

TARGET PRELIMS 2019

Question Bank (Vol III)

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350+ Questions with Explanation, Approach, Related TopicsURLs.



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Economy

1. Financial Stability Report which assesses the resilience of the economy to financial risks is released by

- a) The Reserve Bank of India
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank Group
- d) NITI Aayog

2. Global Economy dances to the tune of the policy decision of the central banks of the developed nations. Which of the following will be the possible impact of the interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve?

- a) Increase in investment into Indian stock market by Foreign Portfolio Investors.
- b) Depreciation in value of Indian Rupee.
- c) weakening of the US Dollar against major currencies.
- d) An increased outflow of investment from the US to developing nations.

3. Consider the following statements about the Commodity Trading in India:

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India regulates commodity trading to ensure financial integrity.

2. All the major national commodity exchanges of India are located in Mumbai.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements about the competitive exchange rate:

1. Appreciation in the value of Indian Rupee will increase the quantum of Indian exports.

2. The exchange rate in India is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Fiscal Deficit is considered a key indicator of the health of an economy. In this context, consider the following statements about the Fiscal Deficit in India:

1. The fiscal deficit in India is regulated by statutory legislative mechanisms.

2. Populist government schemes reduce the fiscal deficit of the Union and the State governments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements about the National Antiprotection Authority:

1. It is a statutory body to check unfair price rise in goods and services.

2. The unclaimed recovery amount will be deposited in the investor education and protection fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. The provision of minimum basic income is touted as an effective tool to reduce poverty. Which of the following will be the possible effect of providing minimum basic income in India?

- a) It will increase the Human Development Index ranking of India)
- b) It will increase the inflation and higher fiscal deficit for the government.
- c) It worsens the condition of the labor force.
- d) Both a and b

8. A National level entrepreneur awareness campaign named Udhayam Abhilasha was launched by

- a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- b) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- c) National Skill Development Authority
- d) Indian Trade Promotion Organisation

9. Goods and Service Tax is considered as a major economic reform in India after liberalization. Which of the following statements is not correct about GST revenue collection in 2017-18?

- a) The number of e>Returns filed by individual taxpayers has been doubled.
- b) The combined revenue from Central and State GST is higher than the Integrated GST collection.
- c) monthly collection of indirect taxes fluctuates throughout the year.
- d) All of the above

10. Consider the following statements about the Kisan Credit Card Scheme:

1. It provides timely credit to owner-cultivators, Tenant farmers, Oral lessees, and Sharecroppers.

2. The rate of interest charged on the credit is at the discretion of the lending bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. After the Kerala flood, the state government of Kerala is allowed to collect cess for the rehabilitation. Which of the following statements is not correct about the cess provisions?

- a) A calamity cess of 1% on the sale of goods and services can be collected in Kerala)
- b) The cess is applicable only to the intra-state trade of Kerala)
- c) state can collect the cess for a period of five years.
- d) It will increase the cost of goods and services only in Kerala)

12. Recently India has signed a Standby Currency Swap Facility agreement with which of the following groupings?

- a) ASEAN
- b) BIMSTEC
- c) SAARC
- d) BRICS

13. Consider the following statements about principles of WTO:

- 1. The principle of Most Favoured Nation calls the member country to treat all nations as equal in the trade policies of both goods and services
- 2. The principle of National Treatment calls to treat the imported goods and services equal to domestic goods and services in domestic sale and consumption

Choose the correct statements

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

14. Which of the following is the correct description of 'UNICORN' companies?

- a) Start-ups with a valuation above 1 billion USD
- b) Companies practicing sustainable manufacturing process
- c) Corporates with a valuation above 1 Trillion USD
- d) Public sector units in defense production

15. The concept of 'Data Exclusivity', often seen in the news is related to

- a) Encryption of data in communication
- b) Information utilities of Insolvency process
- c) Localization of sensitive personal data
- d) Generic drugs manufacturing

16. Consider the following statements about the Payments Banks in India:

- 1. Payment banks will have limited area reach than the small finance banks.
- 2. Supermarket chains and the Real sector cooperatives owned by resident Indians can

set up a payments bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)' Scheme:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to provide income support to all Small and Marginal land holding farmer families having cultivable land.

2. Landholder Farmer families with total cultivable holding up to 2 hectares shall be provided a benefit of Rs.60,000 (Sixty Thousand) per annum per family

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements about 'Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)' of India:

- 1. It is located only on the East coast of India)
- 2. These storage facilities are maintained by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. With Reference to "Differentiated banks" System in India, Consider the following statements about 'Payment Bank':

- 1. It can lend to customers.
- 2. It can accept demand deposits, issue ATM/debit cards, and credit cards

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements about 'India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)':

1. The India Post Payments Bank is a public sector company working under the Ministry of Finance.

2. The IPPB offers both ATM debit card as well as QR(Quick Response) Code-based biometric card)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

21. Consider the following statements about 'Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006':

1. Banking Ombudsman is a quasi-judicial authority appointed by the Ministry of Finance.
2. Except Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks, All Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks, are covered under the Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements about 'Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT)':

1. This Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Finance
2. The Scheme, provides a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in customer services in digital transactions conducted through bank entities regulated by RBI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements about 'PM Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana':

1. It is a pension plan launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. The unorganized workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the age group of 18-40 years are eligible under this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Recently, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) was renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). In this context Consider the following statement about the "Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)":

1. It works under the domain of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
2. It is responsible to calculate WPI (I.e.

Wholesale Price Index).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements about 'Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index':

1. It was developed by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and Deloitte
2. It ranks states in terms of the logistical support they provide to promote goods trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Which organization has launched a new portal LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System for ensuring optimum use of National Waterways

- a) Inland Waterways Authority of India
- b) National Ganga River Basin Authority
- c) Central Ground Water Board
- d) National Water Development Agency

27. With reference to Angel Funding In India, Consider the following statements about "Angel Tax"

1. It is a Customs Duty imposed on imports and exports of goods.
2. In India, the angel tax was introduced first time in the budget of 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. With reference to International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Authority Bill, 2019:

1. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Co. Ltd (GIFT) is being developed as the country's first IFSC.

2. IFSC has been designated for all practical purposes as a 'deemed foreign territory' which would have the same ecosystem as other offshore locations, but which is physically on Indian soil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements about 'National Pharmaceutical Pricing Agency':

1. It Works under the Ministry of Health.
2. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that regulates the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements about 'International Energy Agency (IEA)':

1. The International Energy Agency is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established under the framework of the World Bank.

2. All Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member states are members of the IEA)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. Which of the following organization publishes the World Energy Outlook Report?

- a) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

32. Which of the following organization publishes the Logistics Performance Index (LPI)?

- a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- b) World Bank
- c) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

33. Which of the following organization publishes the Global Intellectual Property Index?

- a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- b) World Bank
- c) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- d) US Chamber of Commerce

34. The Government has come out with a policy to double farmers' income by 2022. Consider the following statements about Agriculture Export Policy, 2018

1. Its aims to promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, and only traditional Agri

products exports.

2. It strives to double India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Which among the following reports is/are published by the World Economic Forum?

1. Global Competitiveness Report
2. Global Risks Report
3. Global Gender Gap Report
4. Global Economic Prospects

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

36. With reference to Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), consider the following statements:

1. The SFIO is a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. SFIO also enjoys the power to make arrests under the Companies Act, 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Which of the following best describes the term Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code sometimes seen in the news?

- a) A unique identity code assigned to entities who are parties to a financial transaction
- b) It is a code to identify the computer that have been used in the commission of a cyber crime.
- c) A regulatory guidelines for implementing various pollution control laws in industries.
- d) None of the above

38. Which of the following monetary policy instruments helps to control inflation in the market?

1. Purchasing Government securities (G-sec) from the open market
2. The increase in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
3. The repo rate increase.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only

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

39. Consider the following statements about tax on Angel Investment:

1. Angel tax refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by listed companies via issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold)
2. It was introduced in the 2016 Union Budget to arrest laundering of funds.
3. The exemption related to tax would apply only when the angel investor had a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore or an average returned income of over 25 lakh in the preceding three financial years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following statements:

1. The current economic policy allows 100% FDI under the automatic route in business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce but prohibits any foreign investment in B2C ecommerce.
2. As per 2017 FDI Policy 100% FDI is under an automatic route is permitted only in the e-commerce marketplace model and not in the inventory based one.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements:

1. If an economy produced more goods/services at the same prices, it leads to higher GDP, eventually combined with inflation.
2. If economy produced the same amount of goods/services at higher prices both GDP and inflation increase in this scenario.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

42. With reference to the 'The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)' consider the following statements:

1. FSSAI is an independent statutory Authority with head office at Delhi.
2. The Ministry of Commerce, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
3. It provides scientific advice and technical

support to Central Government and State Governments in the matters of framing the policy and rules in areas which have a direct or indirect bearing of food safety and nutrition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit and while calculating the total revenue, borrowings are included)
2. Primary deficit refers to the difference between fiscal deficit of the current year and interest payments on the previous borrowings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. Consider the following statements:

1. A Depository Receipt (DR) constitute an important mechanism through which issuers can raise funds outside their home jurisdiction.
2. In India any company whether private limited or public limited or listed or unlisted can issue DRs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements:

1. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India during the harvesting season for certain crops.
2. Msp is announced on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

1. Answer: a**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India releases the Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability, as also the resilience of the financial system. The Report also discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.

The report mentions that the Indian financial system remains stable, and the banking sector shows signs of improvement, even though the global economic environment and the emerging trends in the financial sector pose challenges.

Context: Release of a report on the financial status of India)

2. Answer: b**Explanation:**

The US Dollar remains the most sought after currency in the global market. Any changes in the interest rate by the US federal reserve will have reactions all over the world) The increase in interest by the federal reserve will make the US dollar costlier. This makes the flow of the US investment from all over the world to return back into the US. The value of currencies of most of the developing countries will be weakened in front of the strong dollar. This also holds true in the case of Indian rupee which will also depreciate in value before the US dollar. Particularly the investments by Foreign portfolio investors in the stock markets will be drawn back into the US. After the 2008 financial crisis, the US federal reserve started to increase the interest rate from 2017 as the growth of the US economy and Employment rate is good)

Context: Effect of US Federal Reserve Policy on the global economy.

3. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: SEBI is the regulator of the commodity market in India) Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Among the six major national commodity exchange, four are located in Mumbai, one in New Delhi and one in Ahmedabad) Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The commodities market works just like any other market. It is a physical or a virtual space, where one can buy, sell or trade various commodities at current or future date. These markets are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India) Earlier they are under the regulation of the Forward Markets Commission, but after the NSEL scam, the FMC was merged with the SEBI.

Through India has many regional commodity markets, there are six national level commodity markets in India such as Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), ACE Derivatives Exchange, and the Universal Commodity Exchange, all at Mumbai, Indian Commodity Exchange at New Delhi and National Multi Commodity Exchange, at Ahmedabad.

Context: Merger of the FMC with SEBI.

4. Answer: d**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: Appreciation of Indian rupee value reduces exports as it makes imports cheaper and exports costlier. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: In India, the exchange rate is dynamic due to its floating nature . But during extreme fluctuations, the central bank under a managed floating exchange rate system intervenes. Objective of this intervention is to minimise the fluctuation in the exchange rate of rupee. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The exchange rate is the value of the domestic currency to foreign currencies. There are two types of exchange rate like fixed rate and floating rate. The fixed rate is determined by the government and the floating rate is determined by the market. India is following the floating rate and hence the exchange rate will move according to the performance of the Indian economy. Depreciation of the rupee will make imports costlier and there will be inflation as India imports major parts of its fuel needs. But on the other hand, it also increases the quantum of exports from India) In case of the appreciation of the rupee, the vice versa happens. Hence the appreciation of the rupee will make the exports costlier and reduces the quantum of exports from India)

Context: Rising demand for maintaining a competitive exchange rate.

5. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: The fiscal deficit is regulated by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The popular schemes like loan waiver increases the fiscal deficit in the Union and State Budget. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act was enacted in 2003 which set targets for the government to reduce fiscal deficits. The targets were put off several times. In May 2016, the government set up a committee under NK Singh to review the FRBM Act. The government believed the targets were too rigid) The committee recommended that the government should target a fiscal deficit of 3 percent of the GDP in the years up to March 31, 2020, cut it to 2.8 percent in 2020-21 and to 2.5 percent by 2023. The popular schemes of the government like loan waiver and the freebies will increase the fiscal deficit in both the union and the state budgets.

Context: Rising fiscal deficit in India)

6. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a statutory body formed under the GST Act. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The unclaimed recovery amount will be deposited in the Consumer Welfare Fund) Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) is the institutional mechanism under GST law to check the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community. The Authority's core function is to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods and services made by GST Council and proportional change in the Input tax credit passed on to the ultimate consumers and recipient respectively by way of reduction in the prices by the suppliers.

CGST Act, 2017 mandates a 3-tier structure for the investigation and adjudication of the complaints regarding profiteering.

1. National Anti-profiteering Authority
2. Directorate General of Anti-profiteering
3. State-level Screening Committees and Standing Committee

A separate fund has been created by the central government under section 57 and 58 of the CGST Act, 2017 which would be utilized for the welfare of the consumers in the country. When the recovery of the amount including interest not returned in case the eligible person does not claim a return of the amount or the recipient is not identifiable, in such conditions, the recovered amount is deposited in the consumer welfare fund.

Context: Measures to ensure effective transmission of benefits of input tax credits to consumers.

7. Answer: d

Explanation:

The Universal Basic Income is the unconditional direct money transfer to all citizens of the country. It has been in the discussion stage in many parts of the world and some of the western countries started the project as a pilot scheme. It will increase spending in the health and education which will enhance the human developmental rankings of the country. At the same time, it will increase the fiscal deficit of the government affecting the public finance of the country. In the era of automation, there will be an increase in the number of unemployment. The minimum basic income will protect the unemployed from acute poverty during the period of unemployment.

Context: Minimum basic income remains a hot topic in the general election.

8. Answer: b

Explanation:

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), had launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth. SIDBI will join to contribute to

“the transformation mission” unleashed for these districts. The campaign would create and strengthen the cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to the aspiring youths across these districts thus encouraging them to enter the admired segment of entrepreneurs. The objectives of the missionary campaign include:

1. To inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise,
2. To impart training through digital medium across the country,
3. To create business opportunities for CSC VLEs,
4. To focus on women aspirants in these aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship and
5. To assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

SIDBI is also taking-up with stakeholders including Banks, NABARD, NBFCs, SFBs, District Industries Centres, State Govt. etc) to be a part of this campaign and ensure multifold impact.

Context: Effort to develop entrepreneurship attitude among the youth population.

9. Answer: b

Explanation:

Goods and Services Tax is considered an important economic reform in India in the past two decades. It led to the greater formalization of the economy. This evident from the increased number of tax returns nearly doubled from around 3 crores in 2014-15 to 6 crores returns in 2017-18. The Integrated GST collection is higher than the combined collection of the CGST and SGST. This due to the inclusion of a tax on imports into the IGST. The amount of tax collected in every month highly fluctuates depending on the functioning of the economy. The tax on the lithium-ion battery was reduced to 18% from the earlier 24% slab)

Context: Status report on indirect tax collection in India after GST.

10. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It provides timely credit to all farmers owning land, tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, self-help groups among others. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Rate of interest is linked to the base rate and left to the discretion of the bank. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Kisan Credit Card Scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit for the comprehensive credit requirements of farmers under a single window for their cultivation and other needs. The eligibility for the scheme is as follows:

1. All farmers-individuals/Joint borrowers who are owner-cultivators.
2. Tenant farmers, Oral lessees, and Sharecroppers, etc.
3. SHGs or Joint Liability Groups of farmers including tenant farmers, sharecroppers, etc.,

In addition, the farmers engaged in fisheries and animal husbandry are also covered under the scheme.

The rate of Interest will be linked to Base Rate and is left to the discretion of the banks.

Context: Availability of different credit avenues for Indian farmers.

11. Answer: c

Explanation:

The state of Kerala has seen a devastating flood in 2018. In order to make available necessary financial resources for the rehabilitation process, the GST council has allowed Kerala to collect a calamity cess. The cess will be 1% on the sale of goods and services to the intra-state trade in the state. The cess will be in existence for a period of two years. This increase in tax on the intra-state trade will increase the cost of goods and services in Kerala)

Context: Kerala to raise funds to flood rehabilitation.

12. Answer: c

Explanation:

The currency swap agreement was made with the intention to provide a line of funding for short term foreign exchange requirements or to meet the balance of payments crises till longer-term

arrangements are made or the issue is resolved in the short-term itself. Under the Facility, RBI offers swaps of varying sizes in USD, Euro or INR to each SAARC member country depending on their two months import requirement and not exceeding US\$ 2 billion in total. The swap amount for each country has been defined in the above Facility, subject to a floor of USD 100 Million and a maximum of USD 400 Million. Each Drawal will be for three months tenor and up to a maximum of two rollovers.

Due to heightened financial risk and volatility in the global economy, short term swap requirements of SAARC countries could be higher than the agreed lines. The incorporation of 'Standby Swap' within the approved SAARC Swap Framework would provide the necessary flexibility to the Framework and would enable India to provide a prompt response to the current request from SAARC member countries for availing the swap amount exceeding the present limit prescribed under the SAARC Swap Framework.

Context: Incorporation of Standby Swap with the currency swap facility.

13. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Most Favoured Nation seeks to treat all nations equally in Trade. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: National Treatment seeks to equal treatment of domestic and foreign goods and services. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Most-favoured-nation (MFN): treating other people equally Under the WTO agreements, countries cannot normally discriminate between their trading partners. Grant someone special favor (such as a lower customs duty rate for one of their products) and you have to do the same for all other WTO members.

National treatment: Treating foreigners and locals equally Imported and locally-produced goods should be treated equally — at least after the foreign goods have entered the market. The same should apply to foreign and domestic services, and to foreign and local trademarks, copyrights and patents. This principle of “national treatment” (giving others the same treatment as one’s own nationals) is also found in all the three main WTO agreements (Article 3 of GATT, Article 17 of GATS and Article 3 of TRIPS), although once again the principle is handled slightly differently in each of these.

National treatment only applies once a product, service or item of intellectual property has entered the market. Therefore, charging customs duty on an import is not a violation of national treatment even if locally-produced products are not charged an equivalent tax.

Context: Most Favoured Nation status between India and Pakistan.

14. Answer: a

Explanation:

A unicorn company is a startup company that is worth more than \$1 billion. The term became popular a few years ago. The vast majority of products that unicorns make are software, while a sizable minority make hardware. Most of these companies have seen tremendous growth in just a span of one decade. They highly depend on cyberspace and the internet for their operations. They are also called as the new age companies. Some of the unicorn companies in India are Swigg, Paytm, Flipkart, Byjus, and Ola among others.

Context: Predatory business model of Unicorn startups.

15. Answer: d

Explanation:

Test data exclusivity refers to the protection of clinical trial data required to be submitted to a regulatory agency to prove the safety and efficacy of a new drug, and prevention of generic drug manufacturers from relying on this data in their own applications. It provides a form of market exclusivity outside that provided by patent rights. The data exclusivity represents a compromise between the innovator drug companies and generic drug companies, where innovator companies get a period of exclusivity. But once that exclusive period is over, a generic company can use the data for its own drug approval. In the US the exclusivity period is 5 Years for new pharmaceutical chemical entities, 3 years for new indications for pharmaceutical drugs, and 12 years for biologic products.

Concept: Data exclusivity affecting the development of generic cancer drugs.

16. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: The payments banks have wide area reach than the small finance banks. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Supermarket chains and the real sector cooperatives of resident Indians are eligible for setting up of payments bank. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Payments banks will be to further financial inclusion by providing (i) small savings accounts and (ii) payments/remittance services to migrant labor workforce, low-income households, small businesses, other unorganized sector entities, and other users.

Existing non-bank Pre-paid Payment Instrument issuers; and other entities such as individuals/professionals; Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), corporate Business Correspondents, mobile telephone companies, supermarket chains, companies, real sector cooperatives; that are owned and controlled by residents; and public sector entities may apply to set up payments banks.

Both payments banks and small banks are “niche” or “differentiated” banks; with the common objective of furthering financial inclusion. While small banks will provide a whole suite of basic banking products, such as, deposits and supply of credit, but in a limited area of operation, payments banks will provide a limited range of products, such as, acceptance of demand deposits and remittances of funds, but will have a widespread network of access points particularly to remote areas, either through their own branch network or through Business Correspondents or through networks provided by others.

Context: Unprecedented growth of the India Post Payments Bank.

17. Answer: D**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as it is a Central Sector Scheme and will be funded fully by the Government of India)

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as Landholder Farmer families with total cultivable holding up to 2 hectares shall be provided a benefit of Rs.6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments, every four months.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

- It is an initiative by the government of India in which 120 million small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares (4.9 acres) of landholding will get up to ₹6,000 (US\$83) per year as minimum income support.

- The scheme will cost ₹75,000 crore (US\$10 billion) per annum and will come into effect from December 2018. ₹6,000 per year will be paid to each eligible farmer in three instalments and will be deposited directly to their bank accounts

Context: In the Interim Budget 2019-20, the Union Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

18. Answer: B**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as

- The crude oil storages are constructed in underground rock caverns and are located on the East and West coast of India)

- It is not only located on the East Coast of India) Strategic crude oil storages are at three underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka).

- In the 2017-18 budget speech by the Indian finance minister Arun Jaitley, it was announced that two more such caverns will be set up Chandikhole in Jajpur district of Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan as part of the second phase.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as

- Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) is an Indian company responsible for maintaining the country's strategic petroleum reserves.

●ISPRL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), which functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas..

Context: Recently the Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility was operationalized.

19. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as It cannot lend to customers.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as It can accept demand deposits, issue ATM/debit cards but not credit cards.

Feature of Payment Bank:

1. The maximum deposits in Payments banks is limited to Rs. 100,000 per individual customer.
2. Payments banks do not issue credit cards. However, they do issue ATM and debit card
3. The payments bank shall operate in remote areas mostly through BCs, ATMs and other networks. Therefore, the requirement of opening at least 25 per cent of branches in unbanked rural centres (population up to 9,999 as per the latest census), is not stipulated for them. However, the payments bank will be required to have at least 25 per cent of physical access points including BCs in rural centres.
4. Payments bank can offer both current accounts and savings accounts.
5. Payments banks cannot lend money
6. The minimum paid up equity capital for payments banks shall be Rs. 100 crore
7. The outside liabilities of payments banks should not exceed 33.33 times its paid-up capital and reserves.
8. The promoter shall contribute at least 40 percent of the paid up equity capital for the first five years from the date of commencement of the business

Context: Zero Balance Savings Account: Interest Rates, Facilities Offered By SBI, India Post Payments Bank

20. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The India Post Payments Bank is a public sector company under the department of posts and Ministry of communication where the Indian government holds 100 percent equity.

STATEMENT:2 is incorrect as The The India Post Payments Bank(IPPB) will not offer any ATM debit card) Instead, it will provide its customers with a QR Code-based biometric card.
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- It is a Government of India owned payments bank operating under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, which aims to utilize all of India's 155,015 post offices as access points and 3 lakh postal postman and Grameen Dak Sewaks to provide house to house banking services. The first phase of the bank with 650 branches and 3250 post offices as access points was inaugurated on 1 September 2018. Over ten thousand postmen have been roped into the first phase.
- IPPB would be like any other bank but it will operate at a smaller scale without involving any credit risks but can't issue advance loans or issue credit cards

Context: Zero Balance Savings Account: Interest Rates, Facilities Offered By SBI and India Post Payments Bank

21. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT:1 is incorrect as The Banking Ombudsman is a senior official appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to redress customer complaints against deficiency in certain banking services covered under the grounds of complaint specified under Clause 8 of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006.

STATEMENT:2 is incorrect as All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.

Banking Ombudsman Scheme:

- The Banking Ombudsman Scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum for bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks. The Banking Ombudsman Scheme is introduced under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 by RBI with effect from 1995. Presently the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006 (As amended up to July 1, 2017) is in operation.

22. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT) for redressal of complaints against System Participants as defined in the Scheme.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as The Scheme, launched under Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, will provide a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in customer services in digital transactions conducted through non-bank entities regulated by RBI.

Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT)

- The Scheme, launched under Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, will provide a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in customer services in digital transactions conducted through non-bank entities regulated by RBI.

- Complaints relating to digital transactions conducted through banks will continue to be handled under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme. The offices of Ombudsman for Digital Transactions will function from the existing 21 offices of the Banking Ombudsman and will handle complaints of customers from their respective territorial jurisdiction.

- The Scheme provides for an Appellate mechanism under which the complainant / System Participant has the option to appeal against the decision of the Ombudsman before the Appellate Authority.

Context : The Reserve Bank introduces Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions ;

23. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as Ministry of Labour and Employment launched pension plan 'PM Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana' for informal workers.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as The unorganised workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years are eligible for the scheme.

PM Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana :

- Minimum Assured Pension: Each subscriber under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

- Family Pension: During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as a family pension. Family pension is applicable only to a spouse.

Context: Ministry of Labour and Employment launched a pension plan 'PM Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana' for informal workers.

24. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as It works under the domain of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as It is also responsible to calculate WPI (I.e. Wholesale Price Index). Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT):

- This department was established in the year 1995, and in the year 2000 Department of Industrial Development was merged with it.

- This department is responsible for the formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector, keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.
- While individual administrative ministries look after the production, distribution, development and planning aspects of specific industries allocated to them, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is responsible for the overall Industrial Policy.
- It is also responsible for facilitating and increasing FDI flows to the country. It is also responsible to calculate WPI (I.e. Wholesale Price Index).

Context: The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

25. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as It was developed by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and Deloitte. STATEMENT: 2 is correct as It ranks states in terms of the logistical support they provided to promote goods trade

The ranking is based on parameters such as the competitiveness of pricing, timeliness, and availability of infrastructure and services, among others.

Context: Gujarat, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh are the best performing states in terms of mobility of goods and efficiency of the logistics chain, according to a new ranking of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index states brought out by the government.

26. Answer: A

Explanation:

Moving a step ahead towards ensuring optimum use of National Waterways, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System. So option a) is right.

LADIS (Least Available Depth Information System)

- It will ensure that real-time data on least available depths is disseminated for ship/barge and cargo owners so that they can undertake transportation on NWs in a more planned way.
- An assured depth of waterway is required for seamless movement of vessels. If real-time information is made available regarding LADs in stretches of various NWs, it will help transporters by guiding them on the suitability of time of movement.
- IWAI has designed LADIS to facilitate the day to day operations of inland vessels plying on National Waterways and to avoid any hindrance in service and operation.
- It will enhance the credibility and efficiency of information sharing to achieve seamless operations on National Waterways, besides pre-empting problems that may occur during the movement of vessels.

Context: The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System

27. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Angel tax is a term used to refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by unlisted companies via the issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold) So, It is not a Customs Duty imposed on imports and exports of goods.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as The tax was introduced in the 2012 Union Budget by the then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee to arrest laundering of funds
Angel Tax:

- Closely-held private companies receive equity funds from outsiders. When these investments are made at a premium to the fair price, tax laws have so far held that the amount raised in excess to the fair value is taxable.

- The amount is reckoned as “income from other sources” and taxed under Section 56 (ii) of the

Income Tax Act. The rate of tax was a hefty 30.9 percent. This was applied not just to mature private companies, but also to small startups that took early-stage investments from residents in India)

- Angel Tax was, therefore, problematic for a few reasons. For one, valuing startups based on their assets alone, given intangibles such as goodwill is not easy.

Context: Recently the government notified new rules pertaining to angel tax which will exempt registered start-ups of a specified size from the tax.

28. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Co. Ltd (GIFT) is being developed as the country's first IFSC.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as IFSC has been designated for all practical purposes as a 'deemed foreign territory' which would have the same ecosystem as other offshore locations, but which is physically on Indian soil.

International Financial Services Centre (IFSC):

Any financial institution (or its branch) set up in the IFSC is

- treated as a non-resident Indian located outside India;
- expected to conduct business in such foreign currency and with such entities, whether resident or non-resident, as the Regulatory Authority may determine;
- Nothing contained in any other regulations shall apply to a unit located in the IFSC, subject to certain provisions.

Context: The International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha ;

29. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as It is an independent, executive body of experts under The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers formed in 1997.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that regulates the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that regulates the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India) It was formed on 29 August 1997.
- The NPPA regularly publishes lists of medicines and their maximum ceiling prices. The latest DPCO was released in 2013 which has a list of 384 drugs.
- On 4 December 2017, it was announced a Multi-disciplinary committee of experts for consultation on matters pertaining to implementation of drug price control order (DPCO) including technicalities involved in pricing and new launches will setup and It will have member secretary of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as its convener.

Context: Recently, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemical and Fertilizers submitted its report on the subject "Pricing of Drugs with special reference to Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013".

30. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The International Energy Agency is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as Only the OECD member states can become members of the IEA) Except for Chile, Iceland, Israel, and Slovenia, all OECD member states are members of the IEA)

- The International Energy Agency is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

- The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.

- The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia)

- The Agency's mandate has broadened to focus on the "3Es" of effectual energy policy: energy security, economic development, and environmental protection.

- The latter has focused on mitigating climate change. The IEA has a broad role in promoting alternate energy sources (including renewable energy), rational energy policies, and multinational energy technology co-operation.

Context: Recently the Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility was operationalized.

31. Answer: A

Explanation:

The International Energy Agency (IEA) publishes the World Energy Outlook (WEO).

International Energy Agency

- The International Energy Agency is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

- The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.

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- The latter has focused on mitigating climate change. The IEA has a broad role in promoting alternate energy sources (including renewable energy), rational energy policies, and multinational energy technology co-operation.

Context: Recently the Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility was operationalized.

32. Answer: B

Explanation:

Logistics Performance Index (LPI)

- It is an interactive benchmarking tool created by the World Bank to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance.

- It is the weighted average of the country scores on six key dimensions: efficiency of the clearance process (i.e., speed, simplicity and predictability of formalities) by border control agencies, including Customs; quality of trade and transport related infrastructure (e.g., ports, railroads, roads, information technology); ease of arranging competitively priced shipments; competence and quality of logistics services (e.g., transport operators, customs brokers); ability to track and trace consignments; timeliness of shipments in reaching destination within the scheduled or expected delivery time.

- This measure indicates the relative ease and efficiency with which products can be moved into and inside a country. Germany and Singapore are the most efficient and highest ranked LPI

countries.

Context: Logistics Performance Index (LPI) report was published by the World Bank.

33. Answer: D

Explanation:

Global Intellectual Property Index is published by the US Chamber of Commerce.
Global IP Index 2019:

- This is the seventh edition of the annual International IP Index which analyses the IP climate in 50 world economies, based on 45 indicators critical to an innovation-led economy.
- India climbed up 8 places to reach 36 as opposed to 44 in the 2018 edition.

Global IP Index:

• The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) today released its International IP Index, "Inspiring Tomorrow," which assesses the intellectual property (IP) environments of 50 world economies. Covering all forms of IP, the report highlights movement in almost half the Index economies over the last year.

• Over the past year, IP has taken center stage in international key trade discussion. The ongoing trade dispute between China and the U.S. brought much-needed attention to long-standing challenges that are holding back global investment in IP-intensive industries. Additionally, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) laid a foundation for 21st century IP protection in free trade agreements. The agreement included a number of beneficial provisions, including 10 years of regulatory data protection for biologics, criminal sanctions for trade secrets theft, and ex officio border enforcement for counterfeit goods-in-transit.

Context: US Chamber of Commerce recently released its Global Intellectual Property Index.

34. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect because it aims to promote export of both traditional and non traditional Agri products.

Statement: 2 is correct as doubling India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest is one of its objectives.

Objectives of the Agriculture Export Policy are as under:

- To double agricultural exports from present ~US\$ 30+ Billion to ~US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion in the next few years thereafter, with a stable trade policy regime.
 - To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value and value added agricultural exports including focus on perishables.
 - To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.
 - To provide an institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.
 - To strive to double India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.
- Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.

Context: Government of India has recently come up with the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018.

35. Answer: B

Explanation:

The World Economic Forum publishes a comprehensive series of reports which examine in detail the broad range of global issues it seeks to address with stakeholders as part of its mission of improving the state of the world. Besides reports on its key events and standalone publications such as the Global Competitiveness Report, the Global Risks Report and the Global Gender Gap

Report, the Forum produces landmark titles covering the environment, education, individual industries and technologies.

Global Economic Prospects is published by world bank.

Context: Recently, World Economic Forum released the Global Gender Gap Report, 2018.

36. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct:

SFIO is a multi-disciplinary organization under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, consisting of experts in the field of accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation for detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes/frauds.

SFIO has head office in New Delhi and regional offices in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal .

The SFIO also enjoys the power to make arrests under Section 212 (8) of the Companies Act, 2013.

Context: To rein in wilful defaulters and prevent high profile economic offenders like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya from leaving the country, the Centre has allowed the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) powers to request look-out circulars (LoCs) against loan defaulters.

37. Ans: A

Explanation:

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code is conceived as a key measure to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems for better risk management post the Global Financial Crisis. LEI is a 20-digit unique code to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.

It has been decided to require banks to make it mandatory for corporate borrowers having aggregate fund-based and non-fund based exposure of ₹ 5 crore and above from any bank to obtain Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) registration and capture the same in the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC).

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to make Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code mandatory for all market participants regulated by the central bank.

38. Ans: B

Explanation:

Monetary policy is a way for the RBI to control the supply of money in the economy. So these credit policies help control the inflation and in turn help with the economic growth and development of the country.

Statement 1 is incorrect: if RBI was purchasing securities from the open market it would have the opposite effect. The supply of money to the market would increase and so the inflation.

Statement 2 is correct: Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the portion of deposits with the commercial banks that it has to deposit to the RBI. So CRR is the percent of deposits the commercial banks have to keep with the RBI. The RBI will adjust the said percentage to control the supply of money available with the bank. And accordingly, the loans given by the bank will either become cheaper or more expensive. The CRR is a great tool to control inflation.

The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) is the percent of total deposits that commercial banks have to keep with themselves in the form of cash reserves or gold) So increasing the SLR will mean the banks have fewer funds to give as loans thus controlling the supply of money in the economy.

Statement 3 is correct: The repo rate is actually the rate at which commercial banks and other institutes obtain short-term loans from the Central Bank. Increase in repo rate curtails supply of money in the market and helps in controlling inflation.

Context: In the last MPC, the RBI's decision to not hike the repo rate took everyone by surprise as the market was bracing for it as an intervention amid the rupee rout. RBI governor Urjit Patel

defended the decision by saying that the central bank's mandate is inflation targeting.

39. Ans: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Angel tax is a term used to refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by unlisted companies via issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold) The excess realisation is treated as income and taxed accordingly.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Angel tax was introduced in the 2012 Union Budget by the then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee to arrest laundering of funds. It has come to be called angel tax since it largely impacts angel investments in startups.

Statement 3 is correct: According to the notification, the exemption would apply only when the angel investor had a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore or an average returned income of over 25 lakh in the preceding three financial years.

40. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

The current policy allows 100% FDI under the automatic route in business-to-business (B2B) ecommerce but prohibits any foreign investment in B2C ecommerce. The limits remain unaltered but the government has changed rules to ensure that FDI-funded e commerce does not undertake B2C ecommerce in the face of swelling opposition from the trading community.

The 2017 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy Circular clearly stated that 100% FDI under automatic route is permitted only in the ecommerce marketplace model, and not in the inventory-based one.

Context: Ministry of Commerce & Industry recently reviewed the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in e-commerce.

41. Ans: C

Explanation:

If an economy has experienced the following scenarios:

1. Produced more at the same prices
2. Produced the same amount at higher prices

Scenario 1 implies production is being increased to meet increased demand) Higher production leads to a lower unemployment rate, further fueling demand) Increased wages lead to higher demand as consumers spend more freely. This leads to higher GDP combined with inflation. (so statement 1 is correct)

Scenario 2 implies there is no increase in demand from consumers, but that prices are higher. Through the early 2000s many producers were faced with increased costs due to the rapidly rising price of oil. Both GDP and inflation increase in this scenario. These increases are due to reduced supply of key commodities and consumer expectations, rather than higher demand.(so statement 2 is also correct)

42. Ans: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards , 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments. To this effect, the Act establishes an independent statutory Authority – the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India with head office at Delhi.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India)

Statement 3 is correct: FSSAI provide scientific advice and technical support to Central Government and State Governments in the matters of framing the policy and rules in areas which

have a direct or indirect bearing of food safety and nutrition.

Context: A Parliamentary Standing Committee on health and family welfare in a report submitted in 2018 had rapped FSSAI over weak enforcement of food safety laws and also recommended restructuring of the autonomous body that functions under the health ministry.

43. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit. It is an indication of the total borrowings needed by the government. While calculating the total revenue, borrowings are not included)

Statement 2 is correct: Primary deficit refers to the difference between fiscal deficit of the current year and interest payments on the previous borrowings. $\text{Primary Deficit} = \text{Fiscal Deficit} - \text{Interest Payments}$.

Context: According to the 2018-19 Revised Estimates (RE) presented in the interim budget, the fiscal deficit for 2018-19 will be 3.4% of GDP. The target for 2019-20 has also been pegged at 3.4% of GDP. This shows that towards the end of its term the current NDA government has failed to achieve the targeted fiscal consolidation.

44. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct:

A Depository Receipt (DR) is a financial instrument representing certain securities (eg. shares, bonds etc.) issued by a company/entity in a foreign jurisdiction. DRs constitute an important mechanism through which issuers can raise funds outside their home jurisdiction. DRs are issued for tapping foreign investors who otherwise may not be able to participate directly in the domestic market.

In India any company - whether private limited or public limited or listed or unlisted - can issue DRs. However listed DRs enjoy some tax benefits.

The most common DR programs internationally are:

■ ADRs: DRs issued in United States of America (US) by foreign firms are usually referred to as ADRs.

■ Global Depository Receipts (GDRs): GDR is a collective term for DRs issued in non-US jurisdictions and includes the DRs traded in London, Luxembourg, Hong Kong, Singapore.

Context: The SEBI-appointed committee to examine the listing requirements for Indian and foreign companies in various stock exchanges has submitted its report recently.

Related Topics: ADR, GDR, SEBI function etc

45. Ans: B

Explanation:

Only statement 2 is correct:

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government.

Context: The Government has revised the Minimum Support Price of 23 items of Minor Forest Produce items and has introduced MSP for 17 new MFP items.

International Affairs

1. The increasing demand for energy resources and connectivity made the Central Asian Countries important in the foreign policy of Asian countries. In this context, consider the following statements about the Connect Central Asia Policy of India:

1. The policy was declared in New Delhi during India-Central Asia Dialogue in 2016.
2. It helps India to explore the rich energy resources of the Central Asian countries.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

2. Which of the following statements is not correct about the South Asian Satellite?

- a) It is a communication satellite operating in the frequency of Ku-band.
- b) Only India and Pakistan has satellite launch capability in the South Asian Region.
- c) It is launched by ISRO using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.
- d) Among the SAARC members, Pakistan is the only non-participant of the South Asian Satellite.

3. Consider the following statements about the Programme for International Students Assessment:

1. It is an international evaluation of the education system conducted only once every three years.
2. It is a content-based assessment measuring the student's ability to participate in modern societies.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

4. Which of the following is the correct description about Pink Tide in the Latin American region, that appears in the news frequently?

- a) Algal bloom in the southwestern Atlantic Ocean
- b) Change in the color of the Amazon river due to pollution
- c) The rise of left-wing Governments
- d) The illegal drug trade and war crimes

5. Around the world, there is an increasing number of aspirations for self-determination and separatism. In this context, which of the

following pairs are correctly matched?

Region Country

1. Bavaria - Italy
2. Macedonia - Greece
3. Andalusia - Austria

Select the correct code from the following:

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

6. Technological development like the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence will permanently change the current working environment. In order to understand the challenges and opportunities provided by these technologies, 'Future of Work Initiative' was launched by

- a) The World Bank Group
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Labour Organisation
- d) Asian Development Bank

7. Consider the following statements about the Raisina Dialogue:

1. It is India's premier defense summit with participation from all over the world.
2. It is conducted by the Union Ministry of Defence and Observer Research Foundation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8. Which of the following countries are members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

1. The United States of America
2. Philippines
3. Canada
4. South Korea

Select the correct codes from the following:

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

9. Beirut declaration, often seen in the news for the peace and development in the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East is associated with

- a) Military coalition to fight Islamic State
- b) Arab free trade zone
- c) Greenhouse gas reduction
- d) Support to Palestine Independence

10. Consider the following statements about

the Global Solar Council:

1. It was launched during the Paris climate talks to tackle climate change and global warming.

2. It is a coalition of national and sub-national governments to promote solar energy in member countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. One of the important International organization has released a report titled Darkening Skies. Which of the following is the main theme of this report?

- a) Rise in antimicrobial resistance
- b) Trade disputes
- c) Fall in agriculture productivity
- d) Climate change

12. Lake Urmia, often seen in the news for its accelerated shrinking is located in which of the following countries?

- a) Venezuela
- b) Newzealand
- c) Iran
- d) Russia

13. Consider the following statements about the Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development:

1. It is a joint initiative of the African Union and the United Nations Environmental Programme.

2. Located in Nairobi to modernize agriculture in Africa for sustainable development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. WTO Swiss Formulae is related to

- a) A non-linear tariff reduction mechanism
- b) Appellate dispute settlement mechanism
- c) Special safeguard mechanism
- d) Subsidy under the green box

15. Lisbon Treaty, frequently seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) Prohibition of Nuclear weapons
- b) Protection of human rights of the refugee
- c) Britain moving out of European Union
- d) Peaceful use of outer space

16. The 21st century is considered as the Asian century due to the rising importance of Asian Countries. In this context, which of the following has made the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act?

- a) New Development Bank
- b) Japan
- c) USA
- d) Asian Development Bank

17. Which of the following is associated with the Paris Call?

- a) Cyber Security
- b) Reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases
- c) Reduction of trade barriers
- d) Adoption of solar energy systems

18. With reference to 'International Court Of Justice(ICJ)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is legally and functionally independent from the United Nations (UN).

2. The judges of ICJ have the tenure of 5 years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

19. With reference to 'International Criminal Court (ICC)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).

2. It is a Civil Court which ensures that those who commit serious human rights violations are held accountable.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

20. With reference to 'Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an arms control treaty between North Korea and South Korea)

2. The treaty bars the production of all types of the cruise missile in the range of 500 to 5,500 km.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

21. Recently India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation (MNF) status accorded to Pakistan. With reference to that, Consider the following statements about Most-Favored Nation Clause:

1. It promotes favoritism toward another nation.

2. It is against the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules of non-discrimination/treating virtually everyone equally.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

22. With reference to 'Indus Waters Treaty of 1960', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Treaty gives India full control over the waters of the three Western rivers - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

2. It is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan which was brokered by United Nation Security Council.

3. The treaty effectively allocates 80 percent of water from six-river Indus water system to India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

23. Consider the following statements about 'Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)':

1. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the largest intergovernmental with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents.

2. India has observer status in this organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following pairs of ports and countries :

Port	:	Country
1. Piraeus	:	Greece
2. Chittagong	:	Pakistan
3. Kyaukpyu	:	Myanmar

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

25. Recently Chagos Archipelago island was in the news. Which among the following pair of countries have a territorial dispute over the

Chagos Archipelago?

- a) The United Kingdom And Mauritius
- b) The United Kingdom And France
- c) France And Maldives
- d) France And Mauritius

26. Recently there was news regarding the conflict between Ukraine and Russia over the Sea Of Azov. In this context, Consider the following statements about Kerch Strait

1. It connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

2. The Kerch Strait is the waterway between mainland Russia and Crimea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Which of the following share its boundary with Yemen?

- 1. Gulf of Aden
- 2. Strait of Hormuz
- 3. United Arab Emirates
- 4. Red sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

28: Which among the following countries has recently installed World's first floating nuclear plant?

- a) Russia
- b) China
- c) Germany
- d) France

29. Consider the following statements about 'World Customs Organization (WCO)'

1. It was established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).

2. India is a founding member of the World Customs Organization.

3. India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. With reference to 'Climate Change Performance Index 2019' consider the following statements:

1. CCPI is annually published by Germanwatch.

2. No country performed well enough to reach the ranking very good in this year's index.

3. Sweden leads the ranking, followed by Morocco and Lithuania.

4. India ranked 11th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), deteriorated from the previous ranking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. 'Elum Valley' recently seen in the news belong to which of the following country?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Israel
- c) Iran
- d) India

32. The line of the Equator is passing through which among the following?

- 1. Maldives
- 2. Seychelles
- 3. Java
- 4. Borneo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

33. Consider the following pairs:

VISA in news	Related country
1. Golden	Visa Britain
2. H1B Visas	USA
3. Skilled Graduate visa (Subclass 485)	France

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

34. Which among the following countries is/are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

- 1. Bahrain
- 2. Kuwait
- 3. Oman
- 4. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

35. With reference to the 'Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)' consider the following statements:

1. All parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention are automatically members of the OPCW.

2. Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan are signatory states that have not ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention.

3. The Hague was chosen as the location for the seat of the organisation.

4. The organisation was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to commercial hunting of whales and its regulations, consider the following statements:

1. India is not a member of the International Whaling Commission.

2. The headquarters of the International Whaling Commission is in England.

3. India is considering a withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission in order to resume commercial whaling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Country	Gps
1. Japan	QZSS
2. Russia	GLONASS
3. China	BeiDou
4. European Union	Galileo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

38. With reference to Navic, consider the following statements

- 1. It provides position, navigation and timing services over India and its neighbourhood.
- 2. It is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 1 m in the primary service area.

3. Its primary service area covers India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from Indian boundary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. Which of the following countries is/are members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ?

- 1. Qatar
- 2. Gabon
- 3. Iran
- 4. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

40. Which of the following statements is/are NOT correct about G20 summit?

- 1. G20 summit meetings were held annually since its formation.
- 2. G20 Summit is formally known as the "Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy"
- 3. The participants in the summit are leaders from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

41. The caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found recently belongs to which of the following?

- a) Jordan
- b) Syria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Israel

42. Which of the following share their boundary with Dead Sea?

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Syria
- 3. West bank
- 4. Israel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

43. Which of the following best describes the term 'Third Pole' sometimes seen in the news?

- a) The region encompassing the Himalaya-Hindu Kush mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau in Central Asia
- b) A phrase to describe Sub-Saharan Africa.
- c) An unprecedented 65.6 million people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016
- d) The least inhabited place in the ocean

44. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Krakatau is a caldera in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra.
- 2. Krakatoa island is part of the Ujung Kulon National Park, listed in UNESCO's World Heritage site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Joint Defence Exercises	Associated countries
1. Ex Shinyuu Maitri- 2018	: Japan and India
2. Ex Aviaindra 2018	: India and United Kingdom
3. Hand-in-Hand 2018	: India and china
4. EX Konkan	: India and Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

46. How many states of India share its boundary with Myanmar?

- a) Two
- b) Three
- c) Four
- d) Five

47. The Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and which of the following country is being celebrated in the year 2018?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Maldives

1. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It was declared at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in 2012. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
STATEMENT 2: It helps India to explore the rich energy resources of the Central Asian Countries. Hence statement 2 is correct.

India had announced its connect Central Asia Policy in 2012 at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Recently India- Central Asia dialogue was conducted which further strengthen the relationship between India and Central Asia.

India, not to be left behind, has also embarked on a Connect Central Asia policy, trying to overcome a disadvantage it has: lack of direct connectivity to the region. While oil and uranium-rich Kazakhstan is an old partner, Uzbekistan, which has historical links with India, is emerging as the next big partner for New Delhi in the region. It has offered to provide special incentives and zones for Indian businesses, expand defense and counter-terror partnership with India and extend an opportunity to expand presence in the region and Afghanistan through mega connectivity initiatives.

Context: Indian approach to counter China's influence in the Central Asian region.

