

## General Awareness Test

For the Week: March 13 to 19, 2011

**No of questions: 100**

Answers marked by \*

Explanatory answer after each question

### TEST - I

**1. Consider the following statements about the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on 2G spectrum. Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

1. It will have equal number of members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
2. It will look into the allocation and pricing of telecom licences and 2G Spectrum from 1998 to 2009
3. DMK is among the parties whose members are on the JPC

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**2. Consider the following statements about the deal between Antrix Corporation and Bangalore-based Devas Multimedia.**

1. The deal involved launch of Devas-built satellites by Antrix Corporation
2. Antrix Corporation is owned by ISRO
3. Government has cancelled the deal

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**3. Consider the following statements about the increase in election expenditure limit announced recently.**

1. The expenditure limit for Parliamentary constituencies has been increased by around 60 per cent
2. The percentage increase in expenditure limit for both Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies is the same
3. The election expenditure limit for both Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies will be the same throughout the country

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**4. Consider the following statements about minority status granted to institutions of higher education.**

1. Institutions with Minority Status can reserve upto 50% of seats for students from their community
2. National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions has granted Minority Status to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI)
3. Institutions with Minority Status are not required to follow reservation norms prescribed by the government for OBCs, Dalits and tribals

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**5. Consider the following statements about the report titled “Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity” is/are correct?**

1. The report has been prepared by UNICEF

2. India has the highest number of adolescents in the world
3. More than half among adolescent girls in India are anemic

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**6. Which state's Legislative Assembly passed a Bill demanding compensation from the Coca Cola Company for the ecological damage caused by its manufacturing unit in the state recently?**

- (a) Kerala\*
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Rajasthan

**7. What percentage of seats in private educational institutions must be reserved for children in the age group of 6-14 years from economically weaker sections under the Right to Education Act (RTE)?**

- (a) 15%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 25%\*
- (d) 30%

**8. Consider the following statements about the government policy on the use of pesticide Endosulfan.**

1. Union government has banned the use of Endosulfan
2. Karnataka government has banned the use of Endosulfan
3. The presence of traces of Endosulfan in foodgrains is the reason behind calls for ban on its use

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**9. Presence of which of the following on the moon has been discovered by ISRO scientists using data gathered by Chandrayaan-I recently?**

- (a) Freshwater lake
- (b) Microbes
- (c) Cave\*
- (d) Volcano

**10. Which state government has decided to constitute a commission to suggest measures for the uplift of poor among the upper castes recently?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Bihar\*
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**11. Where has the Dubai-based Tecom Group of Investments decided to launch a SmartCity project in joint venture with the state government recently?**

- (a) Kochi\*
- (b) Coimbatore
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Surat

**12. Where was the Indian Seed Congress organised recently?**

- (a) Kochi
- (b) Coimbatore
- (c) Hyderabad\*
- (d) Surat

**13. Which former Director of the CBI was in news recently for his book “Try the Impossible”?**

- (a) Vijay Karan
- (b) Joginder Singh\*
- (c) D. R. Karthikeyan
- (d) R. K. Raghavan

**14. ‘Matters of Discretion’ is the recently released autobiography of which former Prime Ministers of India?**

- (a) H D Deve Gowda
- (b) Inder Kumar Gujral\*
- (c) Chandra Shekhar
- (d) P.V. Narasimha Rao

**15. Who among the following founded the Kolkata-based ‘New Theatres’ studio that re-started production after more than five decades recently?**

- (a) Himanshu Rai
- (b) K. L. Sehgal
- (c) Sashadhar Mukherjee\*
- (d) Bimal Roy

**16. Anant Pai, who passed away recently, was known as a pioneer in which of the following in India?**

- (a) Video games
- (b) Modern Art
- (c) Comics\*
- (d) Animation films

**17. Where is the Darul Uloom seminary based?**

- (a) Mughalsarai
- (b) Gorakhpur
- (c) Faizabad
- (d) Deoband\*

**18. Consider the following statements about navigation system GLONASS.**

1. It is similar to America’s Global Positioning System (GPS)
2. It requires 24 operational satellites to cover the entire globe
3. A Glonass-K satellite was put into orbit recently by a Soyuz launcher from the Plesetsk Space Centre in Russia

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**19. Consider the following statements about Peru.**

1. It has suspended diplomatic relation with Libya recently
2. It is the first country to suspend diplomatic relations with Libya
3. Daniel Ortega is the President of Peru

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only\*

- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 3 and 1 only

**20. Which company had the highest arms sales in 2009 according to the latest data on international arms production released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) recently?**

- (a) Northrop Grumman
- (b) Lockheed Martin\*
- (c) BAE Systems
- (d) General Dynamics

**21. A committee comprising A.S. Thakur, Sunil Kumar and N. K. Sinha has been set up to look into which of the following issues?**

- (a) Reservation of 25% seats in private schools for students from economically weaker sections (EWS) under the Right to Education Act
- (b) Common Entrance Test for admission to all engineering colleges in the country
- (c) Deemed universities who did not meet the conditions necessary for continuation of deemed status\*
- (d) Permission for foreign universities to offer degree courses by opening campuses in India

**22. Which ASEAN country will deploy observers on the Cambodia-Thailand border to ensure ceasefire between the two countries and facilitate bilateral negotiations to resolve the conflict over the border issue recently?**

- (a) Philippines
- (b) Malaysia
- (c) Indonesia\*
- (d) Vietnam

**23. Which of the following NASA spacecrafts went on its last space flight recently?**

- (a) Endeavour\*
- (b) Challenger
- (c) Discovery
- (d) Atlantis

**24. Consider the following statements about Kosovo.**

1. A report by the Council of Europe has linked its President to organised crime and organ-trafficking in 1990s
2. Hashim Thaci was appointed as Prime Minister
3. Behgjet Pacolli was appointed as President

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**25. Libyan ruler Moammar Gaddafi's daughter Aisha al-Gaddafi was removed as goodwill ambassador by which of the following organisations recently?**

- (a) UNICEF
- (b) UNDP\*
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) UNHCR

**26. Which of the following was not awarded at the Prime Minister Shram Awards for 2009 announced recently?**

- (a) Shram Ratna
- (b) Shram Bhushan
- (c) Shram Vir
- (d) Both (a) and (d)\*

**27. Who among the following became the first woman officer to receive a gallantry award in the Army recently?**

- (a) Major Bhavna Chauhan
- (b) Major Mitali Madhumita\*

- (c) Major Leena Gaurav
- (d) Captain Neha Rawat

**28. Cesar Awards are given for achievements in the field of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) Architecture, USA
- (b) Literature, Spain
- (c) Films, France\*
- (d) Environment, Germany

**29. Consider the following statements about the Indian economy according to the Economic Survey 2010-11.**

1. Foodgrain production was more than 230 billion tonnes in 2009-10
2. Both Savings Rate and Investment Rate exceeded 30% of GDP in 2009-10
3. India's External Debt was less than \$300 billion at the end of September 2010

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**30. Sasakawa Prize is awarded by the United Nations in the field of:**

- (a) Education
- (b) Human Rights
- (c) Environment\*
- (d) Science

**31. How many households were provided employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during 2009-10 according to the Economic Survey 2010-11?**

- (a) 5.8 crore
- (b) 5.26 crore\*
- (c) 4.51 crore
- (d) 4.10 crore

**32. Which of the following announced in Railway Budget 2011-12 and their locations is/are correctly matched?**

1. Institute for Tunnel and Bridge Engineering – Jammu
2. Diesel Locomotive Centre – Manipur
3. Centre of Excellence in Software – Darjeeling

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

**33. The Economic Survey 2010-11 introduced a new indicator – Index of Government Economic Power (IGEP) – a ranking of 112 governments based on four parameters recently. Which of the following is not one of them?**

- (a) Government revenues
- (b) Foreign currency reserves
- (c) Expenditure on defence\*
- (d) Export of goods and services

**34. Consider the following statements about Railway Budget 2011-12.**

1. 2011-12 has been declared 'Year of Green Energy' for Railways.
2. Freight loading to exceed 1000 million tonnes for the first time in 2011-12
3. Gross Traffic Receipts to exceed Rs 100,000 crore for the first time in 2011-12

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 3 and 1 only\*

**35. Which of the following accounted for the highest share of India's GDP in 2009-10 as per the Advance Estimates in Economic Survey 2010-11 released recently?**

- (a) Agriculture, forestry & fishing
- (b) Manufacturing, construction, etc
- (c) Trade, hotels, transport and communication\*
- (d) Financing, insurance, real estate & business services
- (e) Community, social & personal services

**36. Consider the following statements about Railway Budget 2011-12.**

1. More than 20,000 wagons to be procured during 2011-12
2. 'Pradhan Mantri Rail Vikas Yojana' for social welfare schemes will be launched
3. Senior Citizens concession in fares has been increased

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**38. Consider the following statements about growth estimates in the Review of the Economy 2010-11 by Economic Advisory Council.**

1. Indian economy will have a higher growth rate in 2011-12 than 2010-11
2. Agriculture will have a lower growth rate in 2011-12 than 2010-11
3. Industry and Services will have a higher growth rate in 2011-12 than 2010-11

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**39. The Government constituted a Task Force to evolve a suitable mechanism for direct subsidies to individuals/families recently. Which of the following will be covered?**

1. Kerosene & LPG
  2. Foodgrains
  3. Petrol & diesel
  4. Fertilisers
- (a) 2 and 3 only
  - (b) 2 and 4 only
  - (c) 1 and 4 only\*
  - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**40. The government has introduced three new consumer price indices – CPI (Rural), CPI (Urban) & CPI (Combined) – with 2010 as the base year recently. Which of the following is not among the five major commodity groups covered in the indices?**

- (a) Food, beverages and tobacco
- (b) Fuel and light
- (c) Education and schooling\*
- (d) Clothing, bedding and footwear

**41. Consider the following statements about the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in the Indian context.**

1. The government has decided to postpone convergence of Indian accounting standards with the IFRS
2. Indian companies listed overseas or doing business on foreign land are currently required to prepare financial statements as per IFRS
3. Adoption of IFRS is expected to improve financial performance of Indian companies

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**42. Consider the following statements about two new coins unveiled to commemorate an anniversary of the Income Tax department.**

1. The coins were issued to commemorate 125 years of Income Tax in India
2. The coins are in denomination of Rs 150 and Rs. 5
3. The reverse faces of the coins bear the portrait of 'Chanakya'

