate cooks under the mid-day meal scheme about food's nutritional and hygienic value, the tourism ministry has decided to impart training to them in this regard to enhance the scheme's effectiveness. "Our ministry will upgrade the cooking skills of almost 25 lakh cooks engaged with the mid-day meal scheme in a phased manner," said Union Tourism Minister K Chiranjeevi on Jul 8, 2013. Mid-day meal scheme is the world's largest noon meal programme and currently 24.58 lakh cook-cum-helpers are employed under it. The HRD ministry had sought the support of tourism ministry in arranging the training of master cooks engaged in the MDMS. At present 10.52 crore children are being served mid-day meals in 12.18 lakh schools on a daily basis. The training will be delivered by the Institutes of Hotel Management and the Food Craft Institutes designated by tourism ministry. The institutes will be paid at a rate of Rs 6,037 per trainee by the tourism ministry and no application fee will be charged from the trainees. (A)

- 1173)** The Union ministry of communications and information technology launched 13 Urdu fonts along with keyboard drivers on July 12, 2013. The fonts have been developed by:
- a) ECIL
 - b) C-DAC
 - c) Microsoft
 - d) NASSCOM
 - e) National Informatics Centre

The Union ministry of communications and information technology launched 13 Urdu fonts along with keyboard drivers on July 12, 2013. The fonts, developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), are compatible with Android and Windows operating systems and also come with a predictive text feature for Android keyboards. The fonts were developed by the department of Graphics and Intelligence based Script Technologies at the C-DAC in association with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL). The government-designed fonts and keyboard managers can be accessed at the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) website tdil-dc.in. (B)

- 1174)** What was the theme of the World Population Day observed on July 11, 2013?
- a) Being Young is Tough
 - b) Fight Poverty: Educate Girls
 - c) Be Counted: Say What You Need
 - d) Focus is on Adolescent Pregnancy
 - e) Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services

July 11, 2013 was observed as the World Population Day. The day has been observed on July 11 every year since 1989. Theme for this year is, 'Focus on Adolescent Pregnancy' with the hope of creating a world where every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe. About 16 million girls under age 18 give birth each year. Another 3.2 million undergo unsafe abortions. Indian government's Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) scheme focuses on reorganizing the existing public health system in order to the service needs of adolescents. As per 2011 Census, India's total population is now 1.21 billion. With only 2.4% of the entire world's landmass to support 17% of the world population, the need for population stabilization can hardly be overemphasized. (D)

- 1175)** Which of the following became the first in India to have two commemorative postal stamps in its name in October 2013?
- a) Delhi Metro
 - b) Konkan Railway
 - c) Gateway of India
 - d) Bhakra Nangal dam
 - e) Nagarjuna Sagar dam

Bhakra dam will become the first structure in India to have two commemorative postal stamps in its name. Chairman of the Bhakra Beas Management Board, A.B. Agrawal said in Chandigarh on July 10, 2013 that the second commemorative stamp, approved by the Department of Posts, would be released on October 22. The first was released on December 15, 1988. (D)

- 1176)** Who among the following was appointed as the Director of Chennai-based Kalakshetra Foundation in July 2013?
- a) Arundhati Nag
 - b) Sonal Mansingh
 - c) Mallika Sarabhai
 - d) Sanjukta Panigrahi
 - e) Priyadarsini Govind

Eminent Bharatanatyam dancer Priyadarsini Govind on July 10, 2013 said she felt honoured for having been appointed director of Chennai-based Kalakshetra, a premier institution for arts in the country. (E)

- 1177)** Pran Krishan Sikand, who was conferred the Padma _____ in 2001 and Dadasaheb Phalke award in 2013, passed away on July 12, 2013.
- a) Shri
 - b) Bhushan
 - c) Vibhushan
 - d) All the above
 - e) None of the above

Pran Krishan Sikand, who was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, passed away in Mumbai on July 12, 2013. He was 93. Bollywood legend has it that writer Wali Mohammad Wali met him in Lahore and offered him a leading role in the Punjabi film Yamla Jat (1940). He arrived in Mumbai after partition. His first big break was as a villain in 'Ziddi', starring Dev Anand and Kamini Kaushal. (B)

- 1178)** Chinna Satyanarayana, a recipient of Padma Bhushan who passed away in July 2013 at the age of 90, was known for achievements in:
- a) Literature
 - b) Music
 - c) Painting
 - d) Photography
 - e) Architecture

Acclaimed Carnatic vocalist Nookala Chinna Satyanarayana, a recipient of Padma Bhushan, passed away in Secunderabad on July 11, 2013, at the age of 90 years. (B)

- 1179)** India and China are organising joint military exercise in China in November 2013. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- I. Joint military exercise was last held in 2008
 - II. Jodhpur hosted the last joint military exercise in India
 - III. Kunming hosted the last joint military exercise in China
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only
 - e) I, II and III