2. Answer: c**Explanation:**

South Asia Satellite is a communication satellite built by ISRO to provide a variety of communication services over the South Asian region. For this, it is equipped with Ku-band transponders. It will facilitate DTH television, VSAT links, Tele-education, telemedicine, and disaster management support. It will provide critical communication links in times of disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods, and tsunamis. Each country of the SAARC will get access to at least one transponder through which they could beam their own programming. Pakistan is the only country which refused to be part of the project. It has been launched using the GSLV-F09. Among the SAARC nations, Pakistan is the only nation capable of launching satellites.

Context: Space diplomacy gaining importance in the Indian foreign policy.

3. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: PISA is a triennial evaluation of the education system conducted by OECD. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is competitiveness based assessment system. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students who are nearing the end of their compulsory education conducted by the OECD. It assesses how well they can apply what they learn in school to real-life situations. Every three years students are tested in the key subjects: reading, mathematics, and science. In one assessment there is a focus on one of the subjects.

Context: India to participate in the 2021 PISA assessment.

4. Answer: c**Explanation:**

Pink tide and turn to the left are phrases used in the contemporary 21st-century political analysis in the media and elsewhere to describe the revolutionary wave and perception of a turn towards left-wing governments in Latin American democracies straying away from the neoliberal economic model. The shift represented a move toward more progressive economic policies and coincides with a parallel trend of democratization of Latin America following decades of inequality. The Latin American countries viewed as part of this ideological trend have been referred to as Pink Tide nations with the term post-neoliberalism being used to describe the movement as well. Some pink tide governments, such as those of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela, have been variously characterized as being anti-American, populist and authoritarian-leaning.

Context: The USA and Western European countries recognizing opposition leader as the President of Venezuela.

5. Answer: a

Explanation:

The demarcation of the political boundaries is not according to the aspirations of the people of the region. In particular, the European boundaries are the result of the second world war and distrust among the marginal people are shown as the separatist movements. Some of the separatist movements are Bavaria in Germany, Macedonia in Greece and Andalusia in Spain. There are many numbers of protest and referendum to claim their independence.

Context: Increasing number of separatist movements in the European countries.

6. Answer: c**Explanation:**

The world of work is undergoing a major process of change. There are several forces transforming it, from the onward march of technology and the impact of climate change to the changing character of production and employment, to name a few. In order to understand and to respond effectively to these new challenges, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder has launched a Future of Work initiative. The ILO needs to understand and to respond effectively to the world of work ongoing changes in order to be able to advance its mandate for social justice. The unit in charge of the Future of Work initiative seeks to involve the ILO's tripartite constituency fully and universally, but also to reach beyond them to the academic world and to all other relevant and interested actors.

Context: Fourth Industrial Revolution and the future employment opportunities.

7. Answer: d**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is multilateral dialogue across different fields of issues challenging the world. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is conducted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Union Ministry of External Affairs. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, global leaders in policy, business, media, and civil society are hosted in New Delhi to discuss cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters. The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, as well as major private sector executives, members of the media and academics. The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs.

Context: Indian multilateral dialogue at Raisina Hill.

8. Answer: a**Explanation:**

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), also known as TPP11 or TPP-11, is a trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. At the time of its signing, the eleven countries' combined economies represented 13.4 percent of the global gross domestic product, approximately US\$13.5 trillion, making the CPTPP the third largest free trade area in the world by GDP after the North American Free Trade Agreement and European Single Market.

The CPTPP incorporates most of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) provisions by reference but suspended 22 provisions the United States favored that other countries opposed, and lowered the threshold for enactment so the participation of the U.S. is not required. The TPP was signed on 4 February 2016, but never entered into force as a result of the withdrawal of the United States

Context: The trade agreement CPTPP has entered into force

9. Answer: b**Explanation:**

The 20 countries taking part in the summit issued a joint statement called the Beirut Declaration on Sunday, calling for the establishment of an Arab free trade zone and the international community to support countries hosting refugees and displaced people. Arab leaders have agreed on a 29-item economic agenda in addition to encouraging the safe return of Syrian refugees to their homeland at the conclusion of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

Context: Proposal for a free trade area in the middle east.

10. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It was launched during the Paris climate talks to tackle climate change. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is an initiative by the private sector entities. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Global Solar Council is an international non-profit association of the national, regional and international associations in solar energy and the world's leading corporations. Founded in 2015, it offers programs in regulatory policy, trade policy, new market opening, and jobs & skills training. It aims to enable solar energy to deliver on the promise of clean & distributed power, economic development and access to opportunity.

Context: Pranav R Mehta selected to head the Global Solar Council.

11. Answer: b

Explanation:

Global economic prospects have darkened. Financing conditions have tightened, industrial production has moderated, and trade tensions remain elevated. The recovery in emerging markets and developing economies has stalled, and some countries have experienced significant financial stress. Downside risks have increased, including the possibility of disorderly financial market movements and escalating trade disputes. It is thus critical to rebuilding policy buffers while fostering potential growth by boosting human capital, promoting trade integration, and addressing informality. In addition to discussing global and regional economic developments and prospects, this edition of Global Economic Prospects includes a chapter on the challenges posed by informality and associated policy options. The report also contains pieces on the remarkable decline in inflation in emerging markets and developing economies over the past decades, rising debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries, and the implications of large spikes in food prices for poverty. Global Economic Prospects is a World Bank Group Flagship Report that examines global economic developments and prospects, with a special focus on emerging markets and developing countries, on a semiannual basis.

12. Answer: c

Explanation:

Lake Urmia located in north-western Iran was twice as large as Luxembourg and the largest salt-water lake in the Middle East. The shrinkage of the lake started in two decades before in 1995 due to prolonged drought in the region. The lake attracted migratory birds including flamingos, pelicans, ducks, and egrets. It's drying up, or desiccation is undermining the local food web, especially by destroying one of the world's largest natural habitats of the brine shrimp *Artemia*, a hardy species that can tolerate salinity levels of 340 grams per liter, more than eight times saltier than ocean water. It greatly affects the tourism sector in Iran. Nearly 85% of the usage goes to agriculture in the surrounding area. The coordinated efforts of Iran and UNDP have shown positive results in the Ramsar wetland.

Context: Stabilization of the water level in Lake Urmia.

13. Answer: d

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is an initiative of Italy with support from UNDP and FAO. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is located in Rome, Italy. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Africa center for climate and sustainable development was initiated by Italy with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation. The Centre will provide a fast-track, demand-driven mechanism for African countries to access grant resources that support policies, initiatives, and best practices on climate change, food security, access to water, clean energy, and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

It has roots in a declaration endorsed by the G7 meeting of the Environment Ministers in 2017. It was established to facilitate coordination among the G7 and African countries on common

initiatives in Africa to achieve the goals set by the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

Context: Formation of African related institution by Non-African country.

14. Answer: a

Explanation:

Swiss formula is a non-linear tariff reduction formula. In the Swiss formula, tariff cuts are proportionally higher for tariffs which are initially higher. For instance, a country which has an initial tariff of 30% on a product will have to undertake proportionally higher cuts than a country which has an initial tariff of 20% on the same product. India initially opposed the swiss formulae but later it has accepted the implementation of it as if it was decided that developing countries would be allowed to have a higher reduction coefficient than developed countries which could lower its tariff reduction obligations.

Context: Provisions of tariff reduction in global trade.

15. Answer: c

Explanation:

Article 50 is a clause in the European Union's (EU) Lisbon Treaty that outlines the steps to be taken by a country seeking to leave the bloc voluntarily. Invoking Article 50 kick-starts the formal exit process and serves as a way for countries to officially declare their intention to leave the EU. The treaty is divided into two parts: the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Context: Confusion over Britain moving out of the European Union.

16. Answer: c

Explanation:

Asia Reassurance Initiative Act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region. It will authorize \$1.5 billion in spending for a range of U.S. programs in East and Southeast Asia and “develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes. It also devotes attention to the maritime commons in Asia and the South China Sea, where it calls on the United States to support the ASEAN nations as they adopt a code of conduct in the South China Sea with China.

Context: Rising tension between the US and its allies.

17. Answer: a

Explanation:

In UNESCO Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting held in Paris, the French President Emmanuel Macron commenced “The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace.” This high-level declaration on “developing common principles for securing cyberspace” has the support of various major private companies and civil society groups. Even many of the states participating in the forum have fully supported the Paris Call. Major principles articulated in the Paris Call document talks about protecting the integrity and accessibility of the internet while preventing nefarious activities online and building resilience.

Context: Guidelines for cybersecurity and good practices in cyberspace. Paris Call document talks about protecting the integrity and accessibility of the internet .

18. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The International Court of Justice (ICJ) sometimes called the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations(U.N.). It is not legally and functionally independent from the United Nations (UN).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The ICJ comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council for nine-year term.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- It is sometimes called the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (U.N.).
- It settles legal disputes submitted by states and gives advisory opinions on legal issues referred

by authorized U.N. organs and specialized agencies. Through its opinions and rulings, the ICJ also serves as a source of international law.

- The ICJ is the successor of the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was established by the League of Nations in 1920 and began its first session in 1922.
- After the Second World War, both the League and the PCIJ were dissolved and replaced by the United Nations and ICJ, respectively.
- The Statute of the ICJ draws heavily from that of its predecessor, and the latter's cases remain valid *opinio juris*. All members of the U.N. are party to the ICJ Statute.
- The ICJ comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council for nine-year terms. It is seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, making it the only principal U.N. organ not located in New York City. Its official working languages are English and French.
- The International Court of Justice has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. As it is not a criminal court, it does not have a prosecutor able to initiate proceedings.

Context: The International Court of Justice's decision that Britain has to handover Chagos Archipelago to complete the process of decolonization of Mauritius.

19. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as It is legally and functionally independent from the United Nations (UN).

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as It is a Criminal Court which ensures that those who commit serious human rights violations are held accountable.

The International Criminal Court (ICC or ICCT)

- It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague the Netherlands.
- The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may, therefore, exercise its jurisdiction only when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court.
- The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force. The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become the party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC. As of March 2019, there are 124 ICC member states.

20. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is an arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It is an arms control treaty between the United States and Russia under which both agreed not to develop, produce, possess or deploy any ground-based ballistic and cruise missiles that have a range between 500 and 5,500 km. It, however, exempted the air-launched and sea-based missile systems in the same range.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty)

- The Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles;
- It is an arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union (and its successor state, the Russian Federation).
- U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed the treaty on 8 December 1987. The United States Senate approved the treaty on 27 May 1988, and Reagan and Gorbachev ratified it on 1 June 1988.
- The INF Treaty eliminated all of the two nations' land-based ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile launchers with ranges of 500–1,000 kilometers (310–620 mi) (short medium-range) and 1,000–5,500 km (620–3,420 mi) (intermediate-range). The treaty did not apply to air- or sea-launched missiles. By May 1991, the nations had eliminated 2,692 missiles, followed by 10 years of on-site verification inspections.

Context: Recently, U.S.A (and then Russia) suspended its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

21. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as Though the term Most Favoured Nation (MFN) suggests special treatment, in the WTO it actually means non-discrimination/treating virtually everyone equally. It does not promote favoritism toward another nation. Although its name implies favoritism toward another nation, it denotes the equal treatment of all countries.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as, In international trade, MFN treatment is synonymous with non-discriminatory trade policy because it ensures equal trading among all WTO member nations rather than exclusive trading privileges. For example, if one nation reduces tariffs by 5% for one nation, the MFN clause states that all WTO members will have their tariffs cut by 5% into that nation. So it not against the WTO rules.

Context: India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status accorded to Pakistan.

22. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as According to this agreement, control over the water flowing in three "eastern" rivers of India — the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej with the mean flow of 33 million acre-feet (MAF) — was given to India,

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank to use the water available in the Indus System of Rivers located in India. It was not brokered by the United Nation Security Council.

STATEMENT: 3 is incorrect as The treaty effectively allocates 80 percent of water from six-river Indus water system to Pakistan.

Indus Waters Treaty of 1960

- The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank to use the water available in the Indus System of Rivers located in India.
- The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960, by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan Ayub Khan.
- According to this agreement, control over the water flowing in three "eastern" rivers of India — the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej with the mean flow of 33 million acre-feet (MAF) — was given to India, while control over the water flowing in three "western" rivers of India — the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum with the mean flow of 80 MAF — was given to Pakistan. More controversial, however, were the provisions on how the waters were to be shared. Since Pakistan's rivers receive more water flow from India, the treaty allowed India to use western rivers water for limited irrigation use and unrestricted use for power generation, domestic, industrial and non consumptive uses such as navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc. while laying down precise regulations for India to build projects.

Context: After Pakistani Terror Strike, India was planning to terminate the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960

23. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as India is neither a member nor an observer in this organization.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- It is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents.
- The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
- The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in

Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco on 12th Rajab 1389 Hijra (25 September 1969) following the criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

Context: India's External Affairs Minister has been invited to address the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) meet as the –Guest of Honour.

24. ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Piraeus port is in Greece. So it is correctly matched.

Chittagong port is in Bangladesh. So it is not correctly matched.

Kyaukpyu port is in Myanmar. So it is correctly matched.

The Port of Piraeus

- It is the largest Greek seaport and one of the biggest in the Mediterranean Sea and Europe.
- The Port of Piraeus served as the port of Athens since ancient times.
- Today, the Port of Piraeus is a major employer in the region and is operated by the Piraeus Port Authority S.A. (PPA).
- With about 18.6 million passengers Piraeus was the busiest passenger port in Europe in 2014.
- In 2016, China's COSCO Shipping, the largest shipping company in the world, acquired a 51 percent stake in Greece's Piraeus Port Authority.

Chittagong

- It is a major coastal city and financial center in southeastern Bangladesh. The city has a population of more than 2.5 million while the metropolitan area had a population of 4,009,423 in 2011, making it the second-largest city in the country. It is the capital of an eponymous District and Division. The city is located on the banks of the Karnaphuli River between the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Bay of Bengal.

Kyaukpyu

- Chinese state-owned firms have reached agreements with Myanmar to construct a \$7.3 billion deep-water port and \$2.7 billion industrial area in a special economic zone at Kyaukpyu along the coast of the Bay of Bengal. The strategic town is the terminus of a \$1.5 billion oil pipeline and parallel natural gas pipeline running to Kunming in China's Yunnan Province.

Context: In 2016, China's COSCO Shipping, the largest shipping company in the world, acquired a 51 percent stake in Greece's Piraeus Port Authority. Recently there was an agreement between China and Myanmar regarding Kyaukpyu port.

25. Answer: A

Explanation :

The territorial dispute over the Chagos Archipelago is between The United Kingdom And Mauritius.

The dispute over the Chagos Archipelago:

- Sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is disputed between Mauritius and the United Kingdom.
- Mauritius has repeatedly asserted that the Chagos Archipelago is part of its territory and that the United Kingdom (UK) claim is a violation of United Nations resolutions banning the dismemberment of colonial territories before independence.
- The UK government has stated that it has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Chagos, and has also said that the Chagos will be returned to Mauritius once the islands are no longer required for defense purposes.
- Given the absence of any progress with the UK, Mauritius has decided to "internationalize" the dispute and take up the matter at all appropriate legal and political forums.
- According to the UN's highest court, The UK should end its control of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean "as rapidly as possible",

Context: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague has said that the UK should end its control of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean.

26. Answer: C

Explanation :

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as Kerch Strait connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as The Kerch Strait is the waterway between mainland Russia and Crimea, the peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014

Kerch Strait and its significance

- The Kerch Strait is the waterway between mainland Russia and Crimea, the peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.
- It serves as the gateway into the Sea of Azov, which borders Russia and Ukraine. A bilateral treaty gives both countries the right to patrol the waters.
- It is also the site of a new, 19-km (12-mile) bridge built by Russia that cost an estimated \$4bn (£3.1bn) and has been touted as a prestige project. Russia has significantly built up its military presence in the region since 2014.

Context: Confrontation between Russia And Ukraine in Sea Of Azov

27. Ans: B

Explanation:

Among the given options only Red Sea and Gulf of Aden touches boundary of Yemen



Context: A UN mediated ceasefire has been reached between Houthi rebels in Yemen and President Hadi's forces in the port city of Hodeida.

28. Answer: A

Explanation:

Akademik Lomonosov, the world's first "floating" nuclear power plant (FNPP) developed by Russia by Rosatom which is also the equipment suppliers and consultants for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu.

What is a floating nuclear power plant

A floating nuclear power plant is a site with one or more nuclear reactors, located on a platform at sea. It is an autonomous site that can provide electricity and heat to areas with difficult access, such as the cold Northern territories. It can also provide drinking water to dry areas, via desalination techniques.

Advantages

Experts consider that this type of plant offers many advantages. To start with, it can be built at a factory or shipyard, eliminating the need to set up a special site for its construction. Location is also simplified, since it is not necessary to carry out viability studies on the land and land environment. Additionally, it has a very low environmental impact and the dismantling can be done in a specialized site. The sea environment, however, makes it necessary to take a few factors into account, such as access for the staff and the equipment, as well as the need to make sure that the radioactive material is never leaked to the sea.

Context: World's first floating nuclear plant operational in Russia

29. Answer: C**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is correct: The World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.

Statement: 2 is incorrect: It has a membership of more than 180 countries. India is not its founding member India became its member in 1971.

Statement 3 is correct: India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years, from July, 2018 to June, 2020. The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions. Each of the six Regions is represented by a regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council.

Context: Recently, 80th Session of the Policy Commission Meeting of the World Customs Organization (WCO) was held in India.

30. Answer: B**Explanation:**

Only statement 4 is incorrect

The CCPI is annually published since 2005 by Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network.

Climate Change Performance Index 2019

- The CCPI 2019 results illustrate the main regional differences in climate protection and performance within the 56 evaluated countries and the EU. No country performed well enough to reach the ranking very good in this year's index, meaning that no country has yet made it to one of the top three places in the rankings.

- In this year's index, Sweden leads the ranking, followed by Morocco and Lithuania. The bottom five in this year's CCPI are Saudi Arabia, the United States, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei, scoring low or very low across almost all categories.

- India ranked 11th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), improving from the previous 14th as a result of an improved performance in renewable energy, comparatively low levels of per capita emissions and a relatively ambitious mitigation target for 2030.

Context: Recently Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2019 is released.

31. Ans: A**Explanation:**

Elum Valley is Located between the Swat and Buner districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

of Pakistan.

Elum Valley has been a site of divinity and pilgrimage for both the Hindu and the Buddhist communities.

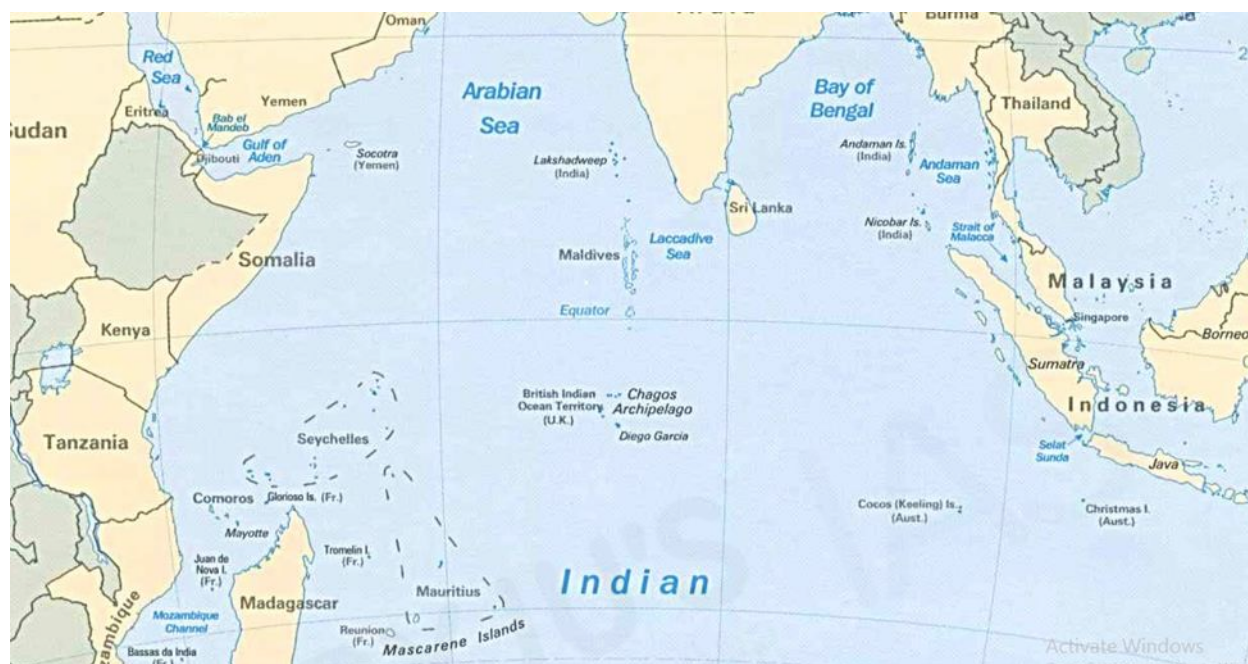
According to Hindu belief, Lord Ram spent time meditating there during his 14 years of exile, while Buddhists believe it to be the site where a previous incarnation of Lord Buddha gave up his life.

Context: To promote religious tourism Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province plans to construct a heritage park in Elum Valley, which carries a historical significance to both the Hindus and the Buddhists.

32. Ans: B

Explanation:

Equator passes through sumatra not java



Context: Indian ocean becomes a hot spot in current geopolitics, also Maldives is in news for several reasons so such question could be asked.

33. Ans: C

Explanation:

Pair 1 is correctly matched: It is also known as Tier 1 visas, they provide a faster route for wealthy investors coming from outside the European Union and Switzerland to settle in Britain.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: The H-1B is a visa in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 101(a)(15)(H) that allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.

Pair is not matched correctly: The onshore Skilled Graduate visa (Subclass 485) is a TEMPORARY visa for international students in Australia NOT france

Context: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

Related Topics: Nirav Modi fraud case, Trump administration proposed major changes to the H-1B application process etc33.

34. Ans: C

Explanation:

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a political and economic alliance of six countries in the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Context: Recently 39th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit was held in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh.

35. Ans: C**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is correct: All 193 parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention are automatically members of the OPCW

Statement: 2 is incorrect: Israel, which is a signatory state that has not ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, and Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan, which have neither signed nor acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention. [25] Palestine was the most recent state to submit its instrument of accession to the treaty.

Statement: 3 is correct: The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its seat in The Hague, Netherlands, and oversees the global endeavour for the permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.

Statement: 4 is correct: In 2013, the organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons”.

Context: States-parties to the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RevCon) have failed to adopt the report by consensus.

36. Ans: A**Explanation:**

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling which was signed in Washington on 2nd December 1946. The purpose of the Convention is to provide for the conservation of whale stocks. The main duty of the International Whaling Commission is to keep under review and revise as necessary the measures laid down in the schedule to the Convention which governs the conduct of whaling throughout the world.

Statement 1 is incorrect: India has been a member of the International Whaling Commission since 1981 and has played a pro-active and prominent role in bringing about a moratorium on commercial whaling and supporting the Commission in its efforts towards whale conservation.

Statement 2 is correct: The headquarters of the IWC is in Impington, near Cambridge, England

Statement 3 is incorrect: Japan is considering a withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission not India.

Context: Japan will resume commercial whaling from July in its waters and exclusive economic zone while ending its controversial hunts in the Antarctic, as it announced its withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

37. Ans: D**Explanation:**

- The United States was the first country to introduce satellite technology with the global positioning system (GPS).
- The Quazi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) is Japan's satellite system, which is similar to a GPS satellites with some slight variations.
- Russia also has its own satellite system, called the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).
- In China, there is the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, which will consist of more than 30 satellites.
- Another ambitious satellite system aside from GPS in development is the Galileo system in Europe, and is a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).
- Lastly, there is the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) in India. This is most scaled down satellite system as opposed to the European, Chinese, Russian, and certainly the United States satellite systems, with seven satellites to cover India's land and sea. It is expected to be completed and fully functional by 2014.

Context: China's homegrown satellite navigation system Beidou, has launched its global service ahead of the previous roll-out target of 2020 as the country looks to challenge the dominance of America's Global Positioning System (GPS).

38. Ans: C**Explanation:**

Only statement 1 and 3 are correct

IRNSS also known as NAVIC is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed

by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area. An Extended Service Area lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30 deg South to 50 deg North, Longitude 30 deg East to 130 deg East.