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**43. India was recently appointed Co-Chairman of the Asia Pacific Regional Review Group of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) UN Security Council
- (b) International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)
- (c) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)\*
- (d) Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

**45. Which of the following has taken a 30% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) recently?**

- (a) BP\*
- (b) Chevron Corp
- (c) ExxonMobil Corp
- (d) Royal Dutch Shell

**46. Consider the following statements about area under genetically modified (GM) crops in 2010 according to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA).**

1. India has the world's fourth largest area under GM crops
2. China has the highest area under GM crops
3. India's entire area under GM crops comprises only one crop

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**47. Who won the Duleep Trophy Cricket tournament recently?**

- (a) West Zone
- (b) Central Zone
- (c) South Zone\*
- (d) North Zone

**48. Which state had the highest and lowest growth in gross state domestic product (GSDP) among the 32 states and union territories in the country in 2009-10?**

- (a) Arunchal Pradesh, Rajasthan\*

- (b) Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar
- (c) Goa, Karnataka
- (d) Gujarat, Orissa

**49. Consider the following statements about Hosni Mubarak.**

1. He succeeded Gamal Abdel Nasser as President of Egypt
2. He was in the Egyptian Air Force before entering politics
3. He was the longest-serving President of Egypt

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**50. Where was the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual World Social Forum (WSF) organised recently?**

- (a) Lagos
  - (b) Brasilia
  - (c) Dakar\*
  - (d) Rabat
- 



**TEST - II**

**1. India has a multidimensional poverty index (MPI) of 0.296 according to the Economic Survey 2010-11 unveiled recently. Which of the following has developed the MPI in association with the United Nations Development Programme?**

- (a) ILO
- (b) Harvard
- (c) Oxford\*
- (d) USAID

**2. Foodgrains Production in India was the highest in which of the following years?**

- (a) 2009-10
- (b) 2008-09\*
- (c) 2007-08
- (d) 2006-07

**3. Which Indian telecom company is a member of the 15,000 km Europe India Gateway (EIG) international fibre optic submarine cable system that links the UK with several countries in Europe, Africa and Asia including India?**

- (a) Tata Teleservices
- (b) Vodafone Essar
- (c) Reliance Com
- (d) Bharti Airtel\*

**4. Where in the UAE was the 10<sup>th</sup> International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX 2011) organised recently?**

- (a) Sharjah
- (b) Fujairah
- (c) Dubai
- (d) Abu Dhabi\*

**5. Consider the following statements about India's production of iron and steel.**

- 1. India produced over 75 million tonnes of steel in 2010
- 2. India is the fifth largest producer of steel in the world
- 3. India is the largest producer of sponge iron in the world

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**6. The Ministry of Textiles is setting up mega handloom clusters at four locations in the country. Which of the following is not among one of them?**

- (a) Sivasagar, Assam
- (b) Surat, Gujarat\*
- (c) Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu
- (d) Murshidabad, West Bengal

**7. Why was Air India in news recently?**

- (a) It has decided to close down its low-cost service Air India Express
- (b) It has appointed a new CEO
- (c) It has switched to a single code for both domestic and international flights\*
- (d) It has launched a new cargo service named Air India Cargo

**8. US-based Brighton Group has decided to enter which business in India recently?**

- (a) Audit & legal services

- (b) Management consulting
- (c) Nuclear power\*
- (d) Sports management

**9. Which of the following has launched the 'Everywhere Teller Machine' (ETM) in India?**

- (a) Stanchart Bank
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Axis Bank\*

**10. Consider the following statements about the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).**

1. Countries disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change strategies through CDP
2. Companies disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change strategies through CDP
3. No Indian company is a member of the CDP

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**11. Who was appointed as the Chairman of the Financial Planning Standards Board India (FPSB India) recently?**

- (a) J. Harinarayan
- (b) Deepak Parekh
- (c) Dharendra Swarup\*
- (d) C B Bhawe

**12. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corp (IOC)?**

- (a) Amitabh Chaturvedi
- (b) Anup Bagchi
- (c) Ranbir Singh Butola\*
- (d) Mukesh Dedhia

**13. Who has been appointed Chairman of a new committee to select Chairman and Managing Directors of BSNL and MTNL?**

- (a) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- (b) S. Rangarajan
- (c) Sam Pitroda\*
- (d) Nandan Nilekani

**14. 11-year-old Ivana Furtado is one of India's youngest achievers in which sport?**

- (a) Table tennis
- (b) Gymnastics
- (c) Chess\*
- (d) Diving

**15. Consider the following statements about Antrix Corporation.**

1. It is a 'Miniratna' company
2. It was incorporated as a R&D arm of ISRO for development and testing of space launch and satellite fabrication technologies
3. It is listed on the National Stock Exchange

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**16. 'Edge of Time' is the recently released biography of:**

- (a) Kiran Bedi
- (b) Arundhati Roy
- (c) Kalpana Chawla\*
- (d) Indra Nooyi

**17. Professor Stanley Fischer, who visited India recently, is the Governor of the Central Bank in which country?**

- (a) Germany
- (b) Britain
- (c) Israel\*
- (d) France

**18. Director Asghar Farhadi's 'Nader and Simin, A Separation' won the Best Film award at which festival recently?**

- (a) Paris
- (b) Berlin\*
- (c) Cannes
- (d) Karlovy Vary

**19. Who among the following well-known sports coaches was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement' award at the Sports Illustrated India awards recently?**

- (a) Ramakant Achrekar\*
- (b) Desh Prem Azad
- (c) Satpal Singh
- (d) Jaideep Mukherjee

**20. Consider the following statements about the National Video Server of the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) that was inaugurated recently.**

1. The server is located at IIT, Madras.
2. The server will facilitate video conferencing between Universities and Colleges that have got connectivity under the National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT).
3. The server will facilitate download of e-content for all Universities and Colleges that have got connectivity under the NMEICT.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**21. Consider the following statements about India's external debt according to the Economic Survey 2010-11.**

1. The share of commercial borrowings in the total external debt was highest.
2. Share of long-term debt in India's total external debt was less than 50%
3. The share of NRI deposits in India's total external debt was lower than that of multilateral government borrowings

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**22. Consider the following statements about the C-130J Super Hercules inducted into the Indian Air Force.**

1. C-130J Super Hercules is a maritime surveillance aircraft
2. It has been manufactured by Lockheed Martin
3. It has been acquired from the US

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only\*

**23. The Svalbard Treaty of 1920 refers to which of the following?**

1. Right of member-countries to establish research station in the Arctic region
  2. Recognition of Norway's sovereign rights on Svalbard region
  3. Right of member-countries to establish research station in the Antarctic region
- (a) 1 and 2 only\*
  - (b) 1 and 3 only
  - (c) 2 and 3 only
  - (d) 3 only

**24. Who is the President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS)?**

- (a) K.N. Tilak Kumar
- (b) Kundan R. Vyas\*
- (c) Rakesh Sharma
- (d) V. Shankaran

**25. The Mount Girnar Ropeway project, which was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests recently, is in which district of Gujarat?**

- (a) Jamnagar\*
- (b) Junagadh
- (c) Kheda
- (d) Mehsana

**26. The Indian Navy has begun salvage operations to recover which of the following?**

- (a) INS Tarangini
- (b) INS Vindhyagiri\*
- (c) INS Shivaji
- (d) INS Sudarshini

**27. Which of the following merged with the Indian National Congress (INC) in Andhra Pradesh recently?**

- (a) YSR Congress Party
- (b) NTR Telugu Desam Party
- (c) Praja Rajyam Party\*
- (d) Telangana Rashtra Samithi

**28. Lengpui Airport is in which state capital?**

- (a) Gangtok
- (b) Kohima
- (c) Aizwal\*
- (d) Imphal

**29. Which of the following is constructing the 'Kargil House' in New Delhi?**

- (a) Punjab government
- (b) Civil Aviation Ministry
- (c) Jammu and Kashmir government\*
- (d) Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses

**30. 'Black, Brown & The Blue' is a recently released book on the life and work of which well-known artiste?**

- (a) Syed Haider Raza
- (b) Jamini Roy

- (c) Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya\*
- (d) Jatin Bose

**31. Which country is being ruled by a military high command headed by Mohamed Hussein Tantawi?**

- (a) Egypt\*
- (b) Bahrain
- (c) Tunisia
- (d) Yemen

**32. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed has been appointed as the first woman Secretary-General of which of the following?**

- (a) Arab League
- (b) OPEC
- (c) SAARC\*
- (d) Organization of the Islamic Conference

**33. Consider the following statements about Sudan.**

1. A historic referendum has granted independence to Darfur region
2. North Sudan is Muslim majority
3. South Sudan is Christian-animist majority

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**34. Oded Grajew is the founder of which of the following?**

- (a) International Court of Justice
- (b) World Social Forum\*
- (c) Worldwide Fund for Nature
- (d) International Telecommunication Union

**35. Consider the following statements about Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) that provides cashless health insurance cover to BPL families in the unorganised sector.**

1. Those who have worked under the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme for a minimum of 15 days have been brought under the ambit of RSBY.
2. RSBY covers upto five members of a BPL family.
3. RSBY provides cashless health insurance cover up to Rs 30,000 per person for most diseases that require hospitalisation.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**36. Which of the following statements about sale of American military equipment to India under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program is/are correct?**

- (a) The Indian government buys military equipment directly from the US manufacturer
- (b) India's defence production companies acquire military equipment from the US manufacturer
- (c) The Indian government procures military equipment from the US government\*
- (d) All deals under the FMS come with technology transfer and joint production agreements in India

**37. France has decided to return colonial era documents belonging to the Joseon Dynasty to which country recently?**

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) South Korea\*
- (c) China
- (d) Cambodia

**38. American explorer Hiram Bingham is associated with the discovery of which UNESCO World Heritage Site?**

- (a) Temple of Preah Vihear
- (b) The Monastery of Petra
- (c) Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu\*
- (d) Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis

**39. Which of the following is the NASA satellite sent to study the Sun's atmosphere?**

- (a) Cassini–Huygens
- (b) MESSENGER
- (c) Pioneer
- (d) STEREO\*

**40. Who was conferred with the Jnanpith Award for 2007 recently?**

- (a) G. Sankara Kurup
- (b) Thakazhi Siva Sankara Pillai
- (c) M.T. Vasudevan Nair
- (d) None of the above\*