Notwithstanding the spate of incursions by Chinese Army into Indian Territory, the two countries will hold military exercises from November 4 in Chengdu region here after a gap of almost five years. The decision to hold the 'Hand-in-Hand' series of exercises from November 4-14, 2013 was taken in a meeting between Indian and Chinese military officials in New Delhi. The third edition of the exercise is being held after a gap of almost five years after the drills in Belgaum in December 2008. The first edition of the exercise was held in Kunming in China in 2007. After the denial of visa to the then Northern Army Commander Lt Gen B S Jaswal by China in 2010, New Delhi had frozen all bilateral defence exchanges with Beijing. The two sides decided to resume the joint exercises in 2012 after the meeting between the then Chinese defence minister Gen Liang Guanglie and his Indian counterpart A K Antony in New Delhi. (D)

- 1180)** Which island nation's National Coast Guard (NCG) was gifted aircraft engines and critical spares during the visit of INS Sukanya in July 2013?
- a) Maldives
 - b) Mauritius
 - c) Sri Lanka
 - d) Jamaica
 - e) Trinidad & Tobago

As part of the overall policy to build robust maritime linkages with Indian Ocean Region countries to counter China's widening arc of influence, India has gifted naval aircraft spares and engines to Mauritius. The Indian Navy handed over the military equipment to the National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius at Port Louis on July 12, 2013. The ceremony, held on board Indian warship INS Sukanya, saw high commissioner T. P. Seetharam handing over three new Islander aircraft engines and critical spares to Dr Arvin Boolell, minister of foreign affairs, regional integration and international trade of the Republic of Mauritius. The consignment of spares will assist NCG Mauritius in keeping its vital air assets operational to patrol their expansive maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) against piracy and poaching as well as aid search and rescue operations. (B)

- 1181)** Pham Binh Minh came on an official visit to New Delhi in July 2013. He is the _____ of Vietnam.
- a) Defence Minister
 - b) Foreign Minister
 - c) Trade Minister

- d) Speaker of Parliament
- e) Supreme Court Chief Justice

Notwithstanding China's objections to Indian oil exploration projects, Vietnam on July 11, 2013 asserted India has the right to pursue 'exploration and exploitation work' in South China Sea as they were within Vietnamese 'exclusive economic zone'. The two countries, which held their 15th Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi, also inked an agreement for a 19.5 million dollar Line of Credit India will give to Vietnam. After the meeting with his Indian counterpart Salman Khurshid during which crucial bilateral and regional issues were discussed, Vietnam Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, said both sides discussed the South and East China Seas, agreeing that UN law on freedom of navigation in high seas need to be respected. The remarks came in the backdrop of continued Chinese objections over oil exploration projects undertaken by India in Vietnamese oil blocks. China has been claiming territorial sovereignty over South China Sea, a claim contested by its neighbours including Vietnam. (B)

1182) Who among the following Indian industrialists was conferred the Global Leadership Award at the 38th Annual Leadership Summit of the India-US Business Council in Washington in July 2013?

- a) Omkar Kanwar
- b) Anajit Singh
- c) Anil Agarwal
- d) GVK Reddy
- e) Naveen Jindal

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Anand Sharma on July 11, 2013 held bilateral discussions with the US Trade Representative Michael Froman in Washington. While Froman welcomed India's decision on reviewing the Preferential Market Access policy, Sharma raised the concerns of the Indian IT industry relating to some of the specific provisions of US legislation on Immigration reforms impacting the mobility of skilled professionals. Froman and Sharma addressed the 38th Annual Leadership Summit of the India-US Business Council. 38th Anniversary Global Leadership Awards were conferred on Louis Chenevert of United Technologies, and to Anajit Singh of Max Healthcare. (B)

1183) Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister M. Veerappa Moily visited Baghdad to attend the 17th India-Iraq Joint Commission meeting organised in July 2013. Iraq was the _____ exporter of crude oil to India in 2011-12.

- a) Largest
- b) 2nd largest
- c) 3rd largest
- d) 4th largest
- e) 5th largest

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, M. Veerappa Moily led a 28 member delegation to the meeting of 17th India-Iraq Joint Commission organised in Baghdad on July 7-8, 2013. Moily called on the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nouri Al-Maliki and reiterated to him the invitation of the Prime Minister of India to the Iraqi PM to visit New Delhi. Iraq is the second largest supplier of crude oil to India. Moily emphasized the need for further strengthening the relationship between the two countries by increasing economic cooperation. Indian companies have the expertise to participate in many projects which were coming up in Iraq, especially in areas such as refineries, petrochemicals, fertilizers, etc. Indian refiners imported 171.41 million tonnes of crude oil in 2011-12. Of this, 32.63 million tonnes came from Saudi Arabia, 24.51 million tonnes from Iraq, 17.67 million tonnes from Kuwait, and 15.79 million tonnes from the U.A.E. (B)

1184) Japan offered to sell its ShinMaywa _____ to India in July 2013.

- a) Aircraft
- b) Submarine
- c) Bullet train
- d) Rocket launcher
- e) Nuclear reactor

Japan has offered to sell India the ShinMaywa US-2, a highly sophisticated amphibious plane, during a meeting between National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon and visiting Japanese Senior Vice-Minister of Defence Akinori Eto in New Delhi in July 2013. (A)

1185) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Australian Minister Kim Carr?