IRNSS will provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Service (SPS) which is provided to all the users and Restricted Service (RS), which is an encrypted service provided only to the authorised users. The IRNSS System is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.

Context: Eighty fishing boat groups were recently provided with 200 ISRO developed satellite enabled communication devices by the Tamil Nadu government that will provide them real-time alerts on cyclone and weather updates

39. Ans: c

Explanation:

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.

These countries were later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018).

On 1 January 2019 Qatar terminated its membership.

Context: Qatar recently announced that it was walking away from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

40. Ans: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: In September 2009, the third summit was held in Pittsburgh where the leaders designated the G20 as the “premier forum for international economic cooperation.” From thereon, the summit meetings were held semiannually until 2010 and annually from 2011 onwards.

Statement 2 is correct: The G20 Summit is formally known as the “Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy”. As the “premier forum for international economic cooperation” (agreed by leaders at the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009), representing more than 80% of the global GDP.

Statement 3 is correct: The participants are leaders from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, the Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America. In addition, leaders of invited guest countries and representatives of invited guest international organizations participate in the summit along with leaders from the G20 countries.

Context: India presented a nine-point agenda to G-20 countries to calls for "strong and active cooperation" among these countries to comprehensively deal with fugitive economic offenders.

41. Ans: D

Explanation:

The excavated site is composed by a large complex of buildings, including communal facilities, a sophisticated water system, a library and a large cemetery. However, the area where the site is located currently controlled by Israeli occupation authorities.

Geographic location:

Khirbet Qumran, located on the western coast of the Dead Sea, is one kilometer away from the seashore and circa 20 km south of Jericho, on a spur of the marl terrace, bounded by Wadi Qumran on the south and by ravines on the north and west.

Context: The caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found recently in Israel.

42. Ans: C

Explanation:

Among the given options Jordan, West Bank, and Israel share its boundary with Dead Sea.



Context: The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of ancient manuscripts that include the earliest existing copies of books from the Hebrew Bible, date from the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD. Around 900 scrolls were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in the Qumran caves above the Dead Sea.

43. Ans: A**Explanation:**

The region encompassing the Himalaya-Hindu Kush mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau in Central Asia is referred to as the 'Third Pole' because it has the largest ice storehouse after the North and South poles. Disturbing global warming trends have become evident in this equally remote polar region covering 100,000 sq km with some 46,000 glaciers.

Context: Recent findings suggest that temperatures there have increased by 1.5 °C in the last 50 years and it is more than double the global average.

44. Ans: C**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct: Krakatoa, or Krakatau is a caldera in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra in the Indonesian province of Lampung. The name is also used for the surrounding volcanic island group (Krakatoa Archipelago) comprising four islands: two of which, Lang and Verlaten, are remnants of a previous volcanic edifice destroyed in eruptions long before the famous 1883 eruption; another, Rakata, is the remnant of a much larger island destroyed in the 1883 eruption.

Statement 2 is also correct: Krakatoa island is part of the Ujung Kulon National Park, listed in UNESCO's World Heritage site. The area was designated a World Heritage site in 1991. The park today contains the last remaining low-relief forest on Java; typical trees are of the genera Ficus and Barringtonia.



Context: Anak Krakatau Volcano in the middle of the Java and Sumatra islands in the Sunda Strait erupted and triggered underwater landslides. This has led to Volcano triggered Tsunami in the region.

45. Ans: B

Explanation:

ONLY pair 1 and 3 are correctly matched.

EX SHINYUU Maitri-2018 is the 1st bilateral air training exercise between India and Japan.

Ex AVIAINDRA is an Air Force level exercise between Indian Air Force and Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF)

Hand-in-Hand is an exercise conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India and China.

Konkan is the naval exercise between India and United Kingdom. The exercise is aimed at deriving mutual benefit from each other's experiences and is indicative of continuing cooperation between two countries. Bilateral KONKAN exercise was started in 2004 and since then has grown in scale.

Context: The Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) is in India for a bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 with Indian Air Force

46. Ans: C

Explanation:

FOUR states of India Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram share their boundary with Myanmar.



Context: The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, paid a State Visit to Myanmar from in December 2018. President reaffirmed India's commitment to developing its important partnership with Myanmar

47. Ans: B

Explanation:

The Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan is being celebrated in the year 2018. Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968 with the establishment of a special office of India in Thimphu. Before this our relations with Bhutan were looked after by our Political Officer in Sikkim. The basic framework of India- Bhutan bilateral relations was the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 between the two countries, which was revised in February 2007.

Context: To mark the milestone of Golden jubilee year of establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan, both India and Bhutan have planned a series of special commemorative initiatives, cultural activities, exhibitions and seminars throughout the year.

Science and Technology

1. UNNATI is the scientific outreach programme by India to the developing countries. In this context, consider the following statements about the programme:

1. It is conducted by ISRO to provide training in the assembly of nanosatellites.
2. It enables the Indian students of the science stream to get exposed to advanced space technology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. The space launch vehicle capacity is deterred by a number of physical constraints. India is developing scramjet technology. Consider the following statements about the scramjet:

1. It is a reusable satellite launch vehicle operating in the range of hypersonic speed.
2. India space agency had started the commercial usage of scramjet for the launching of small and nanosatellites.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements about the Indian Science Congress:

1. It is a premium annual meeting of research workers started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. The theme for the 2019 meeting was 'Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology.'

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Which of the following is the correct description of Time Capsule, a popular term among the scientific community?

- a) Preservation of contemporary materials
- b) Theoretical time travel device
- c) Atomic clock for satellites
- d) Deep space travel time lapse

5. Which of the following is the correct description about Ultima Thule, recently seen in the news?

- a) Smallest Supercomputer
- b) Kuiper belt object
- c) Superbug
- d) Computer ransom virus

6. Recently the K-9 Vajra was inducted into the Indian Army. In this context, consider the following statements about the K-9 Vajra:

1. It is a self-propelled howitzer gun specially designed for desert warfare.
2. It is jointly manufactured by India's L&T and South Korean Samsung-Techwin.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about the Barak Missiles:

1. It is jointly developed by Russia and India which is produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited.
2. It is a supersonic long-range surface to air missile
3. It helps to achieve the Blue Water Navy ambitions of the Indian Navy.

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

8. Which of the following organization had launched the Young Scientist Programme?

- a) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- b) Indian Agriculture Research Institute
- c) Indian Space Research Organization
- d) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

9. Gas hydrate is considered as a potential energy source for the future generation. In this context, consider the following statements about the gas hydrates:

1. It is a crystalline form of methane and water existing in the deep-sea sediments.
2. The US and China had started the commercial exploitation of the gas hydrates.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. Recently there was a news on the Photo DNA, which of the following is the application of it?

- a) Diagnosis of genetic diseases
- b) Removal of Child exploitation contents from cyberspace
- c) Replication of species on the verge of extinction
- d) Mass surveillance through facial recognition.

11. Which of the following is the correct description of the X-CALIBUR?

- a) Gene editing tool
- b) Powerful railgun for combat
- c) Financial artificial intelligence
- d) Airborne telescope to study neutron stars

12. Consider the following statements about the earth's magnetic field?

- 1. The shifting of the magnetic north pole is more rapid than the magnetic south pole.
- 2. The Earth's magnetic north pole is shifting from Siberia towards the Canada region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements about Proton therapy:

- 1. It delivers a heavy dosage of radiation only to the tumor cells with less damage to healthy tissues.
- 2. It can be easily controlled and reaches greater depths compared to conventional radiation therapy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. In order to satisfy the rising energy needs of India, nuclear power seems inevitable. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Nuclear Power Station	State
1. Gorakhpur	- Haryana
2. Kakrapar	- Gujarat
3. Kudankulam	- Tamilnadu

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

15. Which of the following is the correct description of Change 4, that is seen in the news frequently?

- a) Industrial artificial intelligence
- b) Mission to the farthest side of moon
- c) Most efficient electric vehicle
- d) Mission to the venus

16. Consider the following statements about the workhorse of ISRO Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle:

- 1. It is the first Indian space launch vehicle to use the liquid fuel stages.
- 2. The PSLV-CA variant is the most powerful of the PSLV series of launch vehicles.

3. Indian Mission to Mars and the Moon was powered by the PSLV.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements about the Hansen disease:

- 1. It is a communicable disease damaging skin and marginal nerves caused by a mycobacterium.
- 2. India was declared free from the Hansen disease a decade ago in 2005.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

18. Which of the following is associated with the Le Grand K?

- a) World's largest underground river
- b) Kuiper Belt Object
- c) Standard weight module
- d) Most unstable element

19. Which one of the following is correct regarding 'Kessler syndrome'?

- a) It is a Self-sustaining cascading collision of space debris in LEO (Low Earth Orbit).
- b) It is a genetic disease mainly found in tribes of Sub Saharan Africa.
- c) It is a new form of Hepatitis B.
- d) It is a new disease found in monkeys of Africa.

20. 'PARAM Shivay', sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) It is India's first robotic telescope to study about different events of astronomy.
- b) It is a supercomputer designed & built under the National Supercomputing Mission
- c) It is an initiative to promote science education in school children.
- d) It is An artificial intelligence (AI) programme to scans images taken by radio telescopes

21. Consider the following statements about 'Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)':

- 1. It is a professional body under the aegis of the Department of Commerce.
- 2. It assists in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. Consider the following statements about 'Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air short-range Missiles (QR-SAM)':

1. It was jointly developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Bharat Electronics (BEL).

2. It has been developed to replace the Agni missile defence system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

23. Consider the following statements about 'Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG)':

1. It is an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide.

2. It has been manufactured by BEL in collaboration with CSIR-IICT and MAITHRI, a start-up company based in Hyderabad.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

24. Consider the following statements about 'National Viral Hepatitis Control Program':

1. Its goal is ending viral hepatitis as a public health threat in the country by 2025

2. Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) and Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) are important causes of acute viral hepatitis

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

25. Consider the following statements about 'GSAT-31':

1. It was placed into a GeoSynchronous transfer orbit.

2. It will augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in geostationary orbit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

26. Recently India has successfully flight tested the second indigenously developed 'Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)'. With

reference to that, Consider the following statements about Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR):

1. It is an Indo-French R&D project to develop air to air missile system

2. Indian Space Research organization (ISRO) is the lead agency for the collaborative mission project.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

27. With reference to 'Space Debris', Consider the following statements about 'Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)':

1. India's Space agency ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) is a member of this organization.

2. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations to regulate the activities related to the man-made and natural debris in space

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

28. Consider the following statements about 'Hepatitis':

1. It is an inflammation of the liver.

2. It is caused by bacteria and other infections and toxic substance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements about 'National Supercomputing Mission':

1. It is being implemented through two leading organizations – Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

2. It is an important initiative by the Government of India to boost indigenous efforts to be in the forefront of supercomputing capability for socio-economic development of the nation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements about 'C-DAC(Centre for development of Advanced Computing)':

1. It is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
2. PARAM 8000, the first supercomputer of India, was built by C-DAC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. Recently the term 'BullSequana' is seen in the news, it is related to which of the following?

- a) A supercomputer for various academic and research institutions across India.
- b) A potential shale gas zone newly identified in Indian ocean
- c) Tribal festival of Manipur
- d) Conflict zone between Russia and Ukraine

32. Consider the following statements about 'National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) '

1. It will be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology for a period of five years.
2. Under the scheme Academics, Industry, Central Ministries and State Government will be integrated for developing solutions in a hub and spoke model.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. With reference to the 'GSAT-11 Mission' consider the following statements:

1. It is remote sensing satellite launched from Kourou launch base, French Guiana.
2. It is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO.
3. It was launched into orbit in the same direction the Earth is spinning.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements about 'VISIONS-2 mission'

1. Under this mission sounding rockets were launched to look at the process of Earth's atmosphere escaping into space.

2. It is a mission of European Space Agency(ESA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. 'Soyuz Spacecraft' sometimes appears in the news, consider the following statements about it:

1. Soyuz takes cosmonauts and astronauts to and from the space station.
2. Right now only Russian spacecraft carry people to the International Space Station.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to 'sunspot cycle' consider the following statements:

1. Sunspots are regions where the solar magnetic field is very weak.
2. Temperature of the surface of the sun at the point of sunspot is directly proportional to the size of the sunspot.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements about Telerobotic coronary intervention:

1. World's first in-human tele-robotic coronary intervention performed in Poland.
2. It is a robotic method of performing heart surgery with the help of the internet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. With reference to 'National Medical Devices Promotion Council', consider the following statements:

1. It is setup under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. The Council will be headed by Prime Minister of India.
3. Medical Devices Industry (MDI) is predominantly import-driven with imports accounting for over 65% of the domestic market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. 'Oxytocin' is recently seen in the news consider the following statements about it:

1. Oxytocin is a hormone is secreted by the liver.
2. It is also called love hormone.
3. It is used as a life saving drug during childbirth because it can contract the uterus and induce delivery.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following statements about 'Trans Fats':

1. Trans fats are made by removing hydrogen from liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid, and to increase the shelf life of foods.
2. Trans fats raise bad (LDL) cholesterol levels and lower good (HDL) cholesterol levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. First privately built satellite Exseed Sat-1 was recently launched into polar orbit is related to which of the following country ?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) Russia
- d) European Union

42. Which of the following best describes the term Crew Interactive Mobile Companion (CIMON), sometimes seen in the news?

- a) It is an autonomous assistance system designed to aid astronauts with their everyday task on International Space Station
- b) It is an autonomous assistance system designed to aid to help farmers in getting weather forecast information.
- c) It is Mobile Companion launched by Department Of Science & Technology to aware people from cyber crime
- d) None of the above

43. Consider the following statements:

1. GSAT-11 satellite will boost the broadband

connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country.

2. GSAT-11 satellite is ISRO's heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. Which of the following country has launched the Chang'e-4 moon mission to make the first ever attempt at a landing on the far side of the Moon?

- a) China
- b) Israel
- c) Russia
- d) Japan

45. With reference to India's maiden human spaceflight programme 'Gaganyaan project' consider the following statements:

1. It will help India become the fourth country in the world after Russia, US and China to send humans to space.
2. An advanced version of the GSLV-MkIII is designated as the launch vehicle for the mission.
3. Under the mission 3 crew member will go to the moon and perform research work for seven day.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

1. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is an ISRO programme to provide training in the assembly of nanosatellites.

STATEMENT 2: It is designed to train participants from foreign countries. Hence statement 2 is not correct. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO) is an ISRO training programme on Nanosatellites development through a combination of theoretical coursework and hands-on training on Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) in June 2018 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference UNISPACE+50. U. R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), formerly known as ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), being the ISRO's lead center for satellite building, has designed the basic structure of this programme with equal emphasis on theoretical and practical exposure. The participants will be trained in three batches until 2020.

Context: India helping developing countries to build satellites.

2. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is a reusable launch system operating in Hypersonic speed. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: ISRO has only tested a demonstration vehicle and not still used for launching purposes. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion. Thus it is known as Supersonic Combustion Ramjet or Scramjet. It is a form of air-breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor. Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites. The first experimental mission of ISRO's Scramjet Engine towards the realization of an Air Breathing Propulsion System was successfully conducted from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

Context: Experimental mission of subscale scramjet.

3. Answer: d**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It was started in 1914 by J.L. Simonsen and P.S. MacMohan. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: The theme of 2019 Congress is Future India: Science and Technology.

The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the foresight and initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon. The first meeting of the Congress was held from January 15-17, 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, with the Honourable Justice Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, the then Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, as President. It will be mostly conducted at the beginning of a year in the month of January. Every year there will be a focal theme for discussion on the meeting. In 2019, it is the 106th edition of the meeting held at the Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar. The focal theme of 2019 meeting was Future India: Science and Technology and for 2018 it was Reaching the unreachable through Science and Technology.

Context: Pseudo-scientific claims in the science congress.

4. Answer: a**Explanation:**

A time capsule is a historic cache of goods or information, usually intended as a method of communication with future people and to help future archaeologists, anthropologists, or historians. Time capsules are sometimes created and buried during celebrations such as a world's fair, a cornerstone laying for a building, or at other events. It provides the future generation a rich knowledge about the details of the past civilization and their technological developments. The materials stored in the time capsules are things used in the day to day life of the people. There will be a preset time limit after which the capsule is opened in the future date. Recently a time capsule

is buried underground in the Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar during the Indian Science Congress.

Context: Burial of a time capsule in Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar.

5. Answer: b

Explanation:

Ultima Thule is the farthest object to be flyby by a spacecraft. It lies in the Kuiper belt on the outermost part of our solar system. The New Horizon spacecraft has sent a clear image of the Ultima Thule during its flyby. It measures approximately 30 kilometers in diameter and is irregularly shaped called binary contact. Ultima Thule will, therefore, be the most primitive planetary object yet explored, and will reveal to us what conditions were like in this distant part of the solar system as it condensed from the solar nebula.

6. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a self-propelled howitzer gun designed for desert warfare. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is jointly manufactured by L&T and Samsung - Techwin. Hence statement 2 is correct.

K9-Vajra is a self-propelled howitzer gun specially designed for desert warfare. It is manufactured by the L&T in cooperation with the Samsung - Techwin of South Korea. It gives enough capability to the Indian army in the western sector. It is the major induction after nearly three decades since Bofors. The design of the gun incorporates a Modular Azimuth Position System (MAPS), an automatic fire-control system (AFCS), a powered gun elevation/depression and a turret traverse system. The hydro-pneumatic suspension system provides high-ground clearance and mobility across different terrains.

Context: Inauguration of Manufacturing Facility for K9-Vajra.

7. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is developed by India and Israel which is produced by BDL. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is a supersonic long-range Surface to Air Missile. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3: It will help the blue water navy ambitions of Indian Navy. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Barak Missile is the long-range supersonic missile (LRSAM). The missile is being jointly developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, Elta Systems, Rafael and other companies. It will be produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited.

It is designed to defend against a variety of short-to-long-range airborne threats, including fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, drones and projectiles, Barak-8 incorporates a state-of-the-art phased array multi-mission radar, two-way data link, and a flexible command and control system, enabling users to simultaneously engage multiple targets day and night and in all weather conditions. It will further strengthen the Indian Navy and helps to achieve its ambitions of Blue Water Navy.

Context: Successful testing of Barak Missile by DRDO.

8. Answer: c

Explanation:

Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KAryakram" (YUVIKA) from this year, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan". The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities. The program is thus aimed at creating awareness amongst the youngsters who are the future building blocks of our Nation. ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young". Those students

completed 9th standard and waiting to join the 10th standard are eligible for the programme. Three students from each state and union territory will be selected for the programme.

Context: Announcement of the YUVIKA programme

9. Answer: d

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Gas hydrates exist on the shallow depths of continental shelves. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: No country in the world has developed technology for commercial scale exploitation of the gas hydrates. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Gas hydrates are a crystalline form of methane and water and exist in shallow sediments of outer continental margins. They are envisaged as a viable major energy resource for the future. Gas hydrates with their abundant resource potential are emerging as a potential fuel resource. The preliminary assessment of geological condition and limited available seismic data suggests a high possibility of occurrence of a large quantum of gas hydrates within the EEZ of India. It is considered as India contains the world's largest reserve after the US. Japan and Canada are working to develop a technology to extract the natural gas from the gas hydrate for a long time. Still, no country in the world has the technology for commercial production of the gas hydrates.

Context: Production of gas hydrates at IIT, Madras under Space Condition.

10. Answer: b

Explanation:

PhotoDNA is used by organizations around the world and has assisted in the detection, disruption, and reporting of millions of child exploitation images. It creates a unique digital signature known as a "hash" of an image which is then compared against hashes of other photos to find copies of the same image. When matched with a database containing hashes of previously identified illegal images, PhotoDNA is an incredible tool to help detect, disrupt and report the distribution of child exploitation material. PhotoDNA is not facial recognition software and cannot be used to identify a person or object in an image. A PhotoDNA hash is not reversible, and therefore cannot be used to recreate an image.

11. Answer: d

Explanation:

X-CALIBUR is a telescope to observe neutron stars and black holes in a binary orbit with stars grow by gobbling up the stellar matter. It is launched by Washington University in the US from the McMurdo Station in Antarctica, is carried aloft on a helium balloon intended to reach an altitude of 130,000 feet. Its primary objective is to study about Vela X-1, a neutron star in binary orbit with a supergiant star. It is designed to measure the polarisation or, roughly, the orientation of the electric field of incoming X-rays from binary systems. The observation will also help to understand the theory of quantum electrodynamics and general relativity.

Context: Launching of the telescope from Antarctica.

12. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: The magnetic north pole moves faster than the magnetic south pole. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The magnetic north pole shifts from the Canada region towards the Siberia. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Something strange is going on at the top of the world. Earth's north magnetic pole has been skittering away from Canada and towards Siberia, driven by liquid iron sloshing within the planet's core. The magnetic pole is moving so quickly that it has forced the world's geomagnetism experts into a rare move.

The problem lies partly with the moving pole and partly with other shifts deep within the planet. Liquid churning in Earth's core generates most of the magnetic field, which varies over time as the deep flows change. In 2016, for instance, part of the magnetic field temporarily accelerated deep under northern South America and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Satellites such as the European Space Agency's Swarm mission tracked the shift.

The motion of the north magnetic pole made the problem worse. The pole wanders in unpredictable

ways that have fascinated explorers and scientists since James Clark Ross first measured it in 1831 in the Canadian Arctic. In the mid-1990s it picked up speed, from around 15 kilometers per year to around 55 kilometers per year. By 2001, it had entered the Arctic Ocean — where, in 2007, a team including Chulliat landed an airplane on the sea ice in an attempt to locate the pole.

Context: Updation of the World Magnetic Model.

13. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It delivers a heavy dosage of radiation without damaging the healthy cells. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It can be easily controlled and it can also reach up to 32 cm into the body. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Proton Therapy is a form of particle therapy that will usher in a paradigm change in cancer treatment. It provides targeted treatment and intensification, unlike any other radiation treatment. Proton beam delivers a high dosage of radiation only to the tumor maximizing the chances of cure and in turn minimizing the adverse effects to the surrounding healthy tissues. The proton is heavy and charged particle that in time loses its speed as it interacts with human tissue. It is easily controlled and delivers its utmost dose at an accurate depth, which is determined by the amount of energy it was given by the cyclotron, and reaches as far as 32 cm. The proton is very quick when it penetrates the patient's body and deposits only a diminutive dose on its way. The absorbed dose increases very gradually with better depth and lower speed, rapidly rising to a peak when the proton is finally stopped. This is known as the Bragg peak.

Context: Introduction of Proton Therapy into India.

14. Answer: d

Explanation:

At present there are twenty-one nuclear power reactors, with an installed capacity of 15700 MW are under implementation, envisaged for progressive completion by the year 2031. Some of the ongoing projects are Gorakhpur in Haryana, Kakrapar in Gujarat, Mahi-Banswara in Rajasthan, Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, Kaiga in Karnataka and Kudankulam in Tamilnadu. India has developed the capacity to build nuclear reactors which will go a long way in the nuclear power generation sector in the country.

15. Answer: b

Explanation:

China's Chang'e-4 lunar rover scripted history when it made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon and sent back close-up images of the previously unexplored region, a giant leap for cosmic exploration and a major boost to the Communist nation's quest to become a space superpower. Chang'e-4, named after a Chinese moon goddess and comprising a lander and a rover, touched down at the preselected landing area at 177.6 degrees east longitude and 45.5 degrees south latitude on the far side of the moon. Though the far side has been extensively photographed by spacecraft, starting with a Soviet probe in 1959, no probe had ever made a soft landing onto it. Scientists around the world have not been able to conduct close observations and surveys of the region for decades. This will be satisfied by the change 4 project.

Context: Exploration of the unreachable side of the lunar surface.

16. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is the first Indian space launcher to use liquid fuel stages. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The PSLV-XL is the most powerful version of the series. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

STATEMENT 3: It is the PSLV that launched the Chandrayaan and the Mangalyaan missions. Hence statement 3 is correct.