**41. Which of the following awards the annual Decent Work Research Prize?**

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) International Labour Organisation\*
- (c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- (d) World Health Organisation

**42. SWAGAT (State-wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology) won the National Awards for e-Governance 2010-11 in 'Outstanding Performance in Citizen-centric Service Delivery' category recently. It is an initiative of which state government?**

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Gujarat\*
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Karnataka

**43. Who was named as Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2010 recently?**

- (a) Rajiv Bajaj
- (b) Dilip Shanghvi\*
- (c) Mallika Srinivasan
- (d) Naveen Jindal

**44. Who among the following was chosen for the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award recently?**

- (a) Martin Kaymer
- (b) Rafael Nadal\*
- (c) Lionel Messi
- (d) Valentino Rossi

**45: Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are owned by:**

1. Their Sponsor Bank
  2. Government of the state where they are located
  3. Union government
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 3 and 1 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3\*

**46. 'Easy Exit Scheme 2011' floated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs refers to which of the following?**

- (a) Removal of names of defunct companies from the Registrar of Companies\*
- (b) Closure of loss-making industries after paying off creditors
- (c) Removal of SEZ status for companies not fulfilling export obligations
- (d) Allowing loss-making companies to retrench workers through VRS schemes

**47. Which of the following do not require government's permission to fix managerial salaries?**

- 1. Private limited companies\*
  - 2. Loss-making and profit-making unlisted public limited companies
  - 3. Profit making public limited companies
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3\*

**48. The government has introduced three new consumer price indices – CPI (Rural), CPI (Urban) & CPI (Combined) – with 2010 as the base year recently. The indices are based on five parameters – Food, Beverages, Tobacco; Fuel and Light; Housing; Cloth, Bedding & Footwear; Miscellaneous. Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Food, Beverages, Tobacco is given the highest weightage in all three indices
  - 2. In case of CPI (Urban), Housing is given the least weightage
  - 3. Cloth, Bedding & Footwear is the only parameter absent in CPI (Rural)
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 3 and 1 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3\*

**49. A two-member Committee comprising B K Chaturvedi and Roddam Narasimha has been set up to review which of the following recently?**

- (a) Revenue implications of tax exemptions for companies in Special Economic Zones
- (b) Allocation, pricing and utilisation of natural resources
- (c) Leasing of spectrum by ISRO's commercial arm to a private company\*
- (d) Productivity of India's manufacturing sector

**50. What is the financial inclusion campaign launched by the government to bring banking services to vast unbanked rural areas in the country recently named?**

- (a) Swawlamban
- (b) Swadhar
- (c) Swabhiman\*
- (d) Swadhyay



## EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

### TEST - I

#### Answer 1:

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on February 25, 2011 moved a motion in the Lok Sabha for the appointment of a 30-member Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into the 2G spectrum issue. The JPC will have 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. The JPC will look into the allocation and pricing of telecom licences and 2G Spectrum from 1998 to 2009. Its terms of reference are -

- 1) To examine policy prescriptions and their interpretation thereafter by successive governments, including decisions of the Union Cabinet and the consequences thereof, in the allocation and pricing of telecom licences and spectrum from 1998 to 2009.
- 2) To examine irregularities and aberrations, if any, and the consequences thereof in the implementation of government decisions and policy prescriptions from 1998-2009, and
- 3) To make recommendations to ensure formulation of appropriate procedures for implementation of laid down policy in the allocation and pricing of telecom licences.

Congress Lok Sabha MPs on the JPC: V. Kishore Chandra Deo, Paban Singh Ghatowar, Jai Prakash Agarwal, Deepender Singh Hooda, P.C. Chacko, Manish Tewari, Nirmal Khatri and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

BJP MPs in the JPC from the Lok Sabha: Jaswant Singh, Yashwant Sinha, Harin Pathak and Gopinath Munde.

The others are **T.R Baalu (DMK)**, Kalyan Banerjee (Trinamool Congress), Sharad Yadav (Janata Dal-United), Dara Singh Chauhan (BSP), Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Gurudas Dasgupta (CPI), Arjun Charan Sethi (BJD) and M. Thambi Durai (AIADMK).

#### Answer 2:

The Union government on February 18, 2011 annulled the controversial deal between the Indian Space Research Organisation's commercial arm Antrix Corporation and Bangalore-based Devas Multimedia. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, paved the way for annulling the agreement by declaring that the government will not be able to provide the orbit slot in S-Band to Antrix for commercial purposes, including for its existing contractual obligations, in view of strategic requirements. The annulment comes in the wake of a controversy over the deal, which according to estimates may have resulted in a notional loss of Rs 2 lakh crore to the exchequer. Under the deal, Antrix was to provide 70 MHz of the scarce S-Band wavelength to Devas for its digital multimedia services. This was to be done by **leasing** 90 per cent of the **transponders in satellites** GSAT-6 and GSAT-6A that are **proposed to be launched by ISRO**. Devas, in turn, was to pay Antrix a total of \$ 300 million over 12 years.

#### Answer 3:

The Union government has raised the election expenditure limit for both Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies by around 60 per cent with immediate effect. The changes are contained in a notification from the Union Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) dated February 23 and are to be "Published in the Gazette of India. The spending limit for a Parliamentary constituency in major states now stands at Rs. 40 lakh as against Rs. 25 lakh earlier. The limit for Assembly constituencies in the major States moves from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 16 lakh. The limits are not uniform across the country and vary according to the size, demographics and other factors of the smaller States and Union Territories. Basically, the roughly 60 per cent hike has been applied to whatever were the existing limits in a State. The Union Territory of Puducherry, which also goes to the polls in the same period, will have limits of Rs. 33 lakh for a Parliamentary constituency and Rs. 8 lakh for an Assembly seat. For the Union Territory of Delhi, the figures are Rs. 40 lakh and Rs. 14 lakh respectively.

#### Answer 4:

A commission on minority institutions on February 22, 2011 granted minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia. The order is expected to change the secular character of the central university as it will not have to give reservation to OBCs, Dalits and tribals, and can reserve up to 50% seats for Muslims. The University was started in 1920 and declared a Central university by an Act of Parliament in 1988. Jamia Millia Islamia Act may have to be amended to implement the order passed by the quasi-judicial body – National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions. The petition for minority status had been moved before the quasi-judicial body by the Jamia Students Union, the Jamia Old Boys Association and the Jamia Teachers Association in 2006.

Jamia currently gives 22.5% reservation to SCs/STs, 25% to students from the Jamia School and 3% to the physically handicapped. The move to get minority status for Jamia gathered momentum after the university was asked to implement OBC reservation.



The 51-page judgment, given by Justice M S A Siddiqui, Mohinder Singh and Cyriac Thomas, said, “We have no hesitation in holding that Jamia was founded by Muslims for the benefit of Muslims and it never lost its identity as a Muslim minority educational institution.” “We find and hold that Jamia Millia Islamia is a minority educational institution covered under Article 30(1) of the Constitution with section 2 (G) of the NCMEI Act,” the order said. The institute was founded even before the Constitution was in place, it said.

**Answer 5:**

The Parliamentary Forum on Children, the UNICEF and the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, released a report “Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity” in New Delhi on February 25, 2011. India has the highest number of adolescents (243 million) in the world. The key challenge is ensuring the nutritional, health and educational needs of this population, particularly girls. Adolescent girls face nutritional problems than adolescent boys, including anaemia and underweight.

Underweight prevalence among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years at 47 per cent is the highest in the world. In addition, over half of the girls under this category (56 per cent) are anaemic. Anaemia is the main indirect cause of maternal mortality, which stood at 230 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008. Such nutritional deprivations continue throughout the life cycle and are often passed on to the next generation. Although the legal age for marriage is 18, the majority of women get married as adolescents. Recent data shows that 30 per cent of the girls aged 15-19 are married or in union, compared to only 5 per cent of boys in the same age. There are also considered disparities depending on where the girls live. While the prevalence of child marriage among urban girls is around 29 per cent, it is 56 per cent for their rural counterparts.

**Answer 6:**

The Kerala Assembly on February 25, 2011 passed the Plachimada Coca-Cola Victims Relief and Compensation Claims Special Tribunal Bill 2011 to secure for the inhabitants of Plachimada in Palakkad district compensation for the ecological damage caused by the Coca Cola unit that used to function in the village. The Bill is the latest outcome of a protracted people’s struggle which saw the Coca Cola unit being closed down in 2005.

**Answer 7:**

The Supreme Court on February 24, 2011 said private educational institutions cannot complain about Government’s decision to reserve 25 per cent of seats for economically weaker sections (EWS) under the RTE Act as it is an investment for the country’s future prosperity. A three-judge bench of Chief Justice S H Kapadia, K S Radhakrishnan and Swatanter Kumar observed that that there was nothing wrong in the Government’s attempt to provide 25 per cent of the EWS population quality education in private schools. The apex court however, said it was willing to strike down the legislation if the private schools are able to establish that Constitutional principles have been violated by enactment of the Right to Education Act (RTE) under which free and compulsory education had been made mandatory for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

**Answer 8:**

The Union government will go by the recommendations of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in deciding whether or not to ban Endosulfan, a pesticide which had adversely affected human health in some cashew-growing districts in Kerala. Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha on February 22, 2011, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said the government would accept the recommendations of the committee, which had been set up by the ICMR to look into the adverse impact of this pesticide on health, following complaints and media reports over the hazards posed by it.

Four expert committees had been set up since 1991, and all of them had advised against the ban. The minister added that the Union government had no objection to the Karnataka government’s decision to ban the use of Endosulfan across the State, following reports of its adverse consequences, particularly in the Dakshina Kannada district.

The Endosulfan Manufacturers and Formulators Welfare Association (EMFWA) moved the Karnataka High Court challenging the ban. Pawar attributed the disastrous consequences of the pesticide to its being sprayed aerially, which was against the guidelines. The pesticide was being used in at least 40 countries, including Brazil, Australia and China.

**Answer 9:**

ISRO scientists on February 24, 2011 discovered a giant underground chamber on the moon, which could be used as a lunar base by astronauts for inter-planetary missions. Scientists at the Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC), using data gathered from Chandrayaan-I’s Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) payloads, found a 1.2 km long buried, uncollapsed and near horizontal lava tube. The hollow cave situated just above the lunar equator on the nearside of moon, can accommodate a large number of astronauts and scientific instruments, and also protect them from hostile lunar environment.