- a) Kapil Sibal
- b) Salman Khurshid
- c) M. Veerappa Moily
- d) M. M. Pallam Raju
- e) Sriprakash Jaiswal

Australia on July 12, 2013 announced a 10 million dollar grant to unlock the potential in research and education with India in areas like science, biotechnology and climate change. Australia's Minister for Higher Education Kim Carr made the announcement in Melbourne along with visiting Human Resources Development Minister M. Pallam Raju,

who has sought closer ties with Australian universities and vocational institutions. Carr said the additional 10 million AU dollar will come from the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF), which covers joint research in science, technology, biotechnology and climate change. It also offers fellowships for Australian researchers to work in India. (D)

1186) India participated in the Trilateral Cooperation on Maritime Security held in _____ on July 8, 2013

- a) Male
- b) Dhaka
- c) Singapore
- d) Colombo
- e) Port Louis

India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives will share capacities and information to address threats to maritime security — such as piracy, terrorism and gunrunning — in the Indian Ocean and to pursue sustainable development of maritime environment. The three countries arrived at an agreement on the issues at the meeting on Trilateral Cooperation on Maritime Security held in Colombo on July 8, 2013. (D)

1187) Which of the following, in its findings released in July 2013, says that India could prevent over nine million deaths due to cardiovascular disease over the next decade if it implements smoking bans and levy higher tobacco taxes?

- a) Time
- b) The Lancet
- c) PLOS Medicine
- d) The Economist
- e) National Geographic

India could prevent over nine million deaths due to cardiovascular disease over the next decade if it implements smoking bans and levy higher tobacco taxes, a new study released in July 2013 has found. According to the study published in the journal PLOS Medicine smoke-free laws and increased tobacco taxes would yield substantial and rapid health benefits by averting future cardiovascular disease (CVD) deaths. (C)

1188) Corruption in India has reached an all-time high with rates being exactly double of the global prevalence, said the Global Corruption Barometer 2013 released by _____ in July 2013.

- a) Tax Justice Network
- b) India Against Corruption
- c) Global Financial Integrity
- d) Transparency International
- e) Centre for Public Interest Litigation & Common Cause

Corruption in India has reached an all-time high with rates being exactly double of the global prevalence. This was revealed in the findings of Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer 2013 - a survey of 1.14 lakh people in 107 countries released on July 9, 2013. The index found that corruption is widespread globally, with 27% of respondents (1 in 4 people) having paid a bribe when accessing public services and institutions in the last 12 months, revealing no improvement from previous surveys. (D)

1189) Which of the following was selected as the venue of the 2014 International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards in July 2013?

- a) Miami
- b) Little Rock
- c) Tampa Bay
- d) Honolulu
- e) Los Angeles

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards will be organised in the US for the first time with the 2014 edition at the Tampa Bay in Florida. This was announced by IIFA and Wizcraft on July 6, 2013. In the last 14 years, IIFA has travelled to four continents including Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. (C)

1190) Which European country was in news in July 2013 for the passage of the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 by its Parliament that allows abortion in limited circumstance?

- a) Italy
- b) Ireland
- c) France
- d) Vatican
- e) United Kingdom

Parliament in Ireland on July 12, 2013 passed a legislation allowing abortion under limited circumstances. The Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 would permit abortion if the mother's life is in danger. It would also

extend to women who are deemed suicidal if refused abortion. The long-awaited legislation follows widespread outrage over the death of Savita Hallappanavar, a young Indian dentist, who died in an Irish hospital in October 2012 after being refused abortion despite apparent risk to her life. An inquiry found that she could have been saved if doctors had agreed to her request for termination. (B)

- 1191)** What is the world cereal production forecast for 2013 made by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in July 2013?
- 500 million tonnes
 - 1500 million tonnes
 - 2500 million tonnes
 - 3500 million tonnes
 - 4500 million tonnes

World cereal production is set to hit a new high this year because of favourable climatic conditions in major growing countries, including India. Data released by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in July 2013 showed world cereal production would hit 2,479 million tonnes (mt) in 2013, an estimated increase of 7.2 per cent. The FAO puts world wheat output in 2013 at 704 mt, an increase of 6.8 per cent. World rice production in 2013 is forecast to expand by 1.9 percent to 500 mt (milled equivalent). World production of coarse grains in 2013 is forecast at about 1,275 mt, an increase of 9.7 percent from 2012. (C)

- 1192)** Who among the following was conferred the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony 2013 in September 2013?
- Dalai Lama
 - Zubin Mehta
 - Amartya Sen
 - Desmond Tutu
 - Aung San Suu Kyi

President Pranab Mukherjee on September 6, 2013 conferred the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony 2013, on music composer Zubin Mehta. The award carries an amount of Rs. one crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The annual award was instituted by the Government of India during the commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex. The first Tagore Award was conferred on Indian Sitar Maestro Pt. Ravi Shankar in 2012. (B)

- 1193)** Which country hosted the 48th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in July 2013?
- Bulgaria
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Estonia
 - Hungary