PSLV is a four-stage system comprising a combination of solid and liquid-fuelled rocket stages. The first stage at the very bottom is solid fuelled having six strap-on solid rocket boosters wrapped around it. The second stage is liquid fuelled whereas the third stage has a solid-fuelled rocket

motor. At the fourth stage, the launcher uses a liquid propellant to boost in outer space. PSLV is used in its Core Alone configuration and an XL Version. Core Alone version is launched without six strap-on boosters and less propellant in its upper stage – a configuration specifically used in the missions featuring small payloads. The XL version is launched with extra propellant in the strap-on solid rocket boosters for increasing the payload capacity. In the last launch PSLV-C45, a new variant called PSLV-QL with four strap-on motor is used.

Context: New version of PSLV named as PSLV-QL

17. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is caused by a mycobacterium damaging the skin and marginal nerves. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: India had been declared free from Hansen Disease in 2005. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. The disease mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. Leprosy is known to occur at all ages ranging from early infancy to very old age. Leprosy is curable and early treatment averts most disabilities.

The exact mechanism of transmission of leprosy is not known. At least until recently, the most widely held belief was that the disease was transmitted by contact between cases of leprosy and healthy persons. More recently the possibility of transmission by the respiratory route is gaining ground. There are also other possibilities such as transmission through insects which cannot be completely ruled out. India had been declared free from leprosy in 2005, but the disease again started appearing in many parts of India.

Context: Reappearance of Leprosy in India.

18. Answer: c

Explanation:

The mass of a kilogram has been defined by an object of a platinum alloy cylinder known as the international prototype kilogram (IPK) or, less formally, Le Grand K is located in an environmentally monitored safely in a lower vault in the basement of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Sèvres, Paris. Housed under three bell jars, access to this precious cylinder requires three keys, operated independently, of which only two are kept in France.

Recently scientists have devised a new system to measure kilogram using electric current where the Electromagnets generate a force. Scrap-yards use them on cranes to lift and move large metal objects, such as old cars. The pull of the electromagnet, the force it exerts, is directly related to the amount of electrical current going through its coils. There is, therefore, a direct relationship between electricity and weight.

Context: Revision of the definition of the standard kilogram.

19. Answer: A

Explanation:

Kessler syndrome

- It was proposed by NASA scientist Donald J. Kessler in 1978, is a scenario in which the density of objects in low Earth orbit (LEO) is high enough that collisions between objects could cause a cascade where each collision generates space debris that increases the likelihood of further collisions.
- One implication is that the distribution of debris in orbit could render space activities and the use of satellites in specific orbital ranges impractical for many generations.

Context: As part of the space junk cleanup, a new device named space harpoon that captures junk has been tested successfully.

20. Answer: B

Explanation:

- 'Param Shivay' is a Supercomputer of 833 teraflop capacity built at the cost of Rs 32.5 crore under the National Super Computing Mission at IIT-BHU. So option (b) is right.
- The National Supercomputer Mission (NSM) is an important initiative from the Government of

India. This initiative supports the vision of the government's 'Digital India' and 'Make in India' and it will also play an important role in keeping India in the forefront of the world's supercomputing map. The research that takes months would be completed in hours or minutes with the help of this supercomputer."

- Under this project, the Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has developed the first supercomputer 'Param Shivay' of 833 teraflop capacities under the chain of NSM.

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated 'Param Shivay' Supercomputer of 833 teraflop capacity built at the cost of Rs 32.5 crore under the National Super Computing Mission at IIT-BHU.

21. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as It is a professional body under the aegis of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade(DPIIT) and it is not under the aegis of the Department of Commerce.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as It ensures focused action on issues related to IPRs and addresses the 7 identified objectives of the policy. CIPAM assists in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes, apart from undertaking steps for furthering IPR awareness, commercialization and enforcement.

Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)

- A professional body under the aegis of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) which ensures focused action on issues related to IPRs and addresses the 7 identified objectives of the policy. CIPAM assists in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes, apart from undertaking steps for furthering IPR awareness, commercialization and enforcement.

Objectives Of CIPAM

- Simplifying and streamlining of IP processes by formulating and implementing a focused strategy for each policy objective
- Coordination with State level agencies and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, industry bodies as well as international agencies; IP cells to be set up
- IPR awareness campaign across the country in schools, colleges/universities, and the industry
- Training and sensitization programmes for enforcement agencies and Judiciary; coordination for effective enforcement of IPR rights.
- Study and facilitate implementation of best practices for promotion and commercialization of IP within the country

22. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as It has been jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics (BEL).

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as It has been developed to replace the Akash missile defence system, and has a 360-degree coverage, lightweight, high mobility and shorter second reaction time as compared to Akash.

Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)

- It is a missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Army
- A QRSAM is different from normal air defence system, as this is an all-weather, all-terrain missile with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars.

Context: India has test-fired two Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air short-range Missiles (QR-SAM) from the integrated test range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore district, off the Odisha coast.

Related Topic: Akash missile defence system; Agni missile defence system

23. Answer: C

Explanation :

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has unveiled its new product, the Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG), an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct The Atmospheric Water Generator is being manufactured by BEL in collaboration with CSIR-IICT and MAITHRI, a start-up company based in Hyderabad.

Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG):

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has unveiled its new product, the

Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG), an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide.

- BEL's Atmospheric Water Generator can be used to generate water straight from the humidity present in the atmosphere.
- The day is not far when drinking water becomes the most precious commodity on the planet.
- Groundwater, currently the main source of drinking water, is being depleted at an alarming and unsustainable rates even as the search for alternate water sources continues.

Context: Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has unveiled its new product, the Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG), an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide, today at Aero India 2019.

24. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the 'National Viral Hepatitis Control Program', with the goal of ending viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 in the country.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) and Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) are important causes of acute viral hepatitis and Acute Liver Failure (ALF).

National Viral Hepatitis Control Program:

AIM

- Combat hepatitis and achieve countrywide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030
- Achieve a significant reduction in the infected population, morbidity and mortality associated with Hepatitis B and C viz. Cirrhosis and Hepato-cellular carcinoma (liver cancer)
- Reduce the risk, morbidity and mortality due to Hepatitis A and E.

Key Objectives

1. Enhance community awareness on hepatitis and lay stress on preventive measures among the general population especially high-risk groups and in hotspots.
2. Provide early diagnosis and management of viral hepatitis at all levels of healthcare
3. Develop standard diagnostic and treatment protocols for the management of viral hepatitis and its complications.
4. Strengthen the existing infrastructure facilities, build capacities of existing human resource and raise additional human resources, where required, for providing comprehensive services for the management of viral hepatitis and its complications in all districts of the country.
5. Develop linkages with the existing National programmes towards awareness, prevention, diagnosis and treatment for viral hepatitis.
6. Develop a web-based "Viral Hepatitis Information and Management System" to maintain a registry of persons affected with viral hepatitis and its sequelae

Context: Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis.

25. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as It was placed into a GeoSynchronous transfer orbit.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as This satellite will augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary Orbit.

GSAT-31

- India's telecommunication satellite, GSAT-31 was successfully launched on February 06, 2019 from Kourou launch base, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-247.
- GSAT-31 is configured on ISRO's enhanced I-2K Bus, utilizing the maximum bus capabilities of this type. This satellite will augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary Orbit.
- Weighing about 2536 kg, GSAT-31 will provide continuity to operational services on some of the in-orbit satellites. The satellite derives its heritage from ISRO's earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series. The satellite provides Indian mainland and island coverage.
- The designed in-orbit operational life of GSAT-31 is about 15 years.

Context: India's telecommunication satellite, GSAT-31 was successfully launched on February 06, 2019 from Kourou launch base, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-247.

26. Answer: D**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as SFDR is an Indo-Russian R&D project which has been established to develop a long-range air-to-air missile and a surface-to-air missile system in the near future.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as The Defence Research Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad is the lead agency for the collaborative mission project. Indian Space Research organization (ISRO) is not the lead agency for the collaborative mission project.

Context: Recently, DRDO successfully flights tested the second indigenously developed 'Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)' propulsion-based missile system, the first test which was carried out in May 2018.

27. Answer: A**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as India's Space agency ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) is a member of this organization.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) is an international governmental forum for the worldwide coordination of activities related to the issues of man-made and natural debris in space. It is not a specialized agency of the United Nations to regulate the activities related to the man-made and natural debris in space.

Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)

- The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) is an international governmental forum for the worldwide coordination of activities related to the issues of man-made and natural debris in space.

- The primary purposes of the IADC are to exchange information on space debris research activities between member space agencies, to facilitate opportunities for cooperation in space debris research, to review the progress of ongoing cooperative activities, and to identify debris mitigation options.

The IADC member agencies include the following:

- ASI (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana)
- CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales)
- CNSA (China National Space Administration)
- CSA (Canadian Space Agency)
- DLR (German Aerospace Center)
- ESA (European Space Agency)
- ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
- JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)
- KARI (Korea Aerospace Research Institute)
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
- ROSCOSMOS (State Space Corporation)
- SSAU (State Space Agency of Ukraine)
- UK Space Agency

A Steering Group and four specified Working Groups covering measurements (WG1), environment and database (WG2), protection (WG3) and mitigation (WG4) make up the IADC.

Context: As part of the space junk cleanup, a new device named space harpoon that captures junk has been tested successfully. It is part of the RemoveDEBRIS project, a multi-organization European effort to create and test methods of reducing space debris.

28. Answer: A**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct Hepatitis viruses are the most common cause of hepatitis in the world but other infections, toxic substances (e.g. alcohol, certain drugs), and autoimmune diseases can also cause hepatitis.

29. Answer: C**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The mission jointly steered by Ministry of Electronics and IT and Department of Science & Technology, is being implemented through two leading organizations –

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore with an objective to meet the increasing computing demands of the scientific and research community.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct It is an important initiative by the Government of India to boost indigenous efforts to be at the forefront of supercomputing capability for socio-economic development of the nation.

Context: Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launches PARAM Shivay at IIT BHU

30. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as PARAM 8000, the first supercomputer of India, was built by C-DAC. Supercomputer PARAM 8000 (made by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) was launched on July 1, 1991, is considered to be India's first supercomputer.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas. Different areas of C-DAC, had originated at different times, many of which came out as a result of identification of opportunities.
- The setting up of C-DAC in 1988 itself was to build Supercomputers in the context of denial of import of Supercomputers by USA. Since then C-DAC has been undertaking the building of multiple generations of Supercomputer starting from PARAM with 1 GF in 1988.
- Almost at the same time, C-DAC started building Indian Language Computing Solutions with setting up of GIST group (Graphics and Intelligence based Script Technology); National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) set up in 1985 had also initiated work in Indian Language Computing around the same period.
- Electronic Research and Development Centre of India (ER&DCI) with various constituents starting as adjunct entities of various State Electronic Corporations, had been brought under the hold of Department of Electronics and Telecommunications (now MeitY) in around 1988. They were focusing on various aspects of applied electronics, technology and applications.
- With the passage of time as a result of the creative ecosystem that got set up in C-DAC, more areas such as Health Informatics, etc., got created; while right from the beginning the focus of NCST was on Software Technologies; similarly C-DAC started its education & training activities in 1994 as a spin-off with the passage of time, it grew to a large efforts to meet the growing needs of Indian Industry for finishing schools.

Context: Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launches PARAM Shivay at IIT BHU

31. Answer: A

Explanation:

BullSequana is a supercomputer which will be installed in India by france based company Atos BullSequana will be set up in India under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) to create a network of over 70 high-performance supercomputing facilities with a cumulative computing power of more than 10 petaflops, for various academic and research institutions across India.

Context: France-based company Atos signed agreement with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for designing, building and installing BullSequana

32. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct as National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology at a total outlay of Rs. 3660 crore for a period of five years.

The NM-ICPS is a comprehensive and pan India Mission which would address technology development, application development, human resource development & skill enhancement, entrepreneurship and start-up development in CPS and associated technologies. The Mission aims at establishment of Hubs & TTRPs which will integrate Academics, Industry, Central Ministries

and State Government in developing solutions at reputed academic, R&D and other organizations across the country in a hub and spoke model.

Context: Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the launching of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)

33. Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect because GSAT-11 is a communication satellite, was successfully launched on December 05, 2018 from Kourou launch base, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-246.

Statement: 2 is correct as Weighing about 5854 kg, GSAT-11 is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO.

Statement: 3 is correct as being a communication satellite it will be placed in Geostationary orbit. Satellites in this orbit are launched into in the same direction the Earth is spinning.

Context: Recently GSAT-11, the heaviest satellite built by ISRO was launched

34. Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct as VISIONS-2 Provides a Look at Earth's Escaping Atmosphere and under it two rockets flew into the northern polar cusp, where it used an imaging technique to map oxygen outflow from the aurora. Using this technique, VISIONS-2 takes a different approach from many other missions, which attempt to combine data from many outflow events. Instead, VISIONS-2 hopes to acquire a great deal of data about a single oxygen outflow event.

Statement: 2 is incorrect because it is a mission of NASA not European Space Agency(ESA).

Context: Recently NASA has launched Visualizing Ion Outflow via Neutral Atom Sensing-2 (VISIONS-2).

35. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

The Soyuz (saw-yooz) is a Russian spacecraft. The Soyuz carries people and supplies to and from the space station. The Soyuz can also bring people back to Earth.

Russia is a big country. Russia helps the United States run the International Space Station. Other countries also help with the space station. But only Russian spacecraft carry people to it right now. What Can the Soyuz Do?

Russian crew members are called cosmonauts. NASA crew members from the United States are called astronauts. Crew members from Europe, Canada and Japan are also called astronauts.

The Soyuz takes cosmonauts and astronauts to and from the space station. A Soyuz has room for three people to ride in it. The spacecraft also brings food and water to the space station.

The Soyuz is like a lifeboat. At least one Soyuz is always attached to the space station. If there were an emergency on the space station, the crew could use the Soyuz to leave the space station and return to Earth.

Context: Recently, a Soyuz Rocket carrying astronauts from Russia, USA and Canada was successfully launched into orbit since a failed launch in October.

36. Answer: D

Explanation:

The amount of magnetic flux that rises up to the Sun's surface varies with time in a cycle called the solar cycle. This cycle lasts 11 years on average. This cycle is sometimes referred to as the sunspot cycle.

Statement: 1 is incorrect as Sunspots are regions where the solar magnetic field is very strong.

Statement: 2 is incorrect because in visible light, sunspots appear darker than their surroundings because they are a few thousand degrees cooler than their surroundings. Most of the visible surface of the Sun has a temperature of about 5400 degrees C, but in a big sunspot the temperature can drop to about 4000 degrees C.

Context: Recently, scientists from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research have developed a way of predicting the intensity of activity in the next solar cycle (approximately from 2020 to 2031).

37. Answer: B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect as in a major feat in the coronary intervention technology, Ahmedabad-based interventional cardiologist, Dr Tejas Patel conducted the world's first in-human (FIH) tele-robotic coronary intervention from Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar, Gujarat India.

Statement: 2 is correct as telerobotic coronary intervention is a robotic method of performing heart surgery. With the help of the internet and a robotic tower, a surgeon is able to treat patients from a distance.

38. Answer: C**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is correct as National Medical Devices Promotion Council is setup under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to give fillip to the medical device sector, which is a sunrise sector.

Statement: 2 is incorrect because the Council will be headed by Secretary, DIPP. Apart from the concerned departments of Government of India, it will also have representatives from health care industry and quality control institutions. Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone, Visakhapatnam, will provide technical support to the Council.

Statement: 3 is correct as although the Medical Devices Industry (MDI) has been growing in double digits but is predominantly import-driven with imports accounting for over 65% of the domestic market.

Context: To give a fillip to the medical device sector, which is a sunrise sector, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, announced setting up of a National Medical Devices Promotion Council.

39. Ans: B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect: Oxytocin is a hormone produced by the hypothalamus and secreted by the pituitary gland of mammals during sex, childbirth, lactation or social bonding.

Statement: 2 is correct: It is sometimes referred to as the "love hormone," because levels of oxytocin increase during hugging and orgasm. It may also have benefits as a treatment for a number of conditions, including depression, anxiety, and intestinal problems.

Statement: 3 is correct: It is used as a life saving drug during childbirth because it can contract the uterus and induce delivery, stem postpartum bleeding, and promote the release of breast milk.

Context: Recently, The Delhi High Court has quashed the government's decision to ban private companies from making and selling Oxytocin in the country, which had come into effect from July 1 this year.

40. Ans: B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect because Artificial trans fats (or trans fatty acids) are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid. The primary dietary source for trans fats in processed food is "partially hydrogenated oils."

Statement: 2 is correct: Trans fats raise bad (LDL) cholesterol levels and lower good (HDL) cholesterol levels. Trans fat is considered by many doctors to be the worst type of fat you can eat.

Context: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a new mass media campaign calling for the elimination of industrially produced trans fats in the food supply. It is a follow-up to an earlier campaign called Eat Right, which was launched in July 2018.

41. Ans: B**Explanation:**

Exceed Sat-1 is India's first privately built satellite recently launched into polar orbit by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

It is a mini communication satellite weighing just a kg with double the size of a Rubik's cube (10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm) is made up of aluminium alloy. The satellite, which is the brainchild of a

Mumbai-based startup Exseed Space, looks to serve the amateur radio community. ExseedSAT 1 was built at a cost of Rs 2 crore. The satellite with a lifespan of five years will allow people to receive signals on 145.9 Mhz frequency with the help of a TV tuner. Built in just 18 months, ExseedSAT 1 has paved the way for private-funded space missions.

Context: Mumbai-based Exseed Space has become the first private commercial organisation in India to have a satellite in space.

42. Ans: A

Explanation:

Cimon or officially CIMON (Crew Interactive Mobile companion) is a head-shaped AI robot used in the International Space Station. The device is "an AI-based assistant for astronauts" developed by Airbus and IBM, with funding from the German Aerospace Center

Context: A small robot CIMON endowed with artificial intelligence (AI) has been launched on a two-day trip to the International Space Station aboard SpaceX's Dragon cargo capsule. No other AI-equipped machine has ever flown to space before.

43. Ans: C

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: It is a fore-runner in a series of advanced communications satellite with multi-spot beams covering Indian mainland and islands. The satellite will boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country coming under the Bharat Net Project, which is part of Digital India Programme.

Statement: 2 is correct: Weighing about 5854 kg, GSAT-11 is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO.

Context: India's next generation high throughput communication satellite, GSAT-11 was successfully launched on December 05, 2018 from Kourou launch base, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-246.

44. Ans: A

Explanation:

The Chang'e-4 mission is part of the second phase of China's lunar program, which includes orbiting, landing and returning to Earth. It follows the success of the Chang'e-1, Chang'e-2 and Chang'e-3 missions in 2007, 2010 and 2013. It makes the first ever attempt at a landing on the far side of the Moon.

The vast majority of the far side of the Moon never faces the Earth due to tidal locking, and humanity's first glimpse of that hemisphere did not come until the Soviet Luna 3 mission sent back images in 1959.

Context: Following a December 7, 2018 launch on a Long March-3B/G3Z rocket, China has now landed its fourth and most ambitious lunar exploration mission on Thursday, January 3, 2019. This is the first mission to land on the far side of the Moon.

45. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: The Gaganyaan project was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 2018 Independence Day speech. It will help India become the fourth country in the world after Russia, US and China to send humans to space.

Statement: 2 is correct: A human-rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry the orbital module which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a 3-member crew for the duration of the mission.

Statement: 3 incorrect: Under the mission 3 crew member will go to the space, it is not a moon mission. In space crew members will perform research work for a maximum of seven days.

Context: Giving a boost to the country's maiden human spaceflight programme, the Union Cabinet has approved a budget of Rs 10,000 crore for India's Gaganyaan project

Art and Culture

1. Rich culture and traditions of India can be observed in its diverse folk arts. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Folk Art _____ State _____

1. Taakala Dance - Himachal Pradesh
2. Karakattam - Tamilnadu
3. Misra Raas - Gujarat

Select the correct code from the following?

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

2. Consider the following statements about the Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

1. It aims to display the rich culture, heritage, and natural diversity to the world.
2. It is a central sector scheme launched by the Union Ministry of Culture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. The famous Sikh religious text Dasamgranth Sahib was written by

- a) Guru Nanak
b) Guru Gobind Singh
c) Guru Tegh Bahadur
d) Guru Arjan Dev

4. Consider the following statements about the theatrical art form of Mudiyettu:

1. It is the traditional folk theatre form performed only at Kali temples in Kerala.
2. It is the only art form from Kerala inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following pairs about the regional music of India:

Music	State
1. <i>Rocky Mountain</i>	Colorado
2. <i>Swanee River</i>	Arkansas
3. <i>Swanee River</i>	Arkansas
4. <i>Swanee River</i>	Arkansas
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98. <i>Swanee River</i>	Arkansas
99. <i>Swanee River</i>	Arkansas
100. <i>Swanee River</i>	Arkansas

- | Sl. No. | Music | State |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. | Tappa | Maharashtra |
| 2. | Bhakha | Kerala |
| 3. | Daskathia | Odisha |

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

6. Consider the following statements about the National Culture Fund:

1. The fund is administered and managed by the Union Ministry of Finance.
2. The donor can identify the agency for the execution of the project that is funded.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about the Monuments of National Importance:

1. Any structure that was in existence for not less than 1000 years is classified as an ancient monument.
2. Karnataka has the highest number of monuments classified as Monuments of national importance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

8. Which of the following is incorrect about the International Gandhi Peace Prize?

- It is given to the social and political transformation through non-violence only.
- It is awarded once in a two year period.
- Work by a dead person will not be considered for the award.
- Work done before ten years will not be considered for the award.

9. Preservation of past architecture holds the key to carry the rich culture and tradition to future generations. Recently UNESCO declared which of the following city as the World Capital of Architecture?

- a) Rome
b) Ahmedabad
c) Rio De Janeiro
d) Chandigarh

10. Which of the following areas is/are closely associated with the celebration of Kumbh Mela?

1. Ujjain
2. Nashik
3. Haridwar
4. Allahabad
5. Kumbakonam

Select the correct code from the following:

- a) 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

11. Consider the following statements:

1. India's first music museum to be set up in Thiruvaiyaru.

2. Thiruvaiyaru is a place in Telangana and it is the birthplace of Saint Tyagaraja, one of the Trinities of Carnatic music.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements about Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme:

1. It aimed at preserving and revitalizing the soul and unique character of the heritage cities in India and implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development.

2. Parasnath a mountain peak in the state of Madhya Pradesh and an important Jain pilgrimage site added under this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. With reference to 'Adopt a Heritage' project, consider the following statements:

1. Under this project funds are given by the Ministry of Tourism for providing amenities like toilets, drinking water, accessibility for the disabled etc.

2. It's a joint collaborative effort of The Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI)

3. Under the project, Monument Mitra will be selected through a bidding process.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. The Hornbill Festival is one of the largest celebrations of the indigenous warrior tribes of which of the following states of India?

- a) Assam
- b) Manipur
- c) Nagaland
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

15. Bhasha Sangam Program which is a part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' is an initiative of which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of External Affairs

- c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- d) Ministry of Culture

16. Which among the following is/are the place(s) where Buddhist remains found in Odisha?

- 1. Ratnagiri
- 2. Udayagiri
- 3. Lalitagiri
- 4. Rumtek

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

17. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Festival	State
1. Hornbill Festival	Manipur
2. Dwijing Festival	Assam
3. Losar Festival	Nagaland

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

18. Consider the following statements:

1. Veerashaivas are a sub-sect of Lingayats who preceded Basavanna.

2. Veerashaivas believes in rebirth.

3. Lingayats are part of Hindu religion and they do not worship any god other than Shiva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements:

1. Paikas were the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Tamil nadu.

2. Paikas unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara in 1817.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. This dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint – Sankaradeva and Nritya Parva is being organised every year to mark the day of recognition of this dance as a classical dance

in 2000. The above statement is written in the context of which of the following dance of India?

- a) Odissi
- b) Mohiniyattam
- c) Sattriya Dance
- d) Manipuri

1. Answer: c**Explanation:**

During the Republic Day celebration, the folk arts was performed by tableaux artists. Artists from Tamil Nadu presented the Karakattam folk dance, while Taakala Folk Dance was performed by artists from Maharashtra. North Eastern states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, and Tripura presented Monpa, Satoiya Nitya, Tamang Seto, and Mamita folk dances. Artists from Jammu Kashmir performed the Fusim Dance reflecting the composite culture of the State. The artistes from Gujarat performed Misra Raas, while Hudka Chhudka from Uttarakhand and Bhangra from Punjab were also performed.