**Answer 10:**

Former Allahabad High Court judge V K Trivedi will head a commission constituted by the Bihar government to suggest measures for the uplift of poor among the upper castes, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said in Patna on February 24, 2011.

**Answer 11:**

More than four years after laying the foundation, the SmartCity Kochi project, a joint venture of the Kerala government and Dubai-based Tecom was launched recently. CEO of Tecom Group of Investments Abdullatif Almulla and IT Principal Secretary K. Suresh Kumar exchanged lease deed documents of the SmartCity Kochi project at the Infopark in Kochi on February 23, 2011. The land was also registered in favour of SmartCity Kochi Infrastructure Private Limited with the government giving stamp and registration duty exemptions. The project, with an initial investment of \$350 million, is expected to generate about 90,000 jobs in the next 10 years.

**Answer 12:**

The National Seed Association of India (NSAI) organised the two-day Indian Seed Congress (ISC) - 2011 in Hyderabad on February 22-23, 2011. The objective was to “crystallise the industry’s views and seek policy support from the Government to encourage investment in technology and infrastructure”. The Indian seed industry, the fifth largest in the world with an estimated size of Rs 8,000 crore, is growing at 12-13 per cent annually.

**Answer 13:**

The book “Try the Impossible” authored by former CBI Director Joginder Singh was released on February 26, 2011.

**Answer 14:**

If former PM I K Gujral is to be believed, it was the Left that thwarted Sonia Gandhi’s chance of becoming the prime minister in April 1999 and not Mulayam Singh Yadav as is believed. This was just days after the Atal Behari Vajpayee government lost the majority by one vote. The former PM has made this revelation in his autobiography, ‘Matters of Discretion’, released in February 2011

**Answer 15:**

The legendary Kolkata-based ‘New Theatres’ studio, which gave Indian cinema its icons like Prithviraj Kapoor, Bimal Roy and Debaki Kumar Bose, is back in business of film production after a gap of 55 years. Founded by Dada Saheb Phalke awardee B. N. Sircar in 1931, the famous studio had stopped film production after getting enmeshed in legal hassles in 1955. Romita Bose Sircar has now taken over the mantle of carrying forward the rich legacy of her grandfather who passed away in 1980. A record number of 150 films, including Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and even Tamil, were made under the banner over a span of 25 years. Some of the banner’s famous films include P. C. Barua’s 1935 ‘Devdas’, ‘Doctor’ (1940), ‘Pratisruti’ (1941), ‘Chandidas’ (1932), ‘Vidyapati’ (1938), ‘Mukti’ (1937), ‘Mirabai’ (1933), ‘Udayar Pathey’ (1944) and ‘Anjangerh’ (1948).

**Answer 16:**

Anant Pai, who helped launch India’s comic book industry in the 1960s with a series on mythology, history and Indian legends, passed away on February 24, 2011 at the age of 81. Pai was the creator of the hugely popular Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) series which told tales from the ancient epics, the Mahabharata and Ramayana. He studied chemical technology at Institute of Chemical Technology and took to creative writing much later. He once tried and failed to launch a children’s magazine called Manav. Subsequently, he joined The Times of India’s books division and became instrumental in the launch of Indrajal Comics, which published stories from Lee Falk’s Phantom and Mandrake series and Alex Raymond’s Flash Gordon, and later Indian characters such as Bahadur and Dara. He quit his job to create ACK in 1967. After a few years, he created another famous comic book — Tinkle, in November 1980. They created some memorable characters like Suppandi, Shikari Shambhu, Tantri the Mantri and Uncle Anu. Pai continued to develop ideas till the very end – for the last three years he was working on the project — Glimpses of Glory — a large format book that brought to life 40 defining moments from Indian history.

**Answer 17:**

Maulana Ghulam Mohammed Vastanvi will stay on as the head of the Darul Uloom seminary in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh, at the end of a bitter backroom battle for control of the country’s most influential Islamic school. Sixty-one-year-old Vastanvi, who was elected to lead the 145-year-old institution in January, had resigned recently following a controversy over his reported comments on Gujarat. The Majlis-e-Shoora, the supreme council of the institution, rejected his resignation on January 23, 2011, and appointed a three-member committee to probe allegations against him.

**Answer 18:**

Russia on February 26, 2011 launched a satellite needed to create its own global navigation system, intended to rival America's Global Positioning System (GPS). The Glonass-K satellite was hauled into orbit from the northern Plesetsk space centre by the upgraded Soyuz 2-1b launcher. The new satellite has a longer design life, more navigation channels and is smaller than previous Glonass-M spacecraft. The Russian Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin, has said the Glonass (Global Navigation System) will give the country satellite navigation sovereignty. For commercial and military reasons, Russia does not want to be dependent on America's GPS, which can theoretically be switched off at any time. This latest launch brings Russia close to the 24 operational satellites it needs for Glonass to cover the entire globe. Russia had already successfully launched a number of the Glonass satellites last year and hopes to have the system finished by 2011.

**Answer 19:**

Peru on February 23, 2011 suspended diplomatic ties with Libya, becoming the first nation to take such a measure amid a bloody crackdown on the uprising against Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi. "Peru is suspending all diplomatic relations with Libya until the violence against the people ceases," Peruvian President Alan Garcia said.

**Answer 20:**

Lockheed Martin had the highest arms sales in 2009 according to new data on international arms production released on February 21, 2011 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The total arms sales of the SIPRI Top 100 of the world's largest arms-producing companies increased by \$14.8 billion from 2008 to reach \$401 billion, a real increase of 8 per cent. The SIPRI Top 100 lists the world's 100 largest arms-producing companies (excluding Chinese companies), ranked by their arms sales. The list is based on the comprehensive SIPRI Arms Industry Database, which contains financial and employment data on the world's major arms-producing companies. World's top 5 companies by Arms Sales in 2009 are: Lockheed Martin (USA), BAE Systems (UK), Boeing (USA), Northrop Grumman (USA) and General Dynamics (USA).

**Answer 21:**

The Union Human Resource Development Ministry in February 2011 set up a three-member committee to separately hear each of the 44 deemed-to-be-universities — found unfit to retain the deemed university status by a review committee constituted by the government — and prepare a reasoned and comprehensive report to be placed before the Supreme Court by April 25. The committee comprises A.S. Thakur, Additional Secretary (Technical Education) as the Chairperson; Sunil Kumar, Additional Secretary (Higher Education); and N.K. Sinha, Additional Secretary (Technology Enabled Learning) as its members. It has been set up following the January 11 directive of the Supreme Court that the 44 educational institutions, set to lose the deemed university status, be heard.

The Ministry has issued notices to the universities and after receiving their response the committee shall forward the response to the review committee. The comments of the review committee will then be communicated to the universities. Each institution will be individually heard by the three-member committee, which will prepare a reasoned report and, thereafter prepare a comprehensive report, which shall be submitted to the Supreme Court.

The review committee comprising P.N. Tandon, Mrinal Miri, Goverdhan Mehta and Anandkrishnan had reviewed the deemed-to-be-universities and divided them in three categories. As many as 44 such universities were found unfit to become deemed university on an aggregate assessment.

**Answer 22:**

Indonesian observers will be assigned to the Cambodia-Thailand border to observe the ceasefire between the two countries, pending bilateral negotiations to resolve the conflict over the border issue. Under the arrangement, Indonesian observers will be on both the Thai and Cambodian sides of the boundary. The decision was taken at the Informal Meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Jakarta on February 23, 2011. Indonesia is the current Chair of ASEAN. The observer team would consist of civilian and military components and they would not be armed.

**Answer 23:**

The shuttle Discovery on February 25, 2011 blasted off on its final odyssey into orbit, marking the beginning of the end for what has been a central mission of the US space program for three decades. NASA's most journeyed shuttle is on an 11-day trip to the International Space Station (ISS), and when it returns next month it will be the first of the three-member fleet (of Endeavour, Discovery, and Atlantis) to enter retirement. The shuttle will bring a spare closet module and the first humanoid robot to the ISS. The mission will also include two spacewalks. The end of the shuttle program will create a gaping hole in the US space program during a period of belt-tightening and budget freezes, and will leave Russia's space capsules as the sole transit option to the ISS.

**Answer 24:**

Parliament in Kosovo on February 22, 2011 elected former rebel leader Hashim Thaci as prime minister for a second term. The vote came despite Thaci being at the centre of a controversy after a report by the Council of Europe linked him to organised crime and organ-trafficking. Organs were taken from prisoners killed by the Kosovo Liberation Army after the 1999 war against Serb forces, the report alleged. Lawmakers in Pristina also elected Behgjet Pacolli as president.

**Answer 25:**

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) on February 24, 2011 dropped Libyan ruler Moammar Gaddafi's daughter as a goodwill ambassador following the recent events in Libya that include a crackdown on anti-government protestors. The agreement with Aisha al-Gaddafi was terminated under Article 30 of the UN Guidelines for the Designation of Goodwill Ambassadors and Messengers of Peace. Aisha al-Gaddafi was appointed as the goodwill ambassador of Libya on July 24, 2009 to address the issues of HIV/AIDS and violence against women in Libya, both culturally sensitive topics in the country.

**Answer 26:**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment on February 21, 2011 announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2009 to be awarded to 61 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, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind. Even though, the total number of Shram Awards is 33, the number of workers receiving the Awards is 61 (Including 2 women), as some of the Awards have been shared by workers and/or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker. These include 45 workers from the public sector and 16 workers from the private sector

**SHRAM RATNA:** This year, no nomination was found suitable for the prestigious Shram Ratna Award.

**SHRAM BHUSHAN:** Total number of Shram Bhushan Award is four. It carries a cash award of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Eight nominations were found suitable for the Shram Bhushan Award.

**SHRAM VIR/VEERANGANA:** Total number of Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards is twelve. It carries a cash award of Rs. 60,000/- and a 'Sanad'. No female worker from Public Sector and Private Sector was found suitable for Shram Veerangana Award.

**SHRAM SHREE/DEVI:** Total number of Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards is sixteen. It carries a cash award of Rs. 40,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Two female workers from Public sector have been selected for Shram Devi Awards for this year.