The 48th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival was organised in the Czech Republic from June 28 to July 6, 2013. Hollywood actor John Travolta and director Oliver Stone were both honoured for their outstanding contribution to world cinema. **Winners:** Grand Prix - Crystal Globe - 'Le grand cahier' (Hungary, Germany, Austria, France) directed by János Szász; Special Jury Prize - 'A Field in England' (United Kingdom), directed by Ben Wheatley; Best Director Award - Jan Hřebejk for the film 'Honeymoon' (Czech Republic, Slovak Republic); Best Actress Award - Amy Morton, Louisa Krause, Emily Meade, Margo Martindale for their roles in 'Bluebird' (USA, Sweden); Best Actor Award - Ólafur Darri Ólafsson for his role in 'XL' (Iceland); Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema - Oliver Stone, John Travolta (C)

- 1194)** Who among the following was conferred the United Nations' Special Envoy for Global Education's Youth Courage Award for Education in July 2013?
- Aisha Jahan
 - Nadira Banu
 - Sajida Shahar
 - Razia Sultana
 - Bilqis Makani

Razia Sultana, a teenager from a village in Meerut, UP, was selected for the United Nations' Special Envoy for Global Education's Youth Courage Award for Education on July 12, 2013. The award is in recognition of her efforts to help liberate 48 children from child labour bondage and motivate them to go to school. The 16-year-old Razia, who was rescued from a football-stitching factory five years ago, has been helping free child labourers and motivating them to study. Razia was freed from forced labour by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan freed her in 2008. A student of Class XII now, Razia helped the NGO to rescue 48 children from football-making units in the region and put them in school. (D)

- 1195)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 11, 2013 permitted Indian banks to acquire the shares of Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial _____ (SWIFT).

- Tasks
- Terminals
- Transactions
- Technologies
- Telecommunication

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 11, 2013 permitted Indian banks to acquire the shares of Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) provided they have been permitted by RBI for admission to the 'SWIFT User's Group in India' as member. Earlier acquiring shares of SWIFT was considered by RBI on the case to case basis under approval route. (E)

- 1196)** Who among the following is the Chairperson of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC)?
- Ratan Tata
 - Rajiv Vastupal
 - Krishnamurthy
 - Anand Mahindra
 - Sudhir Vasudeva

The Prime Minister held a meeting of the High Level Committee on Manufacturing (HLCM) organised on July 11, 2013 to discuss the proposals made by the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council presented by the Chairman, Dr. V. Krishnamurthy. The meeting discussed the strategy for boosting competitiveness and output in two important sectors - textiles and steel - and for formulating a long term approach in three strategic industries - civilian aircraft manufacture, electric and hybrid vehicles and advanced materials and composites. (C)

- 1197)** The government, in July 2013, has decided to put on hold the policy which says that _____ should give preference to domestically manufactured electronic products during procurement.
- Government departments
 - Private sector companies
 - Defence services
 - All the above
 - None of the above

The government has decided to review the preferential purchase policy for electronic equipment amid pressure from multinational firms and domestic telecom entities. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on July 8, 2013, "A decision was taken to review the policy for Providing Preference to Domestically Manufactured Electronic Goods (PMA Policy), particularly in the private sector. The overall policy on PMA will be recalibrated and submitted to the cabinet." No notifications on PMA in the private sector on security related products will be issued till the policy is reviewed and any notifications in the draft stage will be withheld," the PMO said in a statement. (B)

- 1198)** The government approved the establishment of which of the following to replace the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in July 2013?
- Civil Aviation Bureau
 - Civil Aviation Authority
 - Aviation Authority of India
 - Indian Aeronautical Agency
 - Aviation Development Authority

The Union Cabinet on July 11, 2013 gave its in-principle approval to the civil aviation ministry's proposal to set up an autonomous body, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), to replace the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The Bill to establish the body will be introduced in the monsoon session of Parliament. Unlike DGCA, which functions under the aegis of the ministry, the proposed authority will have administrative and financial freedom to meet the functional requirements for an effective aviation safety and oversight system. Besides, it will also have enough teeth to exercise economic and environmental regulations and protect consumers' interests. (B)

- 1199)** Which of the following are stakeholders in the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Ltd approved by the Union government in July 2013?
- Delhi, Haryana and Punjab
 - Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab
 - Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan
 - Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan
 - Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CEA) on July 11, 2013 decided to set up the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Ltd (NCRTC) with initial seed capital of Rs 100 crore to execute and run a regional rapid transit system (RTS) in the national capital region (NCR). NCRTC is expected to provide fast transit to NCR towns and meet the high growth in transport demand. This company may form subsidiary companies to implement each corridor. Initially, NCRTC will take up three corridors - Delhi-Sonapat-Panipat, Delhi-Gurgaon-Alwar and Delhi-Ghaziabad-

Meerut. The three corridors are expected to carry 1.63 million people daily by 2016 and 3.63 million by 2041. The seed capital will be contributed by the railways, urban development ministry, and the governments of Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan. **(D)**

1200) Which of the following had the highest share in Direct Tax collections in April-June 2013?

