

**NATIONAL AFFAIRS UPSC PRE 2018**

**1. As per the NSSO 70th Round "Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households", consider the following statements:**

1. Rajasthan has the highest percentage share of agricultural households among its rural households.
2. Out of the total agricultural households in the country, a little over 60 percent belong to OBCs.
3. In Kerala, a little over 60 percent of agricultural households reported to have received maximum income from source other than agricultural activities. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER C**

**2. Which one of the following best describes the term "Merchant Discount Rate" sometimes seen in news?**

- (a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.
- (b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.
- (c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards.
- (d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.

**ANSWER C**

**3. With reference to India's decision to levy an equalization tax of 6% on online advertisement services offered by non-resident entities, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is introduced as a part of the Income Tax Act.
2. Non-resident entities that offer advertisement services in India can claim a tax credit in their home country under the "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements". Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER D**

**4. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee Report has recommended a debt to GDP ratio of 60% for the general (combined) government by 2023, comprising 40% for the Central Government and 20% for the State Governments.
2. The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 21% of GDP as compared to that of 49% of GDP of the State Governments.
3. As per the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for a State to take the Central Government's consent for raising any loan if the former owes any outstanding liabilities to the latter. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER C**

**5. Consider the following statements:**

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER D**

**6. Which one of the following links all the ATMs in India**

- (a) Indian Banks' Association
- (b) National Securities Depository Limited
- (c) National Payments Corporation of India
- (d) Reserve Bank of India

**ANSWER C**

**7. The identity platform 'Aadhaar' provides open "Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)". What does it imply?**

1. It can be integrated into any electronic device.
2. Online authentication using iris is possible. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER C**

**8. Consider the following statements:**

1. As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
3. In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 (d) 3 only

**ANSWER B**

**9. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 replaced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.
2. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is under the charge of Director General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER A**

**10. With reference to the provisions made under the National Food Security Act, 2013, consider the following statements:**

1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidies food grains.
2. The eldest woman in a household, of age 18 years or above, shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issuance of a ration card.
3. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a 'take-home ration' of 1600 calories per day during pregnancy and for six months thereafter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 (d) 3 only

**ANSWER B**

**11. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements:**

1. BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.
  2. While a chip-pin debit card has four factors authentication, BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER A**

**12. Which of the following is/are the aim/aims of "Digital India" Plan of the Government of India?**

1. Formation of India's own Internet companies like China did.
2. Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centers within our national geographical boundaries.
3. Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our schools, public places and major tourist centers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER B**

**13. Consider the following pairs: Craft Heritage of**

1. Puthukkuli shawls - Tamil Nadu
  2. Sujni embroidery - Maharashtra
  3. Uppada Jamdani saris - Karnataka
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 3 only (d) 2 and 3

**ANSWER B**

**14. The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and EternalBlue' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to**

- (a) Exoplanets (b) Cryptocurrency (c) Cyber attacks (d) Mini satellites

**ANSWER C**

**15. With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:**

1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
2. IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders.
3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) None

**ANSWER A**

**16. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements:**

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 **ANSWER B**

**17. Consider the following pairs: Terms sometimes see in news Context/Topic**

1. Belle II experiment - Artificial Intelligence
2. Blockchain technology - Digital/Cryptocurrency
3. CRISPR - Cas9 - Particle Physics

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER B**

**18. With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements:**

1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.
2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER D**

**19. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER C**

**20. Consider the following items:**

1. Cereals grains hulled
  2. Chicken eggs cooked
  3. Fish processed and canned
  4. Newspapers containing advertising material
- Which of the above items is/are exempted under GST (Goods and Services Tax)?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**ANSWER A**

**21. With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:**

1. 'The National Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
2. 'The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA) functions as the Secretariat for the implementation of NPOP.
3. Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER B**