**Answer 27:**

Major Mitali Madhumita on February 25, 2011 became the first woman officer to receive a gallantry award in the Army. She was honoured with the Sena Medal (Gallantry) along with 21 Army personnel for acts of bravery and distinguished service at the military station in Hisar, Haryana during the South Western Command Investiture Ceremony.

**Answer 28:**

Roman Polanski was on February 26, 2011 been named best director at the Cesar awards for his political thriller 'The Ghost Writer'. The film also won prizes for screenplay, music and editing. The best film prize went to the French religious drama 'Of Gods and Men'. US director Quentin Tarantino received an honorary Cesar at the Paris event, where Facebook drama 'The Social Network' was crowned best foreign film. The best actor prize went to Eric Elmosnino for his portrayal of French singer 'Serge Gainsbourg' in a biopic named after him. His compatriot Sara Forestier was named best actress for 'The Names of Love'.

**Answer 29:**

Robust growth and steady fiscal consolidation have been the hallmark of the Indian economy in the year 2010-11 so far. The growth rate has been 8.6 percent in 2010-11 and is expected to be around 9 percent in the next fiscal year. These are some of the high points of the Economic Survey 2010-11, presented by the Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Lok Sabha on February 25, 2011.

The Survey has observed that savings rate has gone up to 33.7 percent while the investment rate is up to 36.5 percent of GDP in 2009-10.

The Survey points out that foodgrain production went up to 232.1 billion tonnes from 218.1 billion tonnes in 2009-10. With a relatively good monsoon the agriculture-sector is expected to grow at 5.4 per cent during 2010-11.

The Survey reports that the industrial output growth rate was 8.6 per cent while the manufacturing sector registered a growth rate of 9.1 per cent in 2010-11.

At the end of September 2010, external debt stood at US\$ 295.8 billion, recording an increase of 12.8 per cent over the level of end-March 2010.

**Answer 30:**

The Integrated Forestry Association San Andres, in Peten, region of Guatemala, on February 25, 2011 won the Sasakawa Prize awarded by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The prize, worth USD 2,00,000 recognises the most innovative and sustainable-based initiatives at local level in the protection of natural environment in developing countries. A UNEP statement notes that the subject considered for the granting of the award was Forests for People. Manahari Development Institute, Nepal, was also awarded for its work in improving the productivity of crops and irrigation systems and the reduction of soil erosion on hills and mountains.

**Answer 31:**

Economic Survey 2010-11 was presented by the Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Lok Sabha on February 25, 2011. The Survey states that during 2009-10, 5.26 crore households were provided employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as against more than 4.51 crore during 2008-09. During 2010-11, about 4.10 crore households have been provided employment till December 2010.

**Answer 32:**

The Railway Budget 2011-12 was presented by Railway Minister, Mamata Banerjee, in Parliament on February 25, 2011. Following are the highlights:  
 A Bridge Factory in J & K and a state-of-art Institute for Tunnel and Bridge Engineering is proposed at Jammu.  
 A Diesel Locomotive Centre will be set-up in Manipur.  
 A Centre of Excellence in Software at Darjeeling proposed under the aegis of CRIS.  
 Rail Industrial Parks at Jellingham and New Bongaigaon proposed.

**Answer 33:**

India has moved up to fifth position in a list ranking the governments of 112 countries in terms of their ability to project the economy into the international sphere, as per the Economic Survey 2010-11 released on February 25, 2011. The IGEP endeavours to capture the ability of a government to project itself in the international sphere and is composed of four variables – government revenues, foreign currency reserves, export of goods and services and human capital.

**Answer 34:**

The Railway Budget 2011-12 was presented by Railway Minister, Mamata Banerjee, in Parliament on February 25, 2011. Following are the highlights:  
 2011-12 declared ‘Year of Green Energy’ for Railways.  
 Freight loading of 993 MT and passenger growth of 6.4 per cent estimated for 2011-12.  
 Gross Traffic Receipts at Rs 1,06,239 crore, exceeding one lakh crore mark for the first time estimated.

**Answer 35:**

INDIA'S GDP (Rs crore)		
(GDP at factor cost, 2004-05 prices)	2008-09 (QE)	2009-10 (AE)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	7,51,362 (0.1)	7,60,974 (1.3)
Manufacturing, construction, etc	10,71,676 (4.7)	11,58,000 (8.1)
Trade, hotels, transport and communication	10,87,575 (7.5)	11,93,282 (9.7)
Financial, insurance, real estate & business services	7,06,712 (12.5)	771,763 (9.2)
Community, social & personal services	5,45,184 (12.7)	6,09,724 (11.8)
GDP at factor cost	41,62,509 (6.8)	44,93,743 (8.0)

(Figures in brackets represent annual growth) QE-Quick estimates; AE-Advance estimates

**Answer 36:**

The Railway Budget 2011-12 was presented by Railway Minister, Mamata Banerjee, in Parliament on February 25, 2011. Following are the highlights:

18,000 Wagons to be procured during 2011-12

A scheme for socially desirable projects, 'Pradhan Mantri Rail Vikas Yojana' with non-lapsable fund proposed.

Senior Citizens concession to be hiked from 30 per cent to 40 per cent

**Answer 38:**

The Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, Dr. C. Rangarajan released the Review of the Economy 2010-11 in New Delhi on February 21, 2011. Highlights:

Economy expected to grow at 8.6 per cent in 2010-11 and 9.0 % in 2011-12

Agriculture expected to grow at 5.4% in 2010-11 and 3.0% in 2011-12.

Industry expected to grow at 8.1% in 2010-11 and 9.2% in 2011-12.

Services expected to grow at 9.6% in 2010-11 and 10.3% in 2011-12.

**Answer 39:**

The Government of India on February 14, 2011 constituted a Task Force in order to evolve a suitable mechanism for direct subsidies to individuals/families who are entitled to Kerosene, LPG and Fertilizer. The Task Force will also evolve a model of direct transfer of subsidies on these items by re-engineering existing systems, processes and procedures in the implementation process. This Task Force would also undertake designing appropriate IT systems and aligning these with the issuance of UID numbers, and bringing about changes in the administration and supply chain management.

The Government of India provides Kerosene at subsidized prices to BPL families under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The current subsidy on kerosene is Rs 20.56 per litre while the same on domestic LPG is Rs 356 per cylinder. This leaves a massive scope for blackmarketing in these essential commodities. There is overwhelming evidence that this policy is resulting in waste, leakage, adulteration and inefficiency. Therefore, it is imperative that the system of delivering the subsidized Kerosene be reformed. The system of provision and delivery of subsidized LPG to intended beneficiaries needs to be similarly reformed.

Fertilizer subsidy, as it exists today, is available to all farmers. It is not possible to differentiate the segments for which the subsidy should be given in this sector. There is a need to evolve a suitable mechanism for direct subsidies to individuals who are entitled to them.

**Answer 40:**

India on February 18, 2011 adopted the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) that will reflect the actual movement of prices at the micro-level. The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has introduced the new series of consumer price indices for all-India, and States and union territories separately for rural, urban and combined (national) with 2010 as the base year. The government will have a much better assessment of inflation at the retail level with the launch of the new indices.

The indices will be available for five major commodity groups - food, beverages and tobacco; fuel and light; housing; clothing, bedding and footwear; and miscellaneous. The new indices will have a base of January to December 2010 to gauge the exact impact of price rise on common man.

The CPI (Rural) will cover 1,181 villages and CPI (Urban) will cover 380 towns from all states and Union Territories. The CPI (National) will be compiled by merging CPI (urban) and CPI (rural).

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the new index has been introduced as the present CPI numbers do not encompass all the segments of the population and as such they do not reflect the true picture of the price behaviour.

**Answer 41:**

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) have been prepared by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The Indian government on February 25, 2011 postponed the convergence of Indian accounting standards with the IFRS.

The government wanted to converge with the (IFRS from April 1, 2011 in a phased manner. Companies would now get more time to adjust to the new accounting standards, which deal with preparation of accounts, valuation of financial assets, recognition of income and expenditure, among others. However, all Indian companies listed overseas or doing business on foreign land are currently required to prepare financial statements as per the international standards.

Convergence with the global norms are a part of India's commitment on the G-20 forum were India agreed to have a consistent and uniform financial reporting system for **good corporate governance**.

**Answer 42:**

Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on February 26, 2011 released the commemorative coins in denomination of Rs 150 and Rs. 5 to mark the completion of year long celebrations of 150 years of Income Tax. The coins minted under the authority of the Central Government, commemorate "Income Tax – 150 years of Building India."

The reverse faces of the coins bear the portrait of "Chanakya and Lotus with Honeybee" at the centre representing his famous lines, "..... Ideally, governments should collect taxes like a honeybee, which sucks just the right amount of honey from the flower so that both can survive.....". Just below the portrait of Chanakya, the word "Chanakya" is written in Hindi and English. The left and right peripheries of the coins are flanked with words "Income Tax-150 years of Building India" in both Hindi and English.

The one hundred and fifty rupees coin is not only unique for its denomination but also its size and metal composition. This 44 millimetres circular coin is made of 50% silver.

In the legislative history of India, income tax was introduced for the first-time in 1860 for imposing duties on profits arising from property, professions, trades & offices. It was passed by the Legislative Council of India and received the assent of the Governor General on the 24th July 1860. This Act was the precursor to the modern income tax law in the country.

Direct taxes are now the major resource provider to the Central Government for undertaking developmental work. Direct Taxes collections have nearly trebled from Rs.1,32,771 crore in financial year 2004-05 to about Rs.3,78,000 crore in 2009-10. Direct taxes' share in GDP has also increased from 4.1 percent to 6.1 percent of the GDP.

**Answer 44:**

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary appreciated the commitment demonstrated by India to the international drive against money laundering and financing of terrorism at its review of the India's Action Taken Report in Paris on February 23, 2011. India became FATF's 34<sup>th</sup> Member in June 2010. As per the FATF procedure, every country has to give an Action Plan to bring their AML/CFT regime close to the compliance zone of the FATF.

India also highlighted the establishment of a Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) that would review the effective implementation of India's multilateral commitments including FATF priorities.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental policy making body, comprised of over 30 countries, that has a ministerial mandate to establish international standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF assesses and monitors compliance with the FATF standards, conducts typologies studies of money laundering and terrorist financing methods, trends and techniques and responds to new and emerging threats, such as proliferation financing.