- a) Wealth Tax
- b) Corporate tax
- c) Personal income tax
- d) Securities Transaction Tax

Gross direct tax collection during April-June 2013-14 is up by 11.52 percent at Rs. 1,23,993 crore as against Rs. 1,11,183 crore in the same period last year, showed figures released by the Finance Ministry on July 9, 2013. While gross collection of Corporate taxes has shown an increase of 7.82 percent (Rs. 76,115 crore as against Rs. 70,594 crore last year), gross collection of Personal income tax is up by 18.53 percent (Rs.46,903 crore as against Rs.39,569 crore last year). Net direct tax collection is up by 6.44 percent and stands at Rs.89,705 crore, as compared to Rs. 84,274 crore in the same period in the last fiscal. The collection of Securities Transaction Tax (STT) stands at Rs. 926 crore. The Wealth Tax has posted a growth of 50.00 percent (Rs.48 crore against Rs.32 crore last year). **(B)**

1201) Which of the following has signed a joint venture agreement with Rajasthan Government to set a 9 million metric tonnes per annum refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in Barmer district in July 2013?

- a) OIL
- b) IOC
- c) BPCL
- d) HPCL
- e) Cairn India

The Rajasthan Government and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have signed a joint venture agreement to set up a refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in Barmer district. A joint venture company, HPCL-Rajasthan Refinery Limited, will execute the project. The refinery would have the capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum. The agreement was signed in Jaipur on July 11, 2013 in the presence of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Mines and Petroleum Minister Rajendra Pareek, and HPCL Chairman and Managing Director S. Roy Choudhury. The refinery will source crude from the oil fields in western Rajasthan, and also import crude and manufacture various petroleum and petrochemical products. **(D)**

1202) Which of the following was launched by the President to provide information, advisories and services through SMS to more than 12 crore farmers across the country on July 16, 2013?

- a) Khet SMS Portal
- b) Krishi SMS Portal
- c) Unnati SMS Portal
- d) Kisaan SMS Portal
- e) Krishak SMS Portal

An SMS portal for farmers, the Kisaan SMS Portal, was launched by President Pranab Mukherjee on July 16, 2013. The Kisaan Portal aims at reaching information, advisories and services through SMS to more than 12 crore farmers across the country. Being an instant and non-intrusive medium of communication, the SMS advisories and alerts will enable farmers to take informed decisions relating to different aspects of farming including crop production and marketing, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries. The farmers can also opt to receive SMS messages customized to their specific requirements. Weather forecast and alerts will enable farmers in planning, farming operations effectively and taking the best suited action to deal with adverse weather conditions. Timely market information provided through SMS will give the farmer better bargaining power and he will be in a position to take better decisions about sale of his produce. SMS advisories will also include soil test results, selection of fertilizer and its dosage, and also information on various programmes so that farmers can make the best use of assistance and know-how being made available by the Government. Farmers will need to register for this service by calling Kisaan Call Centre on the toll free number 1800-180-1551 or through the web portal. **(D)**

1203) What is India's growth forecast for 2013-14 according to the World Economic Outlook (WEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released in July 2013?

- a) 3.6%
- b) 4.6%
- c) 5.6%
- d) 6.6%
- e) 7.6%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) scaled down India's economic growth forecast by from 5.4% to 5.6% for 2013-14 in its World Economic Outlook released on July 9, 2013. The multilateral agency did not directly refer to the rupee depreciation against the dollar but cautioned emerging market economies against prolonged growth slowdown, particularly if the United States policy on withdrawal of stimulus would lead to reversal in capital outflows. Emerging

market economies, it said, witnessed outflows of capital, decline in equity prices and currency depreciation because of developments in the advanced world. The IMF also slightly cut its forecast for India's economic growth to 6.3 per cent for 2014-15 from 6.2 per cent estimated earlier. IMF growth projections are not comparable with official growth projections. The agency computes gross domestic product (GDP) at market prices (inclusive of indirect taxes). India and other agencies, however, calculate GDP at factor cost (exclusive of indirect taxes). For example India's GDP grew at a decade low of five per cent in 2012-13. If one takes into account IMF methodology, India's GDP rose just 3.2 per cent in 2012-13. **(C)**

1204) Who among the following was elected to the Intergovernmental Board of Climate Services (IBCS) during its meeting held in Geneva in July 2013?

- a) Suresh Rana
- b) Mohit Verma
- c) Sanjay Takale
- d) Laxman Singh Rathore
- e) Somdev Kumar Chanda

Dr Laxman Singh Rathore, Director General of Meteorology & Permanent Representative of India with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been elected as Co-Vice Chairman of Intergovernmental Board of Climate Services (IBCS) during its first meeting held at Geneva during July 1 to 5, 2013. Dr. Rathore was recently elected as member of the Executive Council of the WMO. Anton Eliassen, Director General, Norway Meteorological Institute has been elected as Chair and Dr Linda Makuleni, South Africa is the other Co-Vice Chair. **(D)**

1205) Match the pairs of persons and appointments made in financial services sector in July 2013 correctly.

	PERSON		APPOINTMENT
I.	S. B. Mainak	1.	CMD of Syndicate Bank
II.	Rajiv Rishi	2.	CMD of Central Bank of India
III.	S. K. Jain	3.	MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India

- a) I-1, II-2, III-3
- b) I-3, II-2, III-1
- c) I-1, II-3, III-2
- d) I-2, II-3, III-1

The government on July 8, 2013 made three top appointments for public sector financial firms. S K Jain has been appointed chairman and managing director (CMD) of Syndicate Bank, Rajiv Rishi as CMD of Central Bank of India and S. B. Mainak has been appointed as MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Apart from Mainak, LIC has Sushobhan Sarkar as another managing director. Born in 1956 in Mumbai, Mainak is a chartered accountant by qualification. He joined the services of LIC in 1983 as a direct recruit under CA batch. **(B)**

1206) Which state launched the "Manaswini" scheme in July 2013 to provide monthly pension of Rs 500 to unmarried women below poverty line who have crossed 40?