India has taken over as the Co-Chairman of the Asia Pacific Regional Review Group of the FATF. It is one of the four FATF International Co-operation Review Groups. The others are: Europe/Eurasia, Americas, Middle-East/Africa. India replaces Australia and the other co-chair is Macau. The Asia Pacific Regional Review Group of FATF is tasked with the responsibility of reviewing the compliance and actions taken by countries in this region to meet FATF standards.

**Answer 45:**

In one of the biggest foreign direct investments (FDI) into India, BP, the world's fourth-largest energy company, will pay \$7.2 billion for a 30 per cent stake in 23 oil and gas blocks of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). The fields include the most prolific KG-D6 off the east coast. RIL Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani on February 22, 2011 said the deal would go a long way in strengthening India's energy security, as the country depended on imports for 70 per cent of its energy needs. "The partnership will combine BP's world-class deep-water exploration and development capabilities with Reliance's project management and operations expertise," said a joint statement.

**Answer 46:**

India has the world's fourth largest area under genetically modified (GM) crops. The country's GM crop acreage in 2010, at 9.4 million hectares (mh), was next only to the US (66.8 mh), Brazil (25.4 mh) and Argentina (22.9 mh), while ahead of Canada (8.8 mh) and China (3.5 mh), according to the latest global status report of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA). The 9.4 mh GM area in India consisted entirely of Bt cotton. This was unlike in the US, where the 66.8 mh acreage was distributed among maize (31.7 mh), soyabean (30 mh) and cotton (3.9 mh), besides canola, alfalfa, sugarbeet and potato. The ISAAA report estimated the total global GM crop acreage in 2010 at 148 mh, up from 134 mh in 2009 and just 1.7 mh in 1996. Of the 148 mh,

73.3 mh was under soyabean, 46 mh under maize, 21 mh under cotton (with India being No. 1), 7 mh under canola, 0.5 mh under sugarbeet and 0.1 mh under alfalfa.

**Answer 47:**

South Zone lifted the Duleep trophy on February 5, 2011 beating North Zone by seven wickets in the final played at Visakhapatnam. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> time that South Zone won the inter-zone tournament, after finishing runner-up to West Zone last season. The Duleep Trophy was presented to South Zone captain S. Badrinath, who was also adjudged Man-of-the-Match while the V.J. Divecha Trophy was given to runner-up North Zone. The scores: North Zone — 1st innings: 337. South Zone — 1st innings: 477. North Zone — 2nd innings: 317. South Zone — 2nd innings: 178 for three wickets.

**Answer 48:**

The northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh clocked the highest economic growth rate in the country of 22.43 percent in 2009-10, followed by Mizoram and Goa, according to a government report. Arunachal Pradesh's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rose by 7.51 percent in 2008-09. Minister of State for Planning Ashwani Kumar informed the Lok Sabha on February 23, 2011 that Mizoram and Goa registered GSDP growth of 13.95 percent and 13.03 percent, respectively, in 2009-10. However, the GSDP growth performance of Rajasthan – at 3.95 percent – was the lowest among the 32 states and Union Territories in the country last fiscal. The other two states where the pace of economic expansion was low were Andaman and Nicobar and Karnataka, at 4.39 and 4.99 percent, respectively.

**Answer 49:**

Hosni Mubarak served as the fourth President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011. Mubarak was appointed Vice President of Egypt in 1975, and assumed the presidency on 14 October 1981, following the assassination of President Anwar El Sadat. The length of his presidency made him Egypt's longest-serving President. Before he entered politics, Mubarak was a career officer in the Egyptian Air Force, serving as its commander from 1972 to 1975 and rising to the rank of air chief marshal.

**Answer 50:**

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual World Social Forum (WSF) was organised in Dakar, Senegal from February 6 to 12, 2011. Nearly 50,000 activists, grassroot workers and intellectuals from 120 different countries participated in the WSF, which began as an open space where, the people who are opposed to neo-liberalism, and a world that is dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism, come together to pursue their thinking and act towards the cause. The first WSF was held from 25 January to 30 January 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, organized by many groups including the French Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions for the Aid of Citizens (ATTAC). The WSF was sponsored, in part, by the Porto Alegre government, led by the Brazilian Worker's Party (PT).





## TEST - II

### Answer 1:

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a new international measure of poverty. Covering 104 developing countries, the MPI complements income poverty measures by reflecting the acute deprivations that people face at the same time. It identifies people who contend with multiple deprivations across three dimensions: education, health, and living standards. The MPI was developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report (UNDP HDR) to develop ideas and policies that can improve people's lives.

### Answer 2:

The second advance estimates of crop production for 2010-11 were released on February 9, 2011. Foodgrain production during 2010-11 is estimated at 232.07 million tonnes compared to 218.11 million tonnes in 2009-10. This is only marginally below the record production of 234.47 million tonnes of foodgrains in 2008-09. It was 227.32 million tonnes in 2007-08 and 217.3 million tonnes in 2006-07. Rice output is expected to be 94.01 million tonnes in 2010-11 against 89.09 million tonnes in 2009-10, wheat is likely to be 81.47 million tonnes compared to 80.80 million tonnes last year and pulses output is expected at 16.51 million tonnes against 14.66 million tonnes. The coarse cereals output at 40.08 million tonnes are also set to exceed last year's level of 33.55 million tonnes.

Among the non-food crops, the oilseeds output is likely to be 27.84 million tonnes this year against 24.88 million tonnes last year, cotton is expected to be 33.9 million bales of 170 kilograms each against 24.2 million bales last year, while sugarcane production is likely to be 336.69 million tonnes against 292.3 million tonnes last year.

### Answer 3:

Telecom service provider Bharti Airtel along with 16 other global telcos launched the Europe India Gateway (EIG) cable system on February 24, 2011. The EIG cable system is a 15,000 kilometer international fibre optic submarine cable system that links the United Kingdom with Gibraltar, Portugal, Monaco, France, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and India. EIG is the first high band-width (3.84 terabits per second) cable system using dense wavelength division multiplexing technology connecting the UK with India via the Mediterranean Sea.

### Answer 4:

Several Middle Eastern countries seek to acquire the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, informed CEO and Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace, Dr Sivathanu Pillai at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX 2011) at Abu Dhabi on February 24, 2011. Many countries have shown interest in acquiring BrahMos missiles, including several Middle East states. The terms of the Russian-Indian inter-governmental agreement on cooperation allow India to export BrahMos missiles. But the Russian-Indian joint venture will export them only to friendly countries.

### Answer 5:

India produced about 67 million tonnes of crude steel and was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> largest steel producer in the world in 2010. This was stated by Union Steel Minister Beni Prasad Verma at the 'Indian Steel: Moving to the Next Orbit' at CII Steel Summit 2011 in New Delhi on February 25, 2011. With a targeted production capacity of 120 million tonnes by 2012, India is expected to become the second largest steel producing nation soon. India is already the largest producer of sponge iron in the world. The Summit discussed the present problems and finds appropriate strategies to guide for sustainable growth of steel sector in India.

### Answer 6:

The Ministry of Textiles is setting up mega handloom clusters at four locations – Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamilnadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal). These were announced in the Budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10. Each mega handloom cluster has at least 25,000 handlooms and will be developed in a time period of 5 years with an upper Central Government share of Rs. 70.00 crore.

### Answer 7:

Air India switched to a single code for its domestic and international flights from February 27, 2011. Flight and IATA ticket codes of Air India (098) and erstwhile Indian Airlines (058) will be merged together and all Air India domestic and International flights will operate as a single airline with AI (098) ticket code. Indian Airlines merged with Air India four years ago.

### Answer 8:

US-based Brighton Group on February 23, 2011 signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up a Rs 2,880 crore nuclear plant near port-town Visakhapatnam. This is the maiden venture in India of the Brighton Group that has a major presence in China apart from the US.

**Answer 9:**

Axis Bank, India's third largest private bank on February 15, 2011 announced the launch of their 'Everywhere Teller Machine (ETM) service in India at Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh. ETM allows Debit Card holders to withdraw upto Rs. 1,000 in cash per day from a Point-Of-Sale (POS) terminal at select merchant outlets. The bank plans to roll out this service in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Gujarat in this fiscal and expects to cover all states by the end of next fiscal year.

**Answer 10:**

The Carbon Disclosure Project is an independent not-for-profit organization holding the largest database of primary corporate climate change information in the world. Some 3,000 organizations in some 60 countries around the world now measure and disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change strategies through CDP, in order that they can set reduction targets and make performance improvements. This data is made available for use by a wide audience including institutional investors, corporations, policymakers and their advisors, public sector organizations, government bodies, academics and the public. The country's largest commercial bank State Bank of India on February 21, 2011 said it has become a signatory investor to the CDP collects data on carbon emissions from 3,000 large companies every year, including the top 200 Indian companies listed on the National Stock Exchange.

**Answer 11:**

The Financial Planning Standards Board India (FPSB India) on February 24, 2011 announced the nomination of Dharendra Swarup as its new Chairman. Swarup was Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) till last year. Financial Planning Standards Board India is a Public – Private Enterprise and a Professional Standards Setting body that guides the development and promotion of standards for Financial Planning professionals in the country.

**Answer 12:**

Oil Minister S Jaipal Reddy on February 21, 2011 cleared the appointment of ONGC Videsh Ltd Managing Director Ranbir Singh Butola as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corp (IOC). Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) had on September 29 last year, named Butola as its most preferred choice to head the nation's largest oil firm.

**Answer 13:**

The Union government has scrapped the search-cum-selection panel which had recommended the names for the chairman and MD's positions in the BSNL and MTNL and has formed a new committee under Sam Pitroda, to look for chairmen and MDs for these two telcos. This follows allegations that the former telecom minister, A. Raja, and his aide, R.K. Chandolia, changed the criteria for the appointment on these posts by selecting their own favourites ignoring the earlier Pitroda committee's recommendations. Pitroda's earlier committee, which was set up by the PM, had recommended that the post of the chairman and MD for these PSUs should be split. It said that the chairman should be an eminent person who is able to withstand political pressure and act independently for the benefit of the company. It had also recommended that professionals should be appointed for the top post in these two PSUs. There should not be any preference for the people from within PSUs for the top post and professionals from both the private and public sector should be treated at par.

**Answer 14:**

Two-time world under-8 chess champion Ivana Furtado secured her Woman FIDE Master (WFM) title after winning a silver medal in under-12 Girls category at World Youth Chess championship in Greece in February 2011. The 11-year-old chess prodigy from Goa had earlier become the Women Candidate Master (WCM).

**Answer 15:**

Antrix Corporation Limited is a wholly owned Government of India Company under the administrative control of the Department of Space, Government of India. Antrix Corporation Limited was incorporated as a **private limited company** owned by Government of India, in September 1992 as a **Marketing arm** of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for promotion and commercial exploitation of space products, technical consultancy services and transfer of technologies developed by ISRO. Another major objective is to facilitate development of space related industrial capabilities in India. Antrix is engaged in providing space products and services to international customers worldwide. Antrix was given "Miniratna" status by the Government of India in 2008. Miniratna status is given to Central Public Enterprises in two categories.

For Miniratna status in Category –I, the CPSE should have made profit in the last three years continuously, the pre-tax profit should have been Rs. 30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and should have a positive net worth.

For category II, the CPSE should have made profit for the last three years continuously and should have a positive net worth.

**Answer 16:**

A biography of Kalpana Chawla, the India-born American astronaut who died in the Columbia space shuttle disaster, was released on February 23, 2011 in Chandigarh. ‘Edge of Time’, authored by the late astronaut’s husband Jean Pierre Harrison was released at the Punjab Engineering College University of Technology, Chandigarh from where Kalpana passed out as an aeronautical engineer in 1982.

**Answer 17:**

Professor Stanley Fischer, Governor, Bank of Israel delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> P. R. Brahmananda Memorial Lecture organised by the Reserve Bank on February 11, 2011 in Mumbai. The topic of his speech was ‘Central Bank Lessons from the Global Crisis’.

**Answer 18:**

Director Asghar Farhadi’s ‘Nader and Simin, A Separation’ won the Golden Bear award for Best Film and Silver Bears for the Best Actor & Best Actress awards at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2011. Best Director Award (Silver Bear) was won by German Ulrich Kohler for his film ‘Sleeping Sickness’. Alfred Bauer Prize, which is awarded in memory of the Festival founder, for a work of particular innovation was won by German director Andres Veiel for the film ‘If Not Us, Who?’

**Answer 19:**

Ramakant Achrekar, who had guided Sachin Tendulkar in his formative years, was conferred the ‘Lifetime achievement’ award at the Sports Illustrated India awards function in Bangalore on February 10, 2011. Complete list of awardees of 2010: Sports kid: Arman Jaffer (cricket); Domestic performance: Rajasthan Ranji team; Surprise package: Ashish Kumar (gymnastics); Coach: Gary Kirsten; Sports administrator: Col. P.K.M. Raja (boxing); Outstanding contribution to sport: Reliance; Sporting moment: 4x400m relay women’s team’s win at Delhi Commonwealth Games; Young player: Vikas Krishan (boxing); Lifetime achievement: Ramakant Achrekar; Game changer: V.V.S. Laxman; Athlete: Somdev Devvarman; Team: Indian Test cricket team; Editor’s choice: Sushil Kumar (wrestling); Sportsman of the Year: Sachin Tendulkar .

**Answer 20:**

The National Video Server of the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), which makes the entire NPTEL content available through this server, was inaugurated on February 9, 2011. With this Video Server located at IIT Madras and connected to 1 Gbps link of National Knowledge Network and 155 Mbps link to the Colleges’ Virtual Private Network (VPN) under the National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT), e-content download would be possible for all the Universities and Colleges that have got connectivity under the NMEICT.

At present, more than 250 University/University level Institutions and nearly 11000 Colleges are already connected on NKN and College VPN and they could straight away start using or downloading the e-content for their storage and local use.

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is an Information & Communication Technology based technical knowledge dissemination programme in the higher education sector. Its main objective is to increase the reach of high quality engineering and sciences education across the country

**Answer 21:**

Economic Survey 2010-11 was presented by the Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Lok Sabha on February 25, 2011. At the end of September 2010, external debt stood at US\$ 295.8 billion, recording an increase of 12.8 per cent over the level of end-March 2010.

The rise in India’s external debt was largely due to higher commercial borrowings, short-term trade credits, and multilateral government borrowings.

The share of commercial borrowings stood highest at 27.8 per cent in the total external debt followed by NRI deposits (16.9 per cent) and multilateral debt (15.8 per cent).

The maturity profile of India’s external debt indicates the dominance of long-term borrowings with long-term debt accounting for 77.7 per cent of the total external debt.

**Answer 22:**

The Indian Air Force on February 5, 2011 inducted C-130J Super Hercules aircraft at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The Lockheed Martin C-130J “Super” Hercules is a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft. The contract for the aircraft

was signed in 2008 at an estimated cost of under \$1.2 billion under the Foreign Military Sales programme. The C-130J is a four-engine turboprop aircraft manufactured by Lockheed Martin. It can be used for troop deployment, special operations, air-to-air refuelling, disaster relief and humanitarian aid operations. Its technology and configuration enables the aircraft to perform precision low-level flying, airdrops, and landing in blackout conditions.

**Answer 23:**

An Indo-Norwegian meeting titled 'Pole to Pole' was organised on February 3, 2011 in New Delhi with the objective of promoting collaborative polar research between the two countries. The research is expected to yield new insights into the effects of climate change. Geology, glaciology and bacteriology were identified as the key areas for future collaboration. Unlike the Antarctic, Norway has a sovereign right over the Svalbard region, which is governed by the Svalbard Treaty of 1920. The Treaty today has 40 member countries. India signed the Treaty in 1923 which gives it the right to establish a research station there.

**Answer 24:**

The Union Cabinet on February 10, 2011 decided to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The amended Act will have provisions to prevent a person convicted of terrorist acts or anything that threatens the security of the state from bringing out publications. The Act would also include provisions to prevent blocking of titles to discourage non-serious publishers. The amendments are aimed at streamlining the age-old processes and addressing certain issues governed by the print media policy and the guidelines/rules.

The amended Act, to be titled the Press and Registration of Books and Publications (PRBP) Act, 2010, will include several new definitions such as 'publications', 'newspapers', 'magazines', 'journals', 'newsletter', etc. The Act would cover internet edition of newspapers as well. It would also have detailed provisions for verification of a title. There would be statutory provision for verification of circulation figures of publications.

The Act would prescribe provisions with respect to limits on foreign news content (syndication) and foreign investments. Publishers would also be required to compulsorily file annual statements.

Reacting to the Cabinet decision, **Indian Newspaper Society president Kundan R Vyas** of Janmabhoomi Group expressed "deep concern" over the approval to the amendments without any consultation with the stake holders.

**Answer 25:**

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has given an "in principle" approval to the long-pending Mount Girnar Ropeway project in Junagadh district in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The order, pending since 1995, was signed by the Minister of State for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh on February 7, 2011. The project was being opposed by some environmentalists and others on the ground that it would threaten the near-extinct species of the "Girnari Giddh," the long-billed vultures, as the Girnar region alone accounts for about 25 per cent of the species and about 10 per cent of the total vulture population in the State.

Ramesh has in a letter to the state government listed out six conditions including completely changing the alignment of the ropeway. He said the state government will conduct a study to consider alternate alignment of the ropeway project, with a view to ensure that it does not cut across the prime vulture habitat, and also minimises disturbance to their nesting, roosting and ranging sites of the long-billed vultures and other wildlife species and submit a report within two months.

**Answer 26:**

The Navy began salvage operations for the frigate INS Vindhyagiri which is resting on sea bed at the naval dockyard after colliding with Cyprus-flagged merchant vessel Nordlake off the coast of Mumbai in January 2011. The operation to lift INS Vindhyagiri out of water started on February 8, 2011. The decision to decommission or re-fit the vessel will be taken after the operation is completed.

**Answer 27:**

Praja Rajyam, Congress merge: Praja Rajyam leader and Telugu cinema actor K. Chiranjeevi, on February 6, 2011 announced the merger of his party with the Indian National Congress (INC). Praja Rajyam is a regional political party in Andhra Pradesh founded by Chiranjeevi on August 26, 2008. Congress now has 174 MLAs in the 295-member Legislative Assembly followed by Telugu Desam (92), TRS (10), BJP (2), CPI-M (1), CPI (4), MIM (7), Lok Satta (1) and Independents (3).

**Answer 28:**

The Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), B.K. Handique, on February 9, 2011 approved an amount of Rs. 50.93 Crores for installation of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at the Lengpui Airport in Aizwal, Mizoram. Presently, there are no regular flights to Mizoram due to issues related to bad terrain, Civil Aviation Security concerns and lack of ILS.

**Answer 29:**

Jammu and Kashmir government will construct a Kargil House in the Union Capital to provide temporary accommodation to the people of Kargil. A piece of land has been acquired in Dwarka area of New Delhi to construct the Kargil House.

**Answer 30:**

‘BLACK, BROWN & THE BLUE’ – a book on artist Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, was released on February 11, 2011. The book offers a glimpse into the world of Shuvaprasanna, who has over the past four decades, created numerous paintings, lithographs, graphics, sculptures, and a wide variety of mixed media art on different themes ranging from the despondency of the urban chaos, surreal crows and cats, to the delightful play of the deities, as well as realistic portraiture.

**Answer 31:**

Hosni Mubarak stepped down as president of Egypt on February 12, 2011, after weeks of protest in Cairo and other cities. Announcing Mubarak’s resignation, Vice-President Omar Suleiman said the president had handed power to the army. The military high command is headed by Defence Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi.

**Answer 32:**

SAARC got its first woman Secretary-General in its silver jubilee year — the former Maldivian Attorney-General, Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, succeeded Indian diplomat Sheel Kant Sharma, who completed his tenure of three years in February 2011.

**Answer 33:**

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on February 8, 2011 welcomed a historic referendum granting independence to Southern Sudan. Ban also commended Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and his government as well as President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the Government of Southern Sudan, for facilitating a largely peaceful referendum in January. People of South Sudan completed a week-long referendum in January 2011 to decide whether they wanted independence from North Sudan. Final results show that 98.8 per cent of the ballots cast were for secession from Sudan’s north. The mud-hut town of Juba will be the capital of the new country. Two decades of war between the predominantly Muslim north and rebels in the Christian-animist south killed at least 2 million people before a 2005 peace agreement was reached. A separatist insurgency has continued in Darfur region. The Darfur Conflict is an ongoing guerrilla conflict or civil war centered on the Darfur region of Sudan. It began in February 2003 when the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) groups in Darfur took up arms, accusing the Sudanese government of oppressing non-Arab Sudanese in favor of Sudanese Arabs.