- a) Bihar
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Maharashtra

The government in Karnataka on July 12, 2013 announced a slew of measures in Budget. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who presented the revised Budget for 2013-14, announced interest-free loans to farmers up to Rs 2 lakh and at one per cent interest for loans between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3 lakh. He also announced the establishment of Calamity Mitigation Fund, with an initial corpus of Rs 500 crore. This would help farmers during the natural disasters. Siddaramaiah also announced measures for schoolgirls, women and transgenders. To encourage enrolment and attendance of girls in first standard in government schools, Rs 2 would be given to girls for each day's attendance. "Manaswini" would be introduced to provide monthly pension of Rs 500 to unmarried women below poverty line who have crossed 40 and for divorced women below the poverty line. "Mythri" would be launched for providing monthly pension of Rs 500 to transgenders. **(C)**

1207) Which state launched its "Anna Bhagya" scheme in July 2013 that will supply 30 kg of rice at Re one per kg to nearly 10 million below poverty line (BPL) families across the state.

- a) Bihar
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Maharashtra

The Karnataka government on July 10, 2013 launched its "Anna Bhagya" scheme that will supply 30 kg of rice at Re one per kg to nearly 10 million below poverty line (BPL) families across the state. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the scheme in Bangalore. (C)

1208) Who among the following won the Men's Doubles title at Wimbledon in July 2013?

- a) Mike and Bob Bryan
- b) Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo
- c) Max Mirnyi and Daniel Nestor
- d) Leander Paes and Radek Stepanek
- e) Robert Lindstedt and Horia Tecau

Bob and Mike Bryan of USA became the first doubles team to hold all four Grand Slam titles in the Open era when they won Wimbledon for the third time on July 6, 2013. The top seeds beat Croatia's Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo of Brazil 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. The brothers, taking part in their 25th Grand Slam final, had also won the Olympics in 2012. They now have 15 men's doubles titles at the Grand Slams. Ken McGregor and Frank Sedgman are the only pair to have completed the calendar Grand Slam back in the pre-Open era of 1951. Prize money for the winners: £300,000 per team (A)

1209) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at Wimbledon in July 2013?

- a) Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci
- b) Su-Wei Hsieh and Peng Shuai
- c) Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua
- d) Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova
- e) Andrea Hlavackova & Lucie Hradecka

Taiwan's Su-Wei Hsieh and Peng Shuai of China won the Wimbledon women's doubles title on July 6, 2013 with a 7-6(1), 6-1 win over Australian duo, Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua. Both have won a title at Wimbledon for the first time. Prize money for the winners: £300,000 per team (B)

1210) Who among the following won the Mixed Doubles title at Wimbledon in July 2012?

- a) Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi
- b) Bruno Suarez and Lisa Raymond
- c) Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic
- d) Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Horia Tecau
- e) Leander Paes and Elena Vesnina

Canada's Daniel Nestor and French partner Kristina Mladenovic won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title on July 7, 2013 by defeating top-seeds Bruno Suarez of Brazil and American Lisa Raymond 5-7, 6-2, 8-6. Both have won Mixed Doubles title at Wimbledon for the first time. Nestor won men's Doubles in 2008 & 2009. Prize money for the winners: £92,000 per team (C)

1211) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at Wimbledon in July 2013?

- a) Rafael Nadal
- b) Andy Murray
- c) Andy Roddick
- d) Roger Federer
- e) Novak Djokovic

Britain's Andy Murray overcame Novak Djokovic in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 to win the Men's Singles title at Wimbledon for the first time on July 7, 2013. The 26-year-old became the country's first male winner since Fred Perry in 1936. It was Murray's second Grand Slam title to follow his breakthrough triumph at the US Open in 2012 which followed his Olympic gold medal as well as a loss to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final. Prize for the winner: £1,600,000 (B)

1212) Who among the following is associated with the drafting of the National Sports Development Bill 2013?

- a) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- b) Justice V. S. Sirpurkar
- c) Justice Markandey Katju
- d) Justice R. V. Raveendran
- e) Justice Dalveer Bhandari

Setting up of an Appellate Sports Tribunal and a Sports Election Commission and provisions to bar charge-sheeted persons from contesting elections are some of the salient features included in the Draft National Sports Development Bill 2013 which was presented to the government on July 10, 2013. The Draft Bill, prepared by the Working Group for Drafting of the National Sports Development Bill 2013 under the chairmanship of Justice (Retd) Mukul Mudgal, was on July 10 submitted to Sports Minister Jitendra Singh. (A)

1213) Which of the following about the three-nation ODI series organised in West Indies in July 2013 are matched correctly?