**Answer 34:**

Oded Grajew is the founder of the annual World Social Forum, the citizen sector alternative to the World Economic Forum that meets in Davos, Switzerland. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual World Social Forum (WSF) was organised in February 2011.

**Answer 35:**

The government has decided to bring workers who have worked under the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme for a minimum of 15 days under the ambit of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). RSBY will also cover workers from the unorganised sector, including rickshaw pullers and domestic workers.

The RSBY provides cashless health insurance cover to below poverty line families in the unorganised sector. The scheme is extended to five members of the family, which includes the head of the household, spouse and up to three dependents, who are each given cash coverage up to Rs 30,000 for most diseases that require hospitalisation.

Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee had announced this as part of Budget 2010-11. The labour ministry will implement it from the fiscal starting April 1 this year. All those who worked under the NREGA for a period of 15 days in 2010-11, will be beneficiaries of the health insurance scheme starting 2011-12.

The RSBY will also even cover those who are above the poverty line but have worked for the rural employment scheme. Apart from this, the health insurance scheme will now also cover auto rickshaw drivers, rickshaw pullers, anganwadi workers, domestic workers, toddy-tappers and rag pickers as well.

The labour ministry had last year extended the scheme to include railway porters, street vendors and postmen.

**Answer 36:**

The U.S. Department of Defense's Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program facilitates sales of U.S. arms, defense equipment, defense services, and military training to foreign governments.

The purchaser does not deal directly with the defense contractor; instead, the US government's Defense Security Cooperation Agency serves as an intermediary, usually handling procurement, logistics and delivery and often providing product support, training, and infrastructure construction

**Answer 37:**

South Korea and France are set to sign an agreement on the return of Korean royal documents looted during the French invasion more than a century ago, the foreign ministry said in Seoul on February 7, 2011. The two countries will soon sign the deal in Paris on the retrieval of the Oegyujanggak books from the Joseon Dynasty, Korea's last ruling monarchy (1392-1910), stolen during the French invasion in 1866. They document court protocol. All the 297 volumes are to be returned to a museum in Seoul before the end of May on a renewable five-year lease. South Korea has sought their return after a scholar discovered them at the French national library in 1975. The agreement by French President Nicolas Sarkozy as he met South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Seoul ends a longstanding dispute.

**Answer 38:**

Yale University in February 2011 signed an agreement to return to Peru some 5,000 Inca artefacts removed from the famed Machu Picchu citadel nearly a century ago. The relics - stone tools, ceramics and human and animal bones - will be housed in a new centre in the city of Cuzco.

The deal ends a long dispute over the artefacts, which were taken from Machu Picchu by American explorer Hiram Bingham in 1912. Bingham was an academic, explorer, treasure hunter and politician from the United States. He made public the existence of the Quechua citadel of Machu Picchu in 1911 with the guidance of local Indigenous farmers.

Peru had argued during the dispute that the artefacts were lent in 1911 but never returned. It filed a lawsuit against Yale in 2008. Yale had said that it returned those relics which it borrowed, while it had full ownership of many others. It also took protest marches and a letter penned by Peruvian President Alan Garcia to his US counterpart Barack Obama to win the battle over the artefacts. Peru's most important archaeological site Machu Picchu, high in the Andes, is also the country's main tourist attraction. The relics will be yet another draw for hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Inca site every year.

**Answer 39:**

NASA released the first-ever 360-degree panoramic images of the Sun in February 2011. Two Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) satellites, launched in 2006, have arrived at points that put the Sun directly between them. The mission is studying the Sun's great explosive events that hurl billions of tonnes of charged particles at Earth — events that can disrupt power grids and satellites. These Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) can also be hazardous to astronauts in space. MESSENGER stands for the MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEochemistry and Ranging (MESSENGER) orbiter.

**Answer 40:**

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh conferred the Jnanpith Award on Malayalam poet O.N.V. Kurup at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala on February 11, 2011. The 79-year-old poet was named for the award for the year 2007. He was also named for the Padma Shri in 1998 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011.

**Answer 41:**

The International Labour Organisation's Decent Work Research Prize has been awarded to economist Jayati Ghosh and Professor Eve Landau. Dr. Ghosh, who teaches at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, is honoured for her major contributions to the analysis of socio-economic relationships and policy instruments for the advancement of decent work. The prize carries a cash reward of \$5,000.

**Answer 43:**

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Chairman and Managing Director, Dilip Shanghvi was on February 7, 2011 named the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2010. He will represent the country at the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Monte Carlo, Monaco, in June. Other winners include: Hero Honda Chairman Brijmohan Lall Munjal won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Bajaj Auto Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj won the award for business transformation, Tractor & Farm Equipment (TAFE) Chairman Mallika Srinivasan for manufacturing, Jubilant Life Sciences CMD Shyam S Bhartia and Hari S Bhartia for life sciences and consumer products, Interglobe Enterprises MD Rahul Bhatia for services, Jaipur Rugs Company MD N K Chaudhary for start-up, Jindal Steel & Power Vice-Chairman and MD Naveen Jindal for energy & infrastructure and Shriram Transport Finance MD R Sridhar for manager.

**Answer 44:**

Spain's Rafael Nadal was chosen for the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year in Abu Dhabi on February 7, 2011. Nadal came ahead of FIFA Ballon d'or winner Lionel Messi and youngest-ever Formula One World champion Sebastian Vettel to the title in a close battle. Nadal won three consecutive Grand Slam titles and completed a career Slam in 2010. The 'World Sportswoman of the Year' honour went to American alpine skier Lindsey Vonn, who beat off competition from Belgian tennis ace Kim Clijsters, who won a second straight US Open and four other events last year, Serena Williams, and world number one tennis player Caroline Wozniacki among others. French football legend Zinedine Zidane was presented the 'Lifetime Achievement' award "in recognition of his remarkable career." American Kelly Slater was presented with the 'Laureus Action Sports Award' for the third time, after winning a record 10<sup>th</sup> World Surfing Championship. German Golfer Martin Kaymer was presented with the 'Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award' after winning the US PGA Championship. Other winners include: Comeback of the Year: Valentino Rossi (Italy, motorcycling); Sportsman of the Year with a Disability: Verena Bentele (Germany, skiing/biathlon).

**Answer 45:**

The Union Cabinet on February 10, 2011 approved the recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to improve their Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR).

Background: The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established in 1975 with the objective to create an alternative channel to 'cooperative credit structure' with a view to ensure sufficient institutional credit for rural and agriculture sector. The RRBs are integral segment of the Indian banking system with focus on serving the rural areas. As on date 82 RRBs are functioning in the country.

RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, the State Government concerned and the Sponsor Banks. The issued capital of RRBs is subscribed by Central Government, State Government and sponsor banks in the proportion of 50%, 15% and 35%, respectively.

Subsequent to review of the financial status of RRBs by the Union Finance Minister in August, 2009, it was felt that a large number of RRBs had a low Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR). A committee was therefore constituted in September, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Dr K C Chakrabarty, Deputy Governor, RBI to analyse the financials of the RRBs and to suggest measures including re-capitalisation to bring the CRAR of RRBs to at least 9% in a sustainable manner by 2012. The Committee had submitted its report in May, 2010.

**Answer 46:**

Close to 13,000 companies have taken recourse to the 'Easy Exit Scheme, 2011' floated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, said Murli Deora, Minister for Corporate Affairs on February 9, 2011. The scheme, under Section 560 of the Companies Act, was introduced to allow defunct companies to remove their names from the Registrar of Companies. It was operational from January 1 to 31, 2011, and has been extended till April 30.

**Answer 47:**

From February 2011, loss-making unlisted public limited companies will no longer need Government's permission to fix managerial salaries.

Companies are divided into private limited and public limited companies. Private limited companies are not subject to any limits on managerial remuneration.

Public limited companies are of two types – listed companies (whose shares are listed on a stock exchange) and unlisted companies. Normally, the general public does not hold shares in unlisted companies.

Public limited companies (listed and unlisted) with no profits/ inadequate profits are currently required to approach the Ministry for approval in those cases where the remuneration of Directors/ equivalent managerial personnel exceeds certain limits.

**Answer 48:**

India on February 18, 2011 adopted the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) that will reflect the actual movement of prices at the micro-level. The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has introduced the new series of consumer price indices for all-India, and States and union territories separately for rural, urban and combined (national) with 2010 as the base year. The government will have a much better assessment of inflation at the retail level with the launch of the new indices.

WEIGHTAGES	CPI (Rural)	CPI (Urban)	CPI (Combined)
Food, Beverages, Tobacco	59.31%	37.15%	49.71%
Fuel and Light	10.42%	8.40%	9.49%

Housing	5.36%	3.91%	4.73%
Cloth, Bedding & Footwear	0%	22.53%	9.77%
Miscellaneous	24.9% 1	28%	26.31%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%
Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation			

**Answer 49:**

The Government on February 10, 2011 appointed a high-powered committee to review various aspects of the controversial deal ISRO’s commercial arm Antrix had struck with a private company for lease of scarce S-band spectrum. The two-member Committee, headed by B K Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission, will review the technical, commercial, procedural and financial aspects of the Agreement between Antrix and Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd. Media reports had stated that the Department of Space, which comes directly under the Prime Minister, had allocated 70 MHz of S-Band spectrum to Devas Multimedia for Rs 1,000 crore. The actual value of this was estimated to be around Rs 2 lakh crore, the reports claimed. The Prime Minister’s Office had denied reports, saying no decision has been taken and hence charges of revenue loss were without any basis.

The committee will also review the adequacy of procedures and approval processes followed by Antrix, ISRO and Department of Space, and suggest improvements and changes. The Committee has been asked to submit its recommendations to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh within one month. Singh is minister in-charge of Department of Space. Noted aerospace expert Roddam Narasimha, Member, Space Commission is the other member of the committee.

**Answer 50:**

To take forward its financial inclusion campaign, the government on February 10, 2011 launched ‘Swabhiman’, a programme which aims at providing banking services to at least 73,000 new habitations with a population of 2,000 and above and open at least 50 million accounts by March 2012. The project will also provide branchless banking services through use of technology. Finance Minister Pranab Mukerjee said banking services in 20,000 villages would be rolled out this financial year.