- a) Highest run getter – Virat Kohli
- b) Highest wicket taker – Bhuvneshwar Kumar & Rangana Herath
- c) Player of the Series – Rangana Herath
- d) All the above
- e) None of the above

India triumphed in the Tri-nation ODI series after defeating Sri Lanka by one wicket in the final at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad on July 12, 2013. India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who along with Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath was the joint highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 10 wickets from four matches, was Player of the Series. Sri Lanka's Upul Tharanga had the highest aggregate of 223 runs from 5 matches. Angelo Mathews was captain of Sri Lanka. (B)

1214) Ashton Agar created the record for highest score by a _____ batsman in Test Cricket in July 2013.

- a) No. 7
- b) No. 8
- c) No. 9
- d) No. 10
- e) No. 11

19-year-old Ashton Agar of Australia made Test history by becoming the first number 11 to score a half-century on debut on the second day of the first Ashes Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham on July 11, 2013. His 98 was the highest score by a Test match No 11, surpassing 95 by Tino Best for the West Indies against England at Edgbaston in 2012. Agar and Phil Hughes (81 not out) also broke the record for the highest 10th wicket partnership in tests when they got 163 runs. The previous record of 151 runs was jointly held by Brian Hastings/Richard Collinge (New Zealand) and Azhar Mahmood/Mushtaq Ahmed (Pakistan), 151. (E)

1215) Who among the following was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in July 2013?

- a) Rahul Dravid
- b) Shane Warne
- c) Ricky Ponting
- d) Saurav Ganguly
- e) Sachin Tendulkar

Former Australia spinner Shane Warne will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame on July 19 during the tea interval of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's, ICC announced on July 11, 2013. Warne becomes the 69th male member of the Hall of Fame, and joins fellow 2012-13 inductees Brian Lara of the West Indies, England's Enid Bakewell and former Australia team-mate Glenn McGrath in being recognised by the ICC and the living members of the Hall of Fame. Warne represented Australia in 145 Tests between 1992 and 2007, claiming 708 Test wickets at an average of 25.41. He was the first cricketer to reach 700 Test scalps. He also played in 194 ODIs, claiming 293 wickets at an average of 25.73 and was part of the Australia side that won the World Cup in 1999 at Lord's against Pakistan. (B)

1216) The 2015 ICC World Cup will comprise ten test playing nations and _____ affiliate member nations.

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4
- e) 5

Ireland qualified for their third successive ICC World Cup after they won the World Cricket League Championship in Amstelveen on July 9, 2013. The result also made Ireland the first of four qualifiers for the World Cup. The 2015 ICC World Cup will comprise ten test playing nations and four affiliate member nations. (D)

1217) Where was the ASBC Asian Confederation Boxing Championship organised in July 2013?

- a) Dubai
- b) Beirut
- c) Amman
- d) Doha
- e) Teheran

Indian boxer Olympian Shiva Thapa (56kg) on July 8, 2013 bagged the gold beating local hope Obada Alkabeih in the final of the ASBC Asian Confederation Boxing Championship organised in Amman, Jordan. Devendra Singh (49kg) and Mandeep Jangra (69kg) won silver medals while Manoj Kumar (64kg) had to be content with a bronze medal. India finished the tournament with a haul of four medals (one gold, two silver and a bronze). (C)

1218) Maharaj Krishan Kaushik was appointed coach of Men's _____ national team in July 2013.

- Kabaddi
- Hockey
- Football
- Basketball
- Volleyball

Hockey India (HI) appointed Maharaj Krishan Kaushik as coach of the senior men's hockey side on July 10, 2013 following the ouster of chief coach Michael Nobbs. Kaushik will assist the HI high performance director, Roelant Oltmans, who has taken charge as coach till a new chief coach is appointed. Kaushik was a member of the team that won the India's last gold medal in hockey in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Earlier Australian Michael Nobbs was on July 8, 2013 sacked as the chief coach of the Indian hockey team for non-performance. **(B)**

1219) Where were the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games organised in July 2013?

- Gyeongju
- Ulsan
- Seoul
- Incheon
- Busan

Deep Sengupta outwitted GM Golizadeh Asghar to help the Indian mixed chess team clinch a silver medal at Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games that concluded at Incheon, South Korea on July 6, 2013. The 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games were organised in Incheon, Korea, from June 29 to July 6, 2013 featuring nine sports. **(D)**

1220) Where was India's first privately-owned Sports Medicine Research Institute called Medsport HSPRI inaugurated in June 2013?

- Nashik
- Mumbai
- Nagpur
- Pune
- Aurangabad

Budding athletes in India can now get a scientific assessment of their potential with the launch of country's first privately-owned Sports Medicine Research Institute called Medsport HSPRI, which was inaugurated by sprint legend PT Usha and her protegee Tintu Luka in Pune on June 9, 2013. In fact, Tintu became the first athlete to get herself tested under the watchful eyes of her mentor Usha at the facility. **(D)**

1221) Who among the following won India's only medal at the ISSF World Cup organised in Granada, Spain in July 2013?

- Anisa Sayyed
- Rahi Sarnobat
- Heena Sidhu
- Anjali Bhagwat
- Lajja Gauswami

Lajja Gauswami on July 9, 2013 clinched the silver medal in women's 50-metre Rifle 3 Position event, finally bringing to an end India's lean run at the ISSF World Cup in Granada, Spain. This was India's only medal in the tournament. China topped the medals tally with 4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals. **(E)**

1222) Whose forthcoming autobiography is titled – 'The Race Of My Life'?

- P.T. Usha
- Milkha Singh
- Sudha Singh
- Ashwini Akkunji
- Preeja Sreedharan

There will be more to sift through the poignant tales of legendary athlete 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh after the much-awaited biopic on him by director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra hits the theatres on July 12, 2013. The veteran athlete has teamed up with his daughter Sonia Sanwalka to chronicle his journey in his autobiography -- The Race Of My Life -- written in English. A 250-page self-disclosure of his stoicism -- beginning with the killing of Milkha's parents, his two brothers and a sister in the turbulent 1947 Partition to falling painfully short of a medal at the 400m final of 1960 Rome Olympics loss by a gut-wrenching fraction of a second -- will hit the book shelves in August 2013. Referring to the "failure of Delhi CW Games 2010" and suspension of Indian Olympic Association in December 2012, Milkha in his new book questions the future of Indian athletes. He also seeks a strict clampdown on sources of illegal drugs and expresses sadness about recent scandals including that of alleged heroin consumption by boxer Vijender Singh. **(B)**

1223) According to a Supreme Court verdict under the Representation of the People Act in July 2013 which of the following statements is not correct?

- A person who is not eligible to vote cannot contest election
- A person in preventive detention cannot contest election
- A person who is in jail cannot contest election
- A person who is in police custody cannot contest election
- All the above

A person who is in jail or in police custody cannot contest election to the Parliament and State Assemblies, the Supreme Court ruled on July 11, 2013. The apex court has ruled that only an "elector" can contest polls and he/she ceases to hold the right to cast vote due to confinement in prison or being in police custody. The court has, however, made it clear that the disqualification will not be applicable to persons subjected to preventive detention under any law. Referring to the Representation of the People Act, a Bench of judges A K Patnaik and S J Mukhopadhyay said the Act laid down the qualifications for membership of the House of the People and Legislative Assembly and one of the qualifications laid down was that he must be an elector. The court passed the order on an appeal filed by the Chief Election Commissioner and others challenging a Patna High Court order barring people in police custody from contesting polls. **(B)**

1224) Which of the following statements on convicted Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) contesting elections is/are correct?

- According to a recent Supreme Court verdict, sitting MPs and MLAs with criminal cases pending against them will have to resign immediately
 - According to a recent Supreme Court verdict, sitting MPs and MLAs with criminal cases pending against them can remain in office till their appeals against conviction is heard
 - A convicted person who had been sentenced to a prison term of two years and more would be barred from contesting elections for six years since release from jail
- I only
 - II only
 - II and III only
 - III and I only
 - III only

Sitting Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) with criminal cases pending against them will have to step down immediately, the Supreme Court ruled on July 10, 2013.

The apex court struck down Section 8(4) of the Representation of People's Act 1951 — which allows MPs & MLAs to remain in office till their appeal is heard — and said "disqualification takes place from the date of conviction".

The apex court clarified that the ruling will not affect the MPs and MLAs who had been convicted and moved appeals before July 10.

It was Lily Thomas, a lawyer, and Lok Prahari, an NGO, that first moved the apex court through a public interest litigation (PIL) to draw their attention to Section 8 (4) of the Representation of People's Act 1951, which allows convicted lawmakers to be exempted from disqualification if s/he appeals against the conviction within three months.

So far, MPs and MLAs convicted in criminal cases used this leeway to remain in office. According to the Representation of People's Act, a convicted person who had been sentenced to a prison term of two years and more would be barred from contesting elections for six years since release from jail. **(D)**

1225) Which of the following has started a joint venture with government-owned Mazagon Dock to build warships for the Indian Navy?

- Hyundai Shipbuilding
- Pipavav Shipyard
- L&T Shipbuilding
- Bharati Shipyard
- ABG Shipyard

Ship manufacturers Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering Company on July 14, 2013 said the Ministry of Defence has lifted the restriction on the Mazagon Dock-Pipavav Defence joint venture to build warships for the Indian Navy. Pipavav Defence was chosen by the State-run, Mumbai-headquartered Mazagon Dock as a joint venture partner to build warships and submarines for the Indian Navy. While the entire venture was stalled earlier, due to complaints by Larsen & Toubro and ABG Shipyard over the inconsistencies in the company's selection process, the government has now given the green signal. The joint venture, named Mazagon Dock Pipavav, is to start by implementing part of the existing orders of Mazagon Dock of Rs 1,00,000 crore (\$21.69 billion). The 50:50 venture was termed the first between a public and a private sector shipbuilder in the defence sector. **(B)**

- 1226)** The Union government approved the establishment of "The Indira Gandhi _____ University for Women" in Raebareli in July 2013.
- a) Technical
 - b) Regional
 - c) National
 - d) Aeronautical
 - e) Mass Communication

The government on July 11 approved the establishment of a National University for Women in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh by the name of "The Indira Gandhi National University for Women". This will be the first university of the country to be established exclusively for women. The objective is to give women an increased access to employment oriented basic courses and high end research. This will be the first university of the country to be established exclusively for women. (C)

RADIAN IAS ACADEMY