Context: Showcase of Indian tradition during national festivals.

2. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It aims to display the rich cultural heritage and natural diversity to the world on the theme based tourist circuits. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is a central sector scheme implemented by the Union Ministry of Tourism. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as a Central Sector Scheme for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country. Such theme based tourist circuits should be developed in a manner that supports communities, provides employment and fosters social integration without comprising upon the environmental concerns and provides unique experiences to the tourists. India's rich cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage provides a huge potential for development of tourism and job creation in the country. There is a great scope and need to develop tourist circuits on specific themes to attract the tourists having a special interest in visiting such places. This can be achieved only through an integrated approach by providing engaging experiences for distinct categories of tourists i.e. Domestic and International.

Context: Development of Tribal Tourist Circuits.

3. Answer: b**Explanation:**

The Dasam Patishah Ji Da Granth, commonly known as Dasam Granth, is a religious text containing many of the texts traditionally attributed to Guru Gobind Singh. It is written primarily in Brij Bhasha, Awadhi, Hindustani, Punjabi and Persian compositions written almost entirely in the Gurmukhi script except for the Fatehnama, Zafar Nama and Hikayat, which are in the Persian alphabet. The Dasam Granth is a separate religious text from the Guru Granth Sahib. Some compositions of the Dasam Granth such as Jaap Sahib, Tav-Prasad Savaiye and Benti Chaupai are part of the Nitnem or daily prayers and also part of the Amrit Sanchar or baptism ceremony.

Context: 350th Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

4. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is a traditional theatre form of Kerala performed only in Kali Temples. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Kuttiyattam and the Mudiayattu are inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Mudiyettu is a glorious ritual dance performed in Kaali Temples across God's Own Country, predominantly in Central Kerala (Ernakulam and Kottayam), celebrating the triumph of Goddess Kali over the demon Darikan. It is performed exclusively by the Kuruppu or Marar communities of the State, with heavy makeup, gorgeous attire with conventional facial paintings, tall headgears and gigantic ornaments adding to the supernatural mystique of the performance. Legends say that Darikan, the epitome of evil, challenged Kaali to a duel. Kaali slew Darikan, with the blessings and grace of Lord Siva. A wooden headgear with a mask of the Goddess, along with an ornamental red vest and a long white cloth help elevate it to one of the most revered performances in all of Kerala.

Context: UNESCO intangible heritage list from India.

5. Answer: a

Explanation:

Tappa is a form of semi-classical vocal music inspired by the folk songs of camel riders in the Punjab area. Tappa, in Punjabi and Pashto language, is set in ragas generally used for the semi-classical forms. It is characterized by jumpy and flashy tonal movements with rhythmic and rapid notes.

The Bhakha form of folk music is popular in the Jammu region. Bhakha is sung by the villagers when harvesting is done. It is considered to be the regional music with most melodic and harmonious elements. It is sung to the accompaniment of instruments like a harmonium.

Daskathia is a form of ballad singing prevalent in Odisha. Daskathia is a name derived from a unique musical instrument called “Kathi” or “Ram Tali”, wooden clappers used during the presentation. The performance is a form of worship and offering on behalf of the “Das”, the devotee.

Context: Rich traditions of the regional music in India.

6. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: The fund is administered by the Union Ministry of Culture. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: The donor can select the project to be funded and the agency to implement the project. Hence statement 2 is correct.

National Culture Fund was established as a Trust under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 as a funding mechanism distinct from existing sources and patterns of funding for arts and culture in India. It aims at inviting individuals as well as private institutions in the task of promoting, protecting and preserving India's cultural heritage. It is managed and administered by a council headed by Union Culture Minister and decides the policies. Its Executive Committee is headed by Secretary, Ministry of Culture which actualizes those policies. All projects undertaken by NCF are completed with concerned donor organization. The donor is free to select the project to be implemented and the agency that implements the project.

Context: Funding avenues for the conservation of the Indian culture.

7. Answer: d

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Ancient monuments are structures of not less than 100 years of age. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of monuments of national importance. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, an Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years. There were 3,686 centrally protected monuments/sites under the ASI in the country; the number has now increased to 3,693. Uttar Pradesh (745 monuments/sites), Karnataka (506) and Tamil Nadu (413) have the highest number of ASI-maintained sites.

The 125-year-old Old High Court Building in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and two Mughal-era monuments in Agra — Haveli of Agha Khan and Hathi Khana — are among the six monuments declared protected and of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 2018. The ancient Neemrana Baori in Rajasthan's Alwar district; the Group of Temples at Ranipur Jharial in Odisha's Bolangir district; and the Vishnu Temple in Kotali, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, are the three other monuments that have been listed.

Context: Inclusion of six monuments into the list of monuments of national importance.

8. Answer: b

Explanation:

The International Gandhi Peace Prize, named after Mahatma Gandhi, is awarded annually by the Government of India. This is an annual award given to individuals and institutions for their

contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods. The award carries ₹ 1 Crore (10 million) in cash, convertible in any currency in the world, a plaque and a citation. It is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, creed or gender. A jury consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India and two other eminent persons decides the awardee each year. The works made ten years ago and the work of a dead person will not be considered for the award.

9. Answer: c

Explanation:

UNESCO's recent partnership agreement with the International Union of Architects(UIA), UNESCO, designates Rio De Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture, which also hosts the UIA's World Congress, an event that takes place every three years. The World Capital of Architecture is intended to become an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning, and architecture.

As the first World Capital of Architecture, Rio de Janeiro will hold a series of events under the theme "All the worlds. Just one world," and promote the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's 11th Goal: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."

UNESCO, the UIA, and local institutions will organize activities to promote projects involving architects and urban planners as well as policymakers, social institutions and professionals from other sectors including artists and writers in an open and creative space of dialogue and innovation.

Context: Global initiative to protect heritage infrastructure in urban areas.

10. Answer: c

Explanation:

Kumbh Mela or Kumbha Mela is a mass Hindu pilgrimage of faith in which Hindus gather to bath in a sacred or holy river. Traditionally, four fairs are widely recognized as the Kumbh Melas: the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela, Haridwar Kumbh Mela, the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha, and Ujjain Simhastha. These four fairs are held periodically at one of the following places by rotation: Allahabad (Prayagraj), Haridwar, Nashik district (Nashik and Trimbak), and Ujjain. The main festival site is located on the banks of a river: the Ganges (Ganga) at Haridwar; the confluence (Sangam) of the Ganges and Yamuna and the invisible Sarasvati at Allahabad; the Godavari at Nashik; and the Shipra at Ujjain. Bathing in these rivers is thought to cleanse a person of all their sins.

The Mahamaham is a Hindu festival celebrated every 12 years in the Mahamaham pond located in the South Indian town of Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, India. Hindus consider taking a holy dip at the Mahamaham tank on the day of Mahamaham as sacred. The last Mahamaham was celebrated on February 22, 2016, with over a million people from various places taking the holy dip in the Mahamaham tank.

Context: Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj

11. Answer: A

Explanation:

ONLY Statement 1 is correct India's first music museum will be set up with assistance from the Central government in Thiruvaiyaru, in Tamilnadu, it is the birthplace of Saint Tyagaraja, one of the Trinities of Carnatic music.

This was announced by the State Minister for Culture and Tamil Development Shri K Pandiarajan in Madurai

The Tyagaraja Aaradhana Music Festival which is held annually in January in Thiruvaiyaru attracts musical talents from all over the world.

12. Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect The Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) scheme aimed at preserving and revitalizing the soul and unique character of the heritage cities in India, has been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development

PRASAD scheme aims at integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in planned, prioritised and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience. It focuses on the

development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations and it is implemented by the Ministry of Tourism. To implement the PRASAD scheme a Mission Directorate has been set up in the Ministry of Tourism.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Parasnath a mountain peak in the state of Jharkhand and an important Jain pilgrimage site recently added under this scheme.

Context: Recently Gangotri, Yamunotri, Parsanath have been included in the list of sites under PRASAD scheme.

13. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect: The project primarily focuses on providing basic amenities that include cleanliness, public conveniences, safe drinking water, ease of access for tourists, signages, illumination, Wi-fi etc. 'Monument Mitras' are expected to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for providing amenities. No fund is given by the Ministry of Tourism.

Statement: 2 is correct: The 'Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan', scheme launched on 27th September, 2017 is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State/UTs Governments

Statement: 3 is correct: Under the project private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals with the best vision for the heritage site will be selected through a bidding process. Successful bidders will be tagged as Monument Mitra.

Context: 10 monuments adopted under the 'Adopt A Heritage' project

14. Answer: C

Explanation:

The annual Hornbill Festival is a spectacular event showcasing the rich ancient culture and civilization of the people of Nagaland. It powerfully demonstrates the cultural diversity and civilizational unity of the people. "How each tribe is proudly unique, their cultural richness and yet there is an overwhelming sense of unity among all. This spectacular demonstration of unity in diversity in what India is all about.

Some important tribal communities in India are:

Santhal, Munda, Oraon, and Ho in Jharkhand; the Bhumij, Bhuiya, Gond, Kandha, and Saora in Orissa; the Bhumij, Santhal, Kora, Lepcha, Bhutia, Munda, and Oraon in West Bengal; Kachari, Miri, and Rabha in Assam; the Adi, Nyishi, Apatani, Monpa, and Wancho in Arunachal Pradesh; the Naga in Nagaland; Garo and Khasi in Meghalaya; the Mizo in Mizoram; some Naga tribes, Mac, and Paite in Manipur; and Tripuri, Riang, and Chakma in Tripura.

Context: Union Home Minister inaugurates Hornbill Festival in Kohima

15. Answer: C

Explanation:

The Bhasha Sangam initiative under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development aims to make the students aware about the unique cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity of our country.

The objective is to familiarize every child with simple dialogues in all the 22 languages under Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India, taking up one language on each working day, to enhance linguistic tolerance and promote national integration.

Context: The Department of School Education & Literacy has initiated Bhasha Sangam – A Celebration of Linguistic Diversity which marks the appreciation of the unique symphony of languages of our country, from 20th November to 21st December, 2018.

16. Ans: B

Explanation:

The largest concentration of Buddhist remains in Odisha can be found at three sites Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, and Lalitagiri referred to as the "Diamond Triangle". The sites consist of a series of monasteries, temples, shrines, stupas, and beautiful sculptures of Buddhist images.

Rumtek Monastery, also called the Dharmachakra Centre, is a gompa located in the Indian state of Sikkim near the capital Gangtok.

Context: One of the earliest Buddhist settlements in Odisha, Lalitgiri, where excavations have yielded ancient seals and inscriptions, has been converted into a museum and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

17. Ans: A

Explanation:

Pair 1 is incorrect as hornbill festival is celebrated in Nagaland

Pair 2 is correct: Dwijing Festival, a river tourism project of the Assam government

Pair 3 is incorrect: Losar Festival is the festival of the Monpa tribe in Arunachal Pradesh and is celebrated to welcome the new year.

Context: The third edition of the 12-day Dwijing Festival, a river tourism project of the Assam government was recently held in the Chirang district, hornbill festival is also in the news.

18. Ans: C

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: Lingayats are followers of 12th-century social reformer Basavanna and his vachana (verses) philosophy while Veerashaivas are a sub-sect of Lingayats who preceded Basavanna.

Statement: 2 is correct Veerashaivas believes in rebirth.

Statement: 3 is incorrect Veerashaivas are part of Hindu religion and they do not worship any god other than Shiva. Lingayats do not label themselves Hindus and claim an independent status for their faith. The Lingayat theological doctrine of saktivisistadvaita (a qualified monistic philosophy characterized by Sakti, the spiritual power of Shiva); its socialization agents, the guru and the jangama (monk); and its notion of istalinga are distinctively Lingayat in character.

Read more: <https://www.everyculture.com/South-Asia/Lingayat-Religion-and-Expressive-Culture.html#ixzz5lr22JtSw>

Other differences:

Veerashaiva and Lingayat ways of life are different. Their beliefs, practices and faith are different. Veerashaiva worship Lord Shiva, the one mentioned in Hindu mythology. But the Shiva that Basavanna referred to is not the Hindu mythological Shiva. Basavanna's Shiva is a formless, seamless figurative entity. Lingayats argue that this was the very reason that Basavanna never mentioned about the Hindu mythological Shiva in any of his Vachanas

Context: The fight for a separate religious status for Lingayats is reaching a crescendo in Karnataka.

19. Ans: B

Explanation:

Only statement 2 is correct

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

Context: Government of India has decided to give the event its due recognition by commemorating its 200 anniversary in a befitting manner. Prime Minister has recently released the commemorative stamp and coin on Paika Rebellion

20. Ans: C

Explanation:

Nritya Parva - Sattriya Dance festival is being organised every year to mark the day of recognition of sattriya dance as a classical dance in 2000. The dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint – Sankaradeva. The word Sattriya is derived from ‘_Sattrā’, the place of its birth. It was once a domain of male monks at the sattras, now it is performed by both men and women. It is governed by strictly laid down principles in respect of hastamudras, footworks, aharyas, music etc

Context: The four-day Nritya Parva (18th edition) Sattriya Dance Festival, is organised by Sattriya Kendra, the local chapter of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Environment

1. National Clean Air Programme has been launched to tackle the rising air pollution in India. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. It is a comprehensive strategy to tackle air pollution in the rural and urban areas.
2. Monitoring and management of indoor air pollution is a part of the NCAP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the waste to energy plants, which of the following feedstock is eligible for central financial assistance?

1. Agricultural Wastes
2. Effluents from distillery units
3. Sugarcane bagasse
4. Petroleum refinery wastes

Select the correct code from the following:

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

3. Globally important conference held at Katowice which was often seen in the news is related to

- a) Convention against terrorism
- b) Nuclear arms prohibition
- c) Climatic change
- d) Trade facilitation

4. The wildlife conservation in India dates back to time immemorial and the tribes and forest dwellers are torch bearers in the process. Which of the following pairs of tribes and their states are correct?

COMMUNITY		STATE
1. Idu Mishmi	-	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Chenchu	-	Andhra Pradesh
3. Bishnoi	-	Rajasthan

Select the correct code from the following:

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

5. Consider the following statements about the United Nations convention to combat desertification (UNCCD):

1. It is the legally binding international agreement to restore the land productivity.
2. The Green Climate Fund functions as the financial mechanism to project under the UNCCD.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements about the Sarus Crane:

1. It is the tallest flying bird in the world found in large numbers in Uttar Pradesh.
2. It is classified as endangered by IUCN due to drastic fall in their numbers.
3. The habitats of the sarus crane is located close to the human settlements.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. The 'CATS Accreditation', often seen in the news is related to

- a) Regulation of Chartered Accountant
- b) Tiger conservation
- c) Quality of the digital content
- d) Service standards in Civil Aviation

8. Consider the following statements about the National Bamboo Mission:

1. It is implemented as a subscheme of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.
2. It promotes the growth of the bamboo sector with a differential approach to each region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements about the Green-Ag project carried out in India:

1. It aims to mainstream environmental protection into Indian agricultural practices.
2. Conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes in only five states of India forms a part of the project.
3. It is funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. Recently India has proposed changes in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In this context, which of the following statements is incorrect about CITES?

- a) It is an intergovernmental agreement to prevent species extinction by trade in wildlife.
- b) It is legally binding on the parties and obliges them to have national legislation to implement the agreement.
- c) The appendix 2 of the convention list species not threatened to extinction but needs regulation of trade to maintain their survival.
- d) India proposed to include Rosewood into the appendix 2 of the convention.

11. The Plastic is posing a huge challenge for the sustainable development of the world. In order to tackle this challenge an Alliance to End Plastic Waste was created. Consider the following statements about the alliance:

1. It is an informal group of countries formed during the world sustainable development summit.

2. It aims to reduce the menace of plastic by adoption of circular economy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. In the beginning of the year most parts of North America experienced extremely cold weather conditions. Which of the following is the reason behind the cold weather?

- a) Strong Polar Vortex
- b) Presence of high pressure over North America
- c) Weak Polar Vortex
- d) Strong north atlantic drift

13. Consider the following statements about the Neglected Tropical Diseases:

1. It is a group of diseases mainly caused due to poverty and lack of proper sanitation.

2. They are mostly non communicable diseases which can be tackled through universal health coverage and lifestyle changes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements about the organic farming in India:

1. It is promoted by the national programme for organic production under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

2. Sikkim has the largest area to be covered under the organic certification of Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

15. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is organised by

- a) The World Bank
- b) The Energy and Resources Institute
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature

16. Which of the following gives a correct description about the Larsen C?

- a) Hydrogen gas fueled Car
- b) Polar Ice Sheet
- c) Earth like exoplanet
- d) Gene editing tool

17. Consider the following statements about 'Sundarban Reserve Forests':

1. It is the largest Ramsar Site in India.

2. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements about 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance':

1. It was adopted in the Iraqi city of Ramsar in 1971.

2. It is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements about 'Montreux Record':

1. It is maintained as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site

2. At present, Chilika lake is under Montreux Record.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements about 'Asian Elephant Alliance':

1. It is an initiative of United Nation Environment Program(UNEP).

2. It was launched in July 2018 in London, United Kingdom.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements about 'Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary':

- 1. It is situated in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- 2. It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements about 'African Cheetah':

- 1. IUCN(International Union for Conservation of Nature) status for African Cheetah is Vulnerable.
- 2. It is the flagship species of African grassland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements about 'Indus Dolphin':

- 1. It is the State Aquatic Animal of Punjab.
- 2. IUCN(International Union for Conservation of Nature) conservation status for Indus Dolphin is Critically Endangered.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements about 'Great One-Horned Rhinoceros or Indian Rhino':

- 1. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- 2. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana':

- 1. The Scheme is under The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 2. The Scheme is for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements about 'Small Grants Programme (SGP)':

- 1. The program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- 2. It is executed by the United Nation Environment Program(UNEP)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements about 'National Mission for Green India':

- 1. The Green India Mission is one of the missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- 2. Its objective is to increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 10 million hectares (mha).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Consider the following statements about 'Asiatic Lion Conservation Project':

- 1. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- 2. The project will be funded from the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH) with the contributing ratio being 60:40 of Central and State share

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Which state has created 'Special Rhino Protection Force' for the protection of One-Horned Rhinoceros?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Meghalaya

30. 'Punganur cow' recently seen in the news. Consider the following statements about it:

1. Punganur cow, considered one of the world's largest breeds of cattle.
2. It is on the verge of extinction due to cross-breeding being conducted by farmers.
3. It has become a status symbol in recent years as wealthy livestock farmers began buying it, believing it brings good luck.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. Which of the following organisation jointly released a report titled "Low Carbon Strategy for Renewable Energy Integration".

- a) NITI Aayog, International Energy Agency (IEA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- b) United Nation Environment Program(UNEP) And United Nation Development Program(UNDP)
- c) Asian Development Bank (ADB) And United Nation Development Program(UNDP)
- d) Asian Development Bank (ADB) And United Nation Environment Program(UNEP)

32. A tiger habitat spread over the world's oldest mountain range- the Aravallis. It is a resilient ecosystem with a high prey density, and has the unique distinction of successfully reintroducing the tiger after its local extinction. The vegetation of this tiger reserve is Northern tropical dry deciduous forests and Northern Tropical Thorn forest .

Which tiger reserve has these features?

- a) Sariska Tiger Reserve
- b) Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve
- c) Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- d) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

33. Which organisation has released its first ever global assessment of environmental laws titled "Environmental Rule of Law"

- a) United Nation Environment Program(UNEP)
- b) United Nation Development Program(UNDP)
- c) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- d) None Of the Above

34. Which organisation has released "Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Report"?

- a) United Nation Environment Program(UNEP)
- b) United Nation Development Program(UNDP)
- c) International Energy Agency (IEA)

d) The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

35. Which of the following program is not under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)?

- a) National Water Mission
- b) National Solar Mission
- c) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- d) National wind energy mission

36. Consider the following statements about 'REPLAN (REducing PLastic in Nature) Program':

1. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched this project
2. The Program is related to make carry bags by mixing processed and treated plastic waste with cotton fibre rags in the ratio 20:80.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following pairs :

1. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary : Madhya Pradesh
 2. Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park : Uttar Pradesh
 3. Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary : Madhya Pradesh
- Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

38 Consider the following pairs:

Wetland Sites : States

1. Hokera Wetland : Jammu and Kashmir
2. Kanjli Wetland : Punjab
3. Kolleru Lake : Andhra Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

39. Recently, Katowice city is in the news for hosting the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (COP 24). It belongs to which among the following countries?

- a) Poland
- b) Australia
- c) Germany
- d) France

40. Which of the following is/are the salient features of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018?

- 1. A No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 meters has been stipulated for all forests.
- 2. The powers for clearances with respect to CRZ-II and III have been delegated at the state level.
- 3. All projects/activities, which are located in the Coastal Regulation Zones shall be dealt with for CRZ clearance by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. With reference to the 'Seabed 2030 Project' which sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and International Seabed Authority (ISA).
- 2. It aims to bring together all the available data of fish productive zones of oceans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

42. It is popularly known as 'Godawan', is Rajasthan's state bird. The state government has started "Project Godawan" for its conservation at Desert National Park (DNP) in Jaisalmer. Which among the following is being referred in the above statements?

- a) Lesser Florican
- b) Great Indian Bustard
- c) Indian peafowl
- d) Greater Flamingo

43. With reference to tiger conservation consider the following statements:

1. Tiger Summit held in St Petersburg in 2010 in which tiger range countries committed to an ambitious and visionary species conservation goal TX2.

2. TX2 goal aims to double wild tiger numbers by 2050.

3. Tiger is Critically Endangered under IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. Which of the following statements is/are NOT true about Asiatic lion?

1. Asiatic lions are slightly bigger than African lions.

2. Asiatic lions were once distributed upto the state of West Bengal in the east and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, in central India.

3. At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

45. Consider the following statements about Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)

1. Land falling within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are declared as eco fragile zones or ESZs under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. The purpose of the ESZ was to provide more protection to the parks by acting as a shock absorber or transition zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. Help Us Green initiatives that were recently awarded the UN 'Momentum for Change' climate action award belongs to which of the following country?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Israel
- c) Nepal

d) India

47. With reference to National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), consider the following statements:

1. It was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
2. It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)
3. National Ganga Council has been dissolved in consequent to constitution of NGRBA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. With reference to the revised guidelines for ground water extraction in India, which of the following is/are exempted from the requirement of No Objection Certificate.

1. Agricultural users
2. Users employing non-energised means to extract water.
3. Individual households using less than 1 inch diameter delivery pipe
4. Armed Forces Establishments during operational deployment

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

49. With reference to the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), consider the following statements:

1. It is a inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of only four South Asian countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and India.
2. The root for formation of SAWEN is in the 'Jaipur Declaration'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Consider the following statement:

1. REDD+ is a mechanism developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2. Under REDD+ Developing countries would receive results-based payments for results-based actions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. With reference to the recent amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 consider the following statement:

1. Amendment allows growing of bamboo in farmlands, beyond a subsistence level, to meet the raw material requirement of artisans and entrepreneurs.

2. After amendment bamboo was categorised as a tree and as a result, felled or extracted bamboo, whether found in or brought from a forest, was considered as "timber".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

52. Which of the following is/are the outcome of COP24 climate change conference recently held in Katowice, Poland.?

1. India announced that it would double its contribution to the Green Climate Fund.
 2. Agreement on the Katowice Rule book that lays down how countries' national climate contributions should be measured, compared and forwarded to the UNFCCC secretariat.
 3. Agreement on how countries will step up their targets on cutting emissions is finalised.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

53. With reference to 'Kashmir stag', consider the following statements:

1. It is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It is the only sub-species of European red deer in India.
3. Dachigam National Park in Srinagar is considered to be the last undisturbed home of the Kashmiri stag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Bahuda river originates from the Ramgiri hills in Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. Bahuda rookery a major mass nesting site of olive ridleys

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. Which of the following best describes the term 'Fall Armyworm' sometimes seen in the news?

- a) A devastating insect-pest, has been identified for the first time on the Indian subcontinent.
- b) A malicious software program loaded onto a user's computer without the user's knowledge and performs malicious actions.
- c) An active and advanced nuclear weapons program of North Korea
- d) A rock in the asteroid belt that may predate the solar system.

1. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It aims to tackle air pollution both in rural and urban areas. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Management of Indoor air pollution is a part of NCAP. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The National Clean Air Programme is a pollution control initiative that was launched by the Ministry of Environment with the intention to cut the concentration of coarse (PM₁₀) and fine particles (PM_{2.5}) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison. It is a comprehensive strategy to tackle air pollution in the rural and urban areas.

The main objectives of the programme are augmenting air quality monitoring network, Plan for the 100 non-attainment cities, Indoor air pollution monitoring & management, Air pollution health impact studies, setting up of air information center among others.

Context: Comprehensive mechanism to tackle air pollution through NCAP.

2. Answer: a

Explanation:

The central financial assistance is given for setting up of the waste energy projects. The projects using the agriculture waste, urban MSW, food processing industrial wastes and wastes from animal husbandry & poultry. Some of which are exempted from the benefit are the plants based on baggage, effluents from the distillery plants and fossil fuel processing industries. These plants will reduce the waste accumulation and energy generation. But the capacity of these plants functioning in India is very much below the amount of waste generated in India.

Context: Innovative projects to convert the plastic into diesel oil.

3. Answer: c

Explanation:

The 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference was the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), also known as the Katowice Climate Change Conference. It is the continuation of the Paris Climate Change agreement. The approval of the Paris Agreement Working Programme was made in the COP 24. Katowice is located in Poland.

Context: Cabinet provided approval to India's approach in Katowice conference.

4. Answer: d

Explanation:

The tribal cultures are intertwined with the healthy biodiversity of the area in which they are living. Till date some of the rich biodiversity lies in the sacred groves, which are worshipped and protected by the tribes in many parts of India. Some of the examples of them are the Idu Mishmi tribe from Arunachal Pradesh, Chenchu Tribe from Andhra Pradesh and the Bishnoi from Rajasthan. But there are many instances that these tribes are evacuated from their places in order to protect the wildlife in the area. These causes mass protest and loss of their livelihood as their whole life is interlinked to these forests.

Context: Eviction of the tribes under the screen of wildlife protection.

5. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a legally binding international agreement to restore land productivity. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Global Environmental Facility is the financial mechanism for the UNCCD. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. All parties of the convention work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.

As the dynamics of land, climate, and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources. Global Environment Facility acts as the financial mechanism to the UNCCD.

Context: UNCCD released a framework for Land Degradation Neutrality.

6. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is the tallest flying bird in the world found in large numbers in Uttar Pradesh. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It has been classified as vulnerable in the IUCN red list. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

STATEMENT 3: They live very close to human civilization like paddy fields and wetlands. Hence statement 3 is correct.

The Sarus crane is the tallest flying bird in the world standing 152-156 cm tall with a wingspan of 240cm. Known to mate for life with a single partner, its breeding season coincides with heavy rainfall in monsoon. Nests are constructed on the water in natural wetlands or in flooded paddy fields. Usually, a clutch has only one or two eggs, which are incubated by both parents for a period of 26 to 35 days. The juveniles follow their parents from the day of birth.

The main threat to the Sarus crane in India is habitat loss and degradation due to draining the wetland and conversion of land for agriculture. The landscape of its historic range is rapidly changing due to the construction of highways, housing colonies, roads, and railway lines. More recently, many deaths have been recorded due to collision with power lines.

The Sarus crane has three disjunct populations in the Indian subcontinent, south-east Asia and northern Australia with an estimated global population of 25,000-37,000 individuals. In the Indian subcontinent, it is found in northern and central India, Terai Nepal and Pakistan. It was once a common sight in the paddy fields of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam. Their population is now on the decline with only 15,000-20,000 found in India, a majority of which are in Uttar Pradesh. The Sarus crane is known for its ability to live in association with humans, inhabiting open, cultivated, well-watered plains, marshlands, and jheels. These areas suit them well for foraging, roosting and nesting.

Context: Increase in the population of the Sarus Crane.

7. Answer: b

Explanation:

CA|TS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standards) Accreditation is a set of 17 minimum elements with associated standards and criteria for effective management of tiger conservation areas. It provides an opportunity for individual tiger conservation areas or networks of areas to demonstrate their commitment to, and success in, protecting tigers. It is a voluntary, independent scheme for any area involved in tiger conservation. It also provides an incentive to those responsible for tiger conservation areas to improve the effectiveness of management and so contribute to the goal of doubling the number of tigers by 2022.

Context: Doubling of Tiger population by 2022.

8. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is the subscheme of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It has a differential approach to each region. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in which National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is being implemented as a sub scheme.

It aims to promote holistic growth of the bamboo sector by adopting an area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing. Under the Mission, steps have been taken to increase the availability of quality planting material by supporting the setting up of new nurseries and strengthening of existing ones. To address forward integration, the Mission is taking steps to strengthen the marketing of bamboo products, especially those of handicraft items.

Context: Restructuring of the National Bamboo Mission.

9. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It mainstreams environmental concerns into Indian Agriculture. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It also proposed to protect critical biodiversity in five states of India. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3: It is funded by the Global environment facility but implemented by the Government of India along with FAO. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

Green Ag project aims to catalyze a transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes. The institutionalization of intersectoral mechanisms in agricultural and allied sectors, forestry and natural resources management, and economic development at the national and five States will facilitate continued mainstreaming of environmental concerns and priorities related to resilience into the agriculture sector, beyond project end. It will be implemented at 1. Madhya Pradesh: Chambal Landscape, 2. Mizoram: Dampa Landscape, 3. Odisha: Similipal Landscape, 4. Rajasthan: Desert National Park Landscape and 5. Uttarakhand: Corbett-Rajaji Landscape.

It is funded by the Global Environmental Facility and implemented by the Food and Research Organisation and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change along with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Context: Indian Agriculture project with FAO.

10. Answer: d**Explanation:**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words, they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level. India proposed to remove the rosewood from appendix 2 of the convention.

The convention has three different appendices and various species are listed in them.

Appendix 1 includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

Appendix 2 includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

Appendix 3 contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.

Context: India made a reservation regarding the rosewood in appendix 2.

11. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is an alliance formed by the thirty companies to end the plastic pollution. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It aims to adopt circular economy as a solution to avoid plastic pollution. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The cross value chain Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), currently made up of nearly 30 member companies, has committed over USD 1.0 billion with the goal of investing USD 1.5 billion over the next five years to help end plastic waste in the environment. The global companies alliance will develop and bring to scale solutions that will minimise and manage plastic waste and promote solutions for used plastics by helping to enable a circular economy. The alliance is a not-for-profit organisation that includes companies that make, use, sell, process, collect and recycle plastics. This includes chemical and plastic manufacturers, consumer goods companies, retailers, converters, and waste management companies, also known as the plastics value chain. The alliance has been working with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development as a founding strategic partner. The circular economy is different from the traditional one as it reuse the materials and make optimum utilisation of the resources.

Context: Steps taken by the private corporates to reduce plastic pollution.

12. Answer: c

Explanation:

Polar Vortex is a belt of air circulation around the poles. This air circle acts as a barrier to the extreme cold air of the polar regions moving equator side. There will be occasional weakening of this air circle which allows the flow of the cold air to enter equatorwards from both poles. The movement of the cold air will affect the area through which it moves. It is the main cause for the extreme freezing weather conditions that prevailed in the north american countries. It is all attributed to the phenomenon of climate change and global warming.

Context: Bitter cold in most parts of the US.

13. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is caused due to poor sanitation and drinking water which is the result of poverty. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: They are mostly communicable diseases that spreads through animals or water. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) is a diverse group of communicable diseases that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions in 149 countries. Populations living in poverty, without adequate sanitation and in close contact with infectious vectors and domestic animals and livestock are those worst affected. Implementation of appropriate measures with high coverage will contribute to achieving the targets of the WHO NTD Roadmap on neglected tropical diseases, resulting in the elimination of many and the eradication of at least two by 2020. Some of the examples of NTD are Buruli Ulcer, Rabies, Leprosy, and soil transmitted helminthiasis among others.

Context: Reappearance of Leprosy in India.

14. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: National programme for organic production of Ministry of Commerce and Industry promotes organic farming in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under the organic certification of Government of India. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Government of India has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). It comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The national programme involves the accreditation programme for Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming etc.

Among all the states, Madhya Pradesh has covered the largest area under organic certification followed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. During 2016, Sikkim has achieved a remarkable distinction of converting its entire cultivable land under organic certification. In terms of export value realization Oilseeds (47.6%) lead among the products followed by Cereals and millet (10.4%), Plantation crop products such as Tea and Coffee (8.96%), Dry fruits (8.88%), Spices and condiments (7.76%) and others.

Context: Sikkim organic policy was recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

15. Answer: b**Explanation:**

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). It has in its journey of seventeen years become a focal point for global leaders and practitioners to congregate at a single platform to discuss and deliberate over climatic issues of universal importance. The 2019 summit themed on 'Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise', WSDS 2019 seeks to create action frameworks to resolve some of the most urgent challenges facing developing economies in the backdrop of climate change, including – clean oceans, transport & mobility, sustainable agriculture, climate finance and energy transition. Its main aim is to fast-track solutions to financing development, renewable energy, sustainable value chains and other far-reaching, systemic challenges represented by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Context: Sustainable development summit of global importance in India.

16. Answer: b**Explanation:**

The Larsen Ice Shelf is a long ice shelf in the northwest part of the Weddell Sea, extending along the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula from Cape Longing to Smith Peninsula. It is named for Captain Carl Anton Larsen, the master of the Norwegian whaling vessel Jason, who sailed along the ice front as far as 68°10' South during December 1893. In finer detail, the Larsen Ice Shelf is a series of shelves that occupy distinct embayments along the coast. From north to south, the segments are called Larsen A (the smallest), Larsen B, and Larsen C (the largest) by researchers who work in the area. Further south, Larsen D and the much smaller Larsen E, F, and G are also named. Recently a large section of the Larsen C had broken away causing a huge threat due to global warming.

Context: Breaking away of the Larsen C iceberg.

17. Answer: A**Explanation :**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The Sundarban Reserve Forest (SRF) in India, located within the largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, is now a Wetland of International Importance, making it the largest protected wetland in the country. It is the largest Ramsar Site in India.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as The Sundarbans was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

Sundarbans

- The Sundarbans is a mangrove area in the delta formed by the confluence of Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers in the Bay of Bengal.
- It spans from the Hooghly River in India's state of West Bengal to the Baleswar River in Bangladesh.
- It comprises closed and open mangrove forests, agriculturally used land, mudflats and barren land, and is intersected by multiple tidal streams and channels.
- Four protected areas in the Sundarbans are enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, viz Sundarbans National Park, Sundarbans West, Sundarbans South and Sundarbans East Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Context: India has designated Sundarban Reserve Forests as the wetlands of International Importance, making it the 27th site in India.

18. Answer: B

Explanation :

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties"

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.
- Every three years, representatives of the Contracting Parties meet as the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), the policy-making organ of the Convention which adopts decisions (Resolutions and Recommendations) to administer the work of the Convention and improve the way in which the Parties are able to implement its objectives.[3] COP12 was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 2015. COP13 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in October 2018.

Context: India has designated Sundarban Reserve Forests as the wetlands of International Importance, making it the 27th site in India.

19. Answer : D

Explanation :

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as Currently, two wetlands of India are in Montreux record viz. Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan and Loktak Lake, Manipur. Further, Chilka lake was placed in the record but was later removed from it.

Montreux Record

- The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance' where variations in ecological character have happened, are happening, or are likely to happen as an outcome of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.

- Wetlands are areas of fen, marsh, peatland or water, whether artificial or natural, temporary or permanent, with water that is flowing or static, brackish, fresh or salt, including marine water areas, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.
- The Montreux Record should be employed to identify priority sites for positive international and national attention towards conservation. Sites may be removed from and added to the Record only with Contracting Parties' approval in which they lie.
- The Montreux Record maintained as part of the Ramsar List. Currently, 51 sites were listed in the Montreux Record. Indian sites in the like Keoladeo National Park-Rajasthan, Loktak Lake – Manipur are included in the Montreux Record.

Context: India has designated Sundarban Reserve Forests as the wetlands of International Importance, making it the 27th site in India.

20. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The member organisations of the Asian Elephant Alliance are Elephant Family, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IUCN Netherlands, Wildlife Trust of India and World Land Trust. So it is not initiative of United Nation Environment Program (UNEP). It is an initiative of these five Non Governmental Organisation (NGO).

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as It was launched in July 2015 in London, United Kingdom.

Asian Elephant Alliance

- In the light of increasing fragmentation of forests and rising Human–Elephant conflict in India, five NGOs united under a MoU to raise £20 million for securing 100 elephant corridors in India by 2025.
- The five non-governmental organisations are Elephant Family, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IUCN Netherlands, World Land Trust and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), united with a common goal under the umbrella of the Asian Elephant Alliance.
- With 100 elephant corridors documented by WTI in consultation with the forest departments, this alliance aims to secure a safe passage for India's elephants, which comprise approximately half of the world's wild Asian elephant population.

Context: A Study in Karnataka concluded that landscape-level management is necessary for mitigating human-elephant conflicts.

21. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, covering about 1,197 km² (462 sq mi), is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh state in India.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction in India. The cheetah prey density were reasonable and based on current prey density the area could support about 25 cheetahs.

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, covering about 1,197 km² (462 sq mi), is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh state in India.
- This wildlife sanctuary is a part of 5500 km² of forested landscape. It is located in the centre of the state covering parts of Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Raisen Districts.
- It is about 90 km from Jabalpur and about 56 km from Sagar.
- It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction in India. The cheetah prey density were reasonable and based on current prey density the area could support about 25 cheetahs. 750 km² area was recommended by relocation of 23 villages.
- After relocating the species, the site could support over 50 cheetahs and Nauradehi could harbour over 70 individuals.

Context: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has reported to the Supreme Court that African cheetahs, to be translocated in India from Namibia, will be kept at Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh

22. Answer : C**Explanation :**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The cheetah is a large cat of the subfamily Felinae that occurs in North, Southern and East Africa, and a few localities in Iran. It inhabits a variety of mostly arid habitats like dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs. The species is IUCN Red Listed as Vulnerable, as it suffered a substantial decline in its historic range in the 20th century due to habitat loss, poaching for the illegal pet trade, and conflict with humans..

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as It is the flagship species of African grassland

23. Answer : A**Explanation :**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as One of the world's rarest mammals, Indus River Dolphins has received an exceptional distinction. Found only in India and Pakistan in the Beas river, the generally playful Indus Dolphins have been declared Punjab's State aquatic animal.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as IUCN(International Union for Conservation of Nature) conservation status for Indus Dolphin is Endangered and not Critically Endangered.

Indus Dolphin

- Indus river dolphins are one of only four river dolphin species and subspecies in the world that spend all of their lives in freshwater.
- They are believed to have originated in the ancient Tethys Sea. When the sea dried up approximately 50 million years ago, the dolphins were forced to adapt to its only remaining habitat—rivers.
- Only 1,816 exist today in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan. Numbers declined dramatically after the construction of an irrigation system. Most dolphins are confined to a 750 mile stretch of the river and divided into isolated populations by six barrages.
- They have adapted to life in the muddy river and are functionally blind. They rely on echolocation to navigate, communicate and hunt prey including prawns, catfish and carp.

Context: Government of Punjab declared the Indus Dolphin as Punjab's 'State Aquatic Animal'.

24. Answer: C**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), also called the greater one-horned rhinoceros and great Indian rhinoceros, is a rhinoceros native to the Indian subcontinent. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, as populations are fragmented and restricted to less than 20,000 km² (7,700 sq mi).

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act. It is threatened by poaching, habitat destruction, flooding etc.

Great One-Horned Rhinoceros or Indian Rhino

- The Great one horned rhino is commonly found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and in Assam, India. It is confined to the tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas. The Indian Rhinoceros can run at speeds of up to 25 mph (40 km/h) for short periods of time and is also an excellent swimmer. It has excellent senses of hearing and smell, but relatively poor eyesight.
- However, no more than 2,000 remain in the wild, with only two populations containing more than 100 rhinos: Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India (1,200) and Chitwan National Park (CNP), Nepal (600). Despite joint efforts between Bhutan and India, the survival of a small population of rhinos living along the Indo-Bhutan border in Manas still remains doubtful (Jnawali et.al, 2000).
- The Indian and Nepalese governments have taken major steps toward Indian Rhinoceros conservation with the help of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- The Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park in Assam, Pobitora reserve forest in Assam (having the highest Indian rhino density in the world), Orang National park of Assam,

Laokhowa reserve forest of Assam having a very small population and Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal are homes for this endangered animal.

Context: 2nd Asian Rhino Range Countries (i.e. India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia and Malaysia) meeting, has signed- The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019.

25. Answer : B

Explanation :

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The scheme is under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG).

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana" for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN((Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran)) yojana:

- 12 Commercial Scale and 10 demonstration scale Second Generation (2G) ethanol Projects will be provided through Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support.
- The scheme focuses to incentivise 2G Ethanol sector and support this nascent industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.

Context: Recently Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana.

26. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This program was launched alongside the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as It is executed by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP). Small Grants Programme (SGP):

- Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally and acting locally".
- By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.
- SGP recognizes that environmental degradation such as the destruction of ecosystems and the species that depend upon them, increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, pollution of international waters, land degradation and the spread of persistent organic pollutants are life-threatening challenges that endanger us all.
- However, poor and vulnerable communities –SGP's primary stakeholders- are most at risk because they depend on access to natural resources for their livelihoods and often live in fragile ecosystems.
- The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups for projects in Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management, International Waters and Chemicals.

27. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The National Mission for Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It aims at protecting; restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as its objectives is to increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another 5 mha of forest/non-forest lands;

National Mission for Green India

- The National Mission for Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It aims at protecting; restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures. It envisages a holistic view of greening and focuses on multiple ecosystem services, especially, biodiversity, water, biomass, preserving mangroves, wetlands, critical habitats etc. along with carbon sequestration as a co-benefit.
- This mission has adopted an integrated cross-sectoral approach as it will be implemented on both public as well as private lands with a key role of the local communities in planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring.

Mission Goals

- To increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another 5 mha of forest/non-forest lands;

28. Answer : C

Explanation :

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as total budget of the project for 3 years that amounts to nearly Rs. 9784 lakh will be funded from the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH) with the contributing ratio being 60:40 of Central and State share.

Asiatic Lion Conservation Project:

- The Asiatic Lion Conservation Project" will strengthen the ongoing measures for conservation and recovery of Asiatic Lion with the help of state-of-the-art techniques/ instruments, regular scientific research studies, disease management, Modern surveillance/ patrolling techniques.
- The Union minister further stated that the total budget of the project for 3 years that amounts to nearly Rs. 9784 lakh will be funded from the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH) with the contributing ratio being 60:40 of Central and State share.
- Asiatic lions that once ranged from Persia (Iran) to Palamau in Eastern India were almost driven to extinction by indiscriminate hunting and habitat loss. A single population of less than 50 lions persisted in the Gir forests of Gujarat by late 1890's.

Context: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has launched the "Asiatic Lion Conservation Project"

29. Answer : A

Explanation :

Government of Assam has decided to raise Special Rhino Protection Force from the local youth hailing from the fringe areas of UNESCO's world heritage site of Kaziranga National Park. The force would be exclusively used for Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Manas National Park.

Context: Assam Chief Minister gave away appointment letters to 90 constables who will form the crux of Special Rhino Protection Force raised by the state government.

30. Answer: B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect but statement 2 is correct: The Punganur cow, considered one of the world's smallest breeds of cattle, is said to be on the verge of extinction due to cross-breeding being conducted by farmers, according to livestock journals.

The Punganur cow is diminutive, with a height of 70 cm to 90 cm and weighs around 115 to 200 kg. In comparison, the famous Ongole bull stands tall at 1.70 metres and weighs 500 kg. Both breeds trace their origins to Andhra Pradesh.

Statement: 3 is correct: The Punganur cow has become a status symbol in recent years as wealthy livestock farmers began buying it, believing it brings good luck.

Context: Scientists launch study to help Punganur cow back on its knees.

31. Answer : A**Explanation :**

Recently NITI Aayog, International Energy Agency (IEA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) released a report titled "Low Carbon Strategy for Renewable Energy Integration".

Context: Workshop Report 2018 The Indian Power Sector Low Carbon Strategy for Renewable Energy Integration

32. Answer: A**Explanation:**

Out of all the options given, Sariska represents a tiger habitat spread over the world's oldest mountain range- the Aravallis. It is a resilient ecosystem with a high prey density, and has the unique distinction of successfully reintroducing the tiger after its local extinction. So option (a) is correct.

Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is a national park and tiger reserve located in Alwar district of the state of Rajasthan, India. It stretches over an area of 866 km² (334 sq mi) comprising scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills.
- This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955. It was given the status of a tiger reserve making it a part of India's Project Tiger in 1978. The wildlife sanctuary was declared a national park in 1990, with a total area of about 273.8 km² (105.7 sq mi). It is the first reserve in the world to have successfully relocated tigers.

MUKUNDRA HILLS TIGER RESERVE :

- Darrah National Park in Rajasthan, India is a national park established in 2004 consisting of three wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan—Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, and Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. The national park contains large tracts of forests formerly part of the Maharaja of Kota's hunting grounds.

Approach: There was news regarding the Mathikettan Shola national park. There is concern regarding environmental degradation due to the INO project

33. Answer : A**Explanation :**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released its first ever global assessment of environmental laws titled "Environmental Rule of Law".

Environmental Rule of Law

- Drafted by researchers from the Environmental Law Institute under the direction of a team from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the report titled, 'Environmental Rule of Law,' details the many developments in environmental law since 1972, as countries gradually understand the linkages between the environment, economic growth, public health, social cohesion, and security.

- As of 2017, 176 countries have environmental framework laws, 150 countries have enshrined environmental protection or the right to a healthy environment in their constitutions, and 164 countries have created cabinet-level bodies responsible for environmental protection.
- In addition, over 350 environmental courts and tribunals have been established in over 50 countries, and more than 60 countries have at least some legal provisions on the citizens' right to environmental information.

Context: First ever global assessment of environmental laws titled "Environmental Rule of Law" was recently released.

34. Answer : D

Explanation :

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) recently released the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment report.

Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment report

- Ten major rivers of Hindu Kush Himalaya are a lifeline for nearly 2 billion people in eight countries.
- But there are widespread variations in total volume and per capita water withdrawal, contribution of surface & groundwater to total withdrawals, and percentage of water withdrawals from total renewable freshwater resources, says Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment, a new report by ICIMOD.

Context: The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) recently released the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment report.

35. Answer : D

Explanation :

National wind energy mission is not under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

- Published in 2008 by the then-Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change (Government of India), the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) aims at creating awareness among the representatives of the public, different agencies of the government, scientists, industry and the community as a whole, on the threat posed by climate change and the steps proposed at the level of India to counter these changes.

36. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched REPLAN (REducing PLastic in Nature) Program.

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as In the project REPLAN, the waste plastic from nature is collected, followed by the process of cleaning, chopping, beating and chemical treatment for softness. After that, it is mixed with the paper raw material i.e cotton rags pulp in a ratio of 80 % (pulp) and 20% (plastic waste) and finally sheet making.

Context: REPLAN (REducing PLastic in Nature) Program was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

37. Answer: C

Explanation:

Pair 1 is correctly matched as Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary is in Madhya Pradesh.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched as Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park is in Gujarat.

Pair 3 is correctly matched as Kuno National Park is a protected area in Madhya Pradesh.

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary,

- It covers about 1,197 km² (462 sq mi), is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh state in India.

- This wildlife sanctuary is a part of 5500 km² of forested landscape. It is located in the centre of the state covering parts of Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Raisen Districts. It is about 90 km from Jabalpur and about 56 km from Sagar.
- It is a potential site for the Cheetah Reintroduction in India. The cheetah prey density were reasonable and based on current prey density the area could support about 25 cheetahs. 750 km² area was recommended by relocation of 23 villages.
- After relocating the species, the site could support over 50 cheetahs and Nauradehi could harbour over 70 individuals.

Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park

- Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park is a beautiful place, located in the Bhavnagar district of the state of Gujarat. The sanctuary has been declared primarily for saving the blackbucks.
- The park is located around 42 km from Bhavnagar district, and was established in the year of 1976 in Bhal region of Saurashtra. Total area of the park is about 34.08 Km².
- The park lies between two rivers namely Parvalia and Alang, which drain into the Gulf of Cambay.
- In the past it was a “Vidi” (grassland) of the Maharaja of the princely state of Bhavnagar and used to hunt blackbucks with his famous hunting cheetahs. The grassland also used for grazing.
- This is a unique National Park with exclusive grassland habitat, shrub lands, saline plains and mud flats. More than 1,000 blackbuck exist on the open grasslands of Velavadar.
- The park embraces about over 140 species of birds, 14 species of mammals, 95 species of flowering plants, and many reptiles.

Kuno National Park

- Kuno National Park is a protected area in Madhya Pradesh that received the status of national park in 2018.
- The protected area was established in 1981 as a wildlife sanctuary with an area of 344.686 km² (133.084 sq mi) in the Sheopur and Morena districts.
- It was also known as Kuno-Palpur and Palpur-Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary. It is part of the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.

Context: Project Cheetah was launched in 2009 and expert committee short listed these reserve area where Cheetah could be reintroduced.

38. Answer: D

Explanation:

Pair 1 is correctly matched as Hokera Wetland is in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hokera Wetland

- It is designated as Ramsar convention on November 2005. Located at the northwest Himalayan biogeographic province of Kashmir India, back of the snow-draped Pir Panchal, Hokera wetland is only 10 km from scenic paradise of Srinagar. A natural perennial wetland contiguous to the Jhelum basin.

Pair 2 is correctly matched as

Kanjli Wetland,

- It is a man made Wetland, which subsumes the Kanjli Lake, located in the Kapurthala district of Punjab state in India, was created in 1870 by constructing the headworks across the perennial Bien River, a tributary of the Beas River to provide irrigation facilities to the hinterland.

Kolleru Lake

- It is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia, 15 kilometers away from the city of Eluru. Kolleru is located between Krishna and Godavari deltas.
- Kolleru spans into two districts - Krishna and West Godavari. The lake is fed directly by water from the seasonal Budameru and Tammilerustreams, and is connected to the Krishna and Godavari irrigation systems by over 67 major and minor irrigation canals

39. Answer: A**Explanation:**

The 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference was the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), also known as the Katowice Climate Change Conference. It was held between 2 and 15 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The conference agreed on rules to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Context: Recently COP 24 was held in Katowice

40. Answer : A**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018

Salient Features:

- (i) Allowing FSI as per current norms in CRZ areas: In the CRZ, 2018 Notification, it has been decided to de-freeze the same and permit FSI for construction projects, as prevailing on the date of the new Notification.
- (ii) Densely populated rural areas to be afforded greater opportunity for development: For CRZ-III (Rural) areas, two separate categories have now been stipulated
- (iii) Tourism infrastructure for basic amenities to be promoted: Temporary tourism facilities such as shacks, toilet blocks, change rooms, drinking water facilities etc. have now been permitted in Beaches. Such temporary tourism facilities are also now permissible in the "No Development Zone" (NDZ) of the CRZ-III areas as per the Notification. However, a minimum distance of 10 m from HTL should be maintained for setting up of such facilities.
- (iv) CRZ Clearances streamlined: Only such projects/activities, which are located in the CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas) and CRZ IV (area covered between Low Tide Line and 12 Nautical Miles seaward) shall be dealt with for CRZ clearance by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The powers for clearances with respect to CRZ-II and III have been delegated at the State level with necessary guidance. (so statement 2 is correct but 3 is incorrect)
- (v) A No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 meters has been stipulated for all Islands (so statement 1 is incorrect)
- (vi) All Ecologically Sensitive Areas have been accorded special importance
- (vii) Pollution abatement has been accorded special focus
- (viii) Defence and strategic projects have been accorded necessary dispensation.

Context: Cabinet approves Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2018

41. Answer: D**Explanation:**

Both statements are incorrect as Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.

The project was launched at the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in June 2017 and is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal #14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Why has Seabed 2030 been setup?

Knowing the depth and shape of the seafloor (bathymetry) is fundamental for understanding ocean circulation, tides, tsunami forecasting, fishing resources, sediment transport, environmental change, underwater geo-hazards, cable and pipeline routing, mineral extraction, oil and gas exploration and development, infrastructure construction and maintenance and much more.

Context: recently it appears in the news as this U.N.-backed project Seabed 2030 is pooling data from the countries and companies to create a map of the entire ocean floor.

42. Answer: B**Explanation:**

Great Indian Bustard is popularly known as 'Godawan', and it is Rajasthan's state bird. The state government has also started "Project Godawan" for its conservation at Desert National Park (DNP) in Jaisalmer. It's one of the Species for The Recovery Programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Some facts about Great Indian bustard

- ★ It's among the heaviest bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs giving it an ostrich like appearance.
- ★ Habitat: Arid and semi-arid grasslands, open country with thorn scrub, tall grass interspersed with cultivation. It avoids irrigated areas.
- ★ It is endemic to Indian Sub-continent, found in central India, western India and eastern Pakistan

Context: A recent study suggests that, Great Indian Bustard population has been falling continuously

43. Answer: A**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is correct but Statement 2 is incorrect because In 2010, at the Tiger Summit in St Petersburg, Nepal and the 12 other tiger range countries committed to the most ambitious and visionary species conservation goal ever set: TX2 – to double wild tiger numbers by 2022, the next year of the tiger.

Statement: 3 is incorrect as Tiger is Endangered under IUCN Red List.

THREATS TIGERS ARE FACING

Tigers are facing an increasing number of problems when it comes to surviving in the regions they have previously thrived in for thousands of years.

- Poaching – every single part of the tiger is traded in illegal markets. It is used in traditional Asian medicine which has no medicinal value at all, making the deaths of these animals for this purpose unnecessary.
- Habitat Loss – tigers have lost 93% of their historical range as their habitat has been destroyed or degraded by human activity.
- Human-Wildlife Conflict – with smaller forests to hunt in, tigers are forced to kill livestock and when they do the farmers often retaliate and kill the big cat.

Context: In a recent study by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) found that under optimal conditions, tiger numbers can triple in 18 sites across the world, including eight in India.

44. Answer: A**Explanation:**

Only statement 1 is not correct as Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions. Adult males weigh 160 to 190 kg, while females weigh 110 to 120 kg. The height at the shoulders is about 3.5 ft (110 cm).

Habitat and Distribution

Asiatic lions were once distributed upto the state of West Bengal in east and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, in central India. At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only abode of the Asiatic lion. The last surviving population of the Asiatic lions is a compact tract of dry deciduous forest and open grassy scrublands in southwestern part of Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

Context: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project”

45. Ans: C**Explanation:**

The National Wildlife Action Plan (2002–2016) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) stipulated that state governments should declare land falling within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as eco fragile zones or ESZs under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. The purpose of the ESZ was to provide more protection to the parks by acting as a shock absorber or transition zone.

Context: The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to declare "at the earliest" 10 km area around 21 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) to protect wild birds and animals.

46. Ans: D**Explanation:**

Help Us Green is an Indian group. Helpusgreen aims at preserving River Ganges by flowercycling the waste from temples and mosques in India and Bangladesh through livelihoods.

They collect tons of floral-waste from temples on a daily basis. These sacred flowers are handcrafted into charcoal-free incense, organic vermicompost and biodegradable packaging material through our 'Flowercycling technology'.

Context: Indian group Help Us Green is one of the fifteen game-changing initiatives that were recently awarded the UN 'Momentum for Change' climate action award at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24).

47. Ans: A**Explanation:**

Only statement 1 and 2 are correct: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986. NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

Context: The India Water Impact Summit 2018 jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies was recently held in New Delhi.

48. Ans: D**Explanation:**

As per the revised guidelines, exemption from requirement of NOC has been given to agricultural users, users employing non-energised means to extract water, individual households (using less than 1 inch diameter delivery pipe) and Armed Forces Establishments during operational deployment or during mobilization in forward locations. Other exemptions have been granted to strategic and operational infrastructure projects for Armed Forces, Defence and Paramilitary Forces Establishments and Government water supply agencies.

Some salient features of the guideline

- Introduction of the concept of Water Conservation Fee (WCF).
- Encouraging use of recycled and treated sewage water by industries
- Provision of action against polluting industries, mandatory requirement of digital flow meters, piezometers and digital water level recorders
- Mandatory roof top rain water harvesting except for specified industries

Context: Recently Central Ground Water Authority of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has notified revised guidelines for ground water extraction.

49. Ans: B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect: South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) is an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of South Asian countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAWEN was officially launched in January, 2011 in Paro Bhutan. It promotes regional cooperation to combat wildlife crime in South Asia.

SAWEN operates its activities from the Secretariat based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Statement: 2 is correct: A major milestone towards the establishment of SAWEN was marked during the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) held in May 2008 in Jaipur, India. This ministerial meeting announced the support for the formation of SAWEN through the 'Jaipur Declaration'.

Context: The governments of India, Nepal and Bhutan are actively considering having a joint task force for allowing free movement of wildlife across political boundaries and checking smuggling of wildlife across the Kanchenjunga Landscape, a trans-boundary region spread across Nepal, India and Bhutan.

50. Ans: C**Explanation:**

Both statements are correct

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism developed in 2005 by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. Developing countries would receive results-based payments for results-based actions. REDD+ goes beyond simply deforestation and forest degradation and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Context: A new study by Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has revealed that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) has largely failed to achieve its objectives.

51. Ans: A**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct: The government of India recently amended the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the new changes can transform the bamboo sector.

The earlier rules did not allow growing of bamboo in farmlands, beyond a subsistence level, to meet the raw material requirement of artisans and entrepreneurs who are involved in generating millions of jobs in rural areas but now it could be possible.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Before, bamboo was categorised as a tree. As a result, felled or extracted bamboo, whether found in or brought from a forest, was considered as "timber" but After amending Section 2(7) of Indian Forest Act, 1927, bamboo is no longer a tree and felled bamboo too is not timber

Context: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has started the process of "comprehensively amending" the backbone of forest governance in India—the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (IFA).

52. Ans: A**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect: Germany will double contribution to Green Climate Fund.

Statement: 2 is correct: In COP 24 there is agreement on the Katowice Rulebook for putting the 2015 Paris agreement into practice. This includes how governments will measure, report on and verify their emissions-cutting efforts.

Statement: 3 is incorrect: COP 24 is largely absent from talks which had a technical focus like the key question of how countries will step up their targets on cutting emissions. On current targets, the world is set for 3C of warming from pre-industrial levels, which scientists say would be disastrous, resulting in droughts, floods, sea level rises and the decline of agricultural productivity

Context: The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the annual meeting of the nations signed up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) This year's conference, the 24th (hence COP24) was held in Katowice, Poland.

53. Ans: D

Explanation:

All statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: Kashmir Stag, also popularly known as Hangul, is the only surviving sub-species of the Red Deer family in Europe in Indian Subcontinent. Once found in high altitude regions of Northern India and Pakistan, the Kashmir Stag is now confined to only Dachigam National Park in Kashmir. It has been considered as one of rarest mammal in the subcontinent since 1950s.

Context: In a recent discovery that the animal, long thought to be confined to the Dachigam National Park, has begun using an old migratory route has given fresh hope to conservationists.

54. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Bahuda river originates from the Ramgiri hills in Gajapati District Odisha. Statement 2 is correct: The Bahuda rookery is located around 20 km to the south of Rushikulya rookery coast, a major mass nesting site of olive ridleys on the Indian coastline.

The olive ridley sea turtle, also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle, are the second smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world; this species of sea turtle is found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Context: The Odisha forest department is all set to add another olive ridley mass nesting site to its wildlife at the Bahuda river mouth in Ganjam district

55. Ans: A

Explanation:

The fall armyworm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda*, a devastating insect-pest, has been identified for the first time on the Indian subcontinent. Native to the Americas, the pest is known to eat over 80 plant species, with a particular preference for maize, a main staple crop around the world. The fall armyworm was first officially reported in Nigeria in West Africa in 2016, and rapidly spread across 44 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Sightings of damage to maize crops in India due to fall armyworm mark the first report of the pest in Asia.

Context: Tamil Nadu State government has recently launched awareness programme among farmers to fight invasive pest fall armyworm that has been wreaking havoc in the farmlands of Maize in the state of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Assam.

Polity

1. Recently economically weaker section among the general category was provided with a 10% reservation. Consider the following statements about this reservation:

1. It was enacted through the passing of 124th constitutional amendment bill to provide reservation in education and employment.
2. The reservation for the economically weaker section cannot be claimed in the minority educational institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements about the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail:

1. It will be used in all polling stations in the 17th Lok Sabha general elections.
2. It displays only the symbol of the candidate for seven seconds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. A group of employees in a manufacturing industry is planning to form a union in the industry. The formation of a trade union in India is an

- a) Fundamental right
- b) Constitutional right
- c) Legal Right
- d) Human right

4. Elections form the bedrock of any democracy. Consider the following statements about the election commission of India:

1. The chief election commissioner has a tenure of five years and enjoys the status of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
2. The election commission cannot review any poll results of its own.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements about the national cooperation development corporation:

1. It is a statutory body with the objective of promoting the principles of cooperation in India.

2. The Union Minister of Corporate Affairs heads the board of management of NCDC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

6. Right to information ensures accountability among bureaucratic circles in India. In this context, consider the following statements about the RTI Act, 2005:

1. Only Indian citizens can claim information under the Right to Information Act.

2. Any complaint to the Information Commission has to be filed within one year for the day of a cause of action.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about the defense procurement policy of India:

1. Only fighter aircraft and helicopters are included in the segments for the strategic partnership model.

2. Products with around 40% of indigenous components will be given the highest priority in the procurement process.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements about the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India:

1. National e-Governance Services Limited is the first information utility under IBC.

2. The Union Minister of Finance is the ex-officio chairman of the insolvency board.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements about bicameral state legislature:

1. Ordinary bills can be introduced in either house of the state legislature

2. In case of deadlock, the Governor will conduct a joint sitting presided by the speaker of the assembly to resolve the issue

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. Consider the following statements about the National Statistical Commission:

1. It is the apex statutory body functioning under the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation.

2. The commission was formed based on the recommendation of the Rangarajan Committee.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. Who among the following is/are part of the committee recommending the appointment of the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation?

- 1. Prime Minister
- 2. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
- 3. Speaker of Lok Sabha
- 4. Chief Justice of India

Select the correct code from the following:

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

12. The Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament is constituted by

- a) President of India
- b) Speaker of Lok Sabha
- c) Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- d) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

13. Consider the following statements about the Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958:

1. No prosecution can be made against persons exercising power conferred under the act.

2. A person arrested under this act needs to be produced before the nearest police station.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements about the Delimitation Commission:

1. It is a statutory body to fix the boundary limits of the territorial constituencies.

2. The order of the commission cannot be questioned in any court in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. Which of the following options are available to the President of India in case of the constitutional amendment bill presented to him?

- 1. Give assent to the bill
- 2. Withholding assent to the bill
- 3. Return the bill to the parliament

Select the correct code from the following:

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

16. Consider the following statements about the Parliamentary Forum:

1. Each parliamentary forum consists of not more than ten members from Rajya Sabha.

2. The speaker of the Lok Sabha is the ex-officio president of all the parliamentary forums.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Which of the following can be introduced as a private member bill in Indian Parliament?

- a) Ordinary bill
- b) Money bill
- c) Constitution amendment bill
- d) All the above

18. The location of the Supreme Court of India causes hardships in approaching it by common people from different parts of India. In this context, who among the following

decides the location for the seat of Supreme Court of India?

- a) President
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Chief Justice of India
- d) Union Minister for Law and Justice

19. Consider the following statements about the National Security Act, 1980:

1. It empowers the centre and the state government to detain a person for a maximum of one year.

2. No first information report will be filed for the cases under the national security act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

20. The allocation of the cases among the judicial benches in a court is made by the Master of Roster. In this context, who among the following is the Master of Roster for the Supreme Court of India?

- a) President of India
- b) Chief Justice of India
- c) Register of the Supreme Court
- d) The Collegium of Supreme Court Judges

21. Consider the following statements about the National Productivity Council:

1. It is formed by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry to use advanced knowledge for inclusive growth.

2. It is a part of the intergovernmental Asian Productivity Organisation based in Japan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

22. Which of the following is the correct description of the Nyaya Bandhu?

- a) Scheme to reduce judicial pendency
- b) Tele-law services for marginal section
- c) Judicial functions of the village panchayats
- d) Live telecasting of the court proceedings

23. The National Foundation of Communal Harmony function under which of the following Ministry?

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Culture

c) Ministry of Human Resource and Development

d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

24. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the overseas citizenship of India?

a) OCI cardholder can visit India without a visa for lifelong.

b) Registration with the local police station for staying in India for more than six months is mandatory.

c) Persons with ancestral roots in Pakistan or Bangladesh are not eligible for the overseas citizenship of India.

d) The citizenship will be canceled on the imprisonment of more than two years within five years of getting the OCI status.

25. Which of the following is not part of the directive principles of state policy in the original constitution?

- a) Participation of workers in management
- b) Safeguarding the forest and wildlife
- c) Free legal aid to the poor
- d) All of the above directives

26. Consider the following statements about the National Emergency?

1. Proclamation of the national emergency automatically suspends the fundamental right to freedom.

2. Revocation of the national emergency can be made by the President even without the approval of the Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27. Which of the following parliamentary committees are headed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha?

- 1. General purpose committee
- 2. Business advisory committee
- 3. Rules committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

28. Tribunals are formed to reduce the pressure on the judiciary and provide speedy justice. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. The administrative tribunals to both the Union and the state are established by the parliament.
2. The parliament has the power to transfer the administrative disputes before the courts to the tribunals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

29. Gujral doctrine was one of the major milestones in the foreign policy of India. Consider the following statements about the Gujral doctrine:

1. The doctrine emphasis on the supreme importance of friendly and cordial relation with the neighboring countries.
2. It is based on the general principle of reciprocity in action between countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements about the general elections of India:

1. If the candidate is elected from two seats, he/she has to vacate one seat otherwise both seats will become vacant.
2. A candidate cannot contest in more than two constituencies in the general elections.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

31. Consider the following statements about the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre:

1. It is an institution of national importance that will replace the International center for Alternative Dispute Resolution.
2. Only the judge of the supreme court or a high court can be appointed as the chairperson of the center.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

32. Consider the following statements about the Central WAQF Board:

1. It is a statutory body to advise the central and state government in the WAQF administration.
2. It functions under the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs with a Union Minister as its ex-officio chairman.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

33. Who among the following establish the circuit benches for the high courts?

- a) President of India
- b) Chief Justice of India
- c) The collegium of the Supreme Court
- d) Chief Justice of the High Court

34. With Reference to Electoral Reforms In India, Consider the following statements about 'Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail(VVPAT)':

1. A paper slip printed through the VVPAT contains the poll symbol only and not the name of the candidate.
2. The paper slip printed through the VVPAT is given to voter physically.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements about 'National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)':

1. It is a statutory body to protect the interests of the Scheduled Tribes.
2. The Commission presents an annual report to the Parliament regarding protection and welfare of the Scheduled Tribes

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements about 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)':

1. At present, it works as a non-statutory body.
2. It works under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. With reference to the administration of Union Territories, Consider the following statements :

1. The Parliament can make laws on any subject of the three lists (Union, State, and Concurrent List) for the all union territories except Puducherry and Delhi.
2. The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the all-union territories except for Puducherry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Which of the following provisions is/are to ensure impartial functioning of the Supreme Court?

1. The judges of the Supreme Court are provided with the Security of Tenure.
2. The retired judges of the Supreme Court are prohibited from pleading or acting in any Court or before any authority within the territory of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

39. Which Schedule of the Constitution has Provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

- a) Fourth Schedule
- b) Fifth Schedule
- c) Sixth Schedule
- d) Seventh Schedule

40. Consider the following statements about 'Composition of Lok Sabha' :

1. The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 550.
2. The president can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian community if the community is not adequately represented in the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Which one of the following directives principles is based on Socialistic Principles?

- a) Separation of Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state
- b) Promotion of cottage industries in rural areas.
- c) Promotion of equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor
- d) Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines

42. With reference to the constitutional provisions for demarcation of powers between center and states, consider the following statements:

1. Under article 246, Constitution provides a scheme for demarcation of powers through three 'lists' in the sixth schedule.
2. Public health, sanitation, betting and gambling are part of concurrent list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. The local government constitutes the most critical level of government in the move for sustainable national development, Consider the following statements about Panchayati Raj Elections in India:

1. According to Indian Constitution State Government by law can lay down the qualification for elections to local bodies.
2. If there is any dispute in the Panchayat Elections, courts have no jurisdiction over them.
3. There is no minimum education criteria for contesting local polls in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. 'Witnesses are eyes and ears of the Court', With reference to the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 consider the following statements:

- 1. It spells about the creation of State Witness Protection Fund.
- 2. The responsibility of implementation lies on witness protection cell constituted under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Which of the following has recently announced the initiation of a research project with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore titled 'India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)'?

- a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- b) Ministry of Water Resources
- c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

46. Which of the following high courts in India having territorial jurisdiction lies in more than one States or UTs?

- 1. Guwahati
- 2. Kolkata
- 3. Karnataka
- 4. Kerala

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

47. With reference to the functions of election commission in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The EC has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting MPs and MLAs.
- 2. Electoral Roll for each Panchayat constituency shall be prepared under the

superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. With reference to the difference in president's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir from that in Other States, consider the following statements:

- 1. President's rule under Article 356 cannot be imposed in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2. During the governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir all the functions of the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and all the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State shall subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Consider the following statements about NOTA or 'None of the Above' provided as an option to the voters of India in most elections.

- 1. India became the 1st country to introduce NOTA option in its electoral proceedings.
- 2. It ensured effective political participation of people.
- 3. In the 2014 general election, NOTA polled more than 10% of the vote.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. With reference to the mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of children in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. India is not a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- 2. Draft National Child Protection Policy doesn't talk about children who may need additional special protection measures,

including those affected by migration, communal or sectarian violence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements about 'Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017':

1. It enhance paid maternity leave from a period of 12 weeks to 24 weeks.

2. It is mandatory for every organisation with 50 or more employees to have a crèche.

3. The law is applicable to all institutions with 10 or more employees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

52. Which of the following states of India has recently criminalised 'Sextortion' by Public Servants?

- a) Bihar
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Jammu and kashmir
- d) Gujrat

53. With reference to the findings of Global Gender Gap Report 2018, consider the following statements:

1. Nordic countries dominated the top slots.

2. India maintains a stable ranking this year, but it's gap is larger this year.

3. South Asia was the second-lowest ranking region in the index.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

1. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: The reservation is enacted through the passing of the 124th constitutional amendment bill. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The reservation does not apply to the minority educational institutions. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The 124th constitutional amendment bill will provide a 10% reservation to the economically weaker section of the society. It amends article 15 and 16 in the constitution. Article 15 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, or place of birth. However, the government may make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, or for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Bill seeks to amend Article 15 to additionally permit the government to provide for the advancement of economically weaker sections. Further, up to 10% of seats may be reserved for such sections for admission in educational institutions. Such reservation will not apply to minority educational institutions. Article 16 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination in employment in any government office. However, the government can allow reservation for any backward class of citizens, if they are not adequately represented in the services under the state. The Bill seeks to amend Article 16 to permit the government to reserve up to 10% of all posts for the economically weaker sections of citizens.

Context: Challenging of the 10% reservation in the supreme court.

2. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It will be used in all polling stations in the 17th general elections. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It displays the Name, Serial number and the symbol of the candidate for seven seconds. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is a method that provides feedback to voters. It is an independent verification printer machine and is attached to electronic voting machines. It allows voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate. When a voter presses a button in the EVM, a paper slip is printed through the VVPAT. The slip contains the poll symbol, serial number, and the name of the candidate. It allows the voter to verify his choice. After being visible to the voter from a glass case in the VVPAT for seven seconds, the ballot slip will be cut and dropped into the drop box in the VVPAT machine and a beep will be heard. VVPAT machines can be accessed by polling officers only.

Context: Controversy in the number of VVPAT has to be cross verified.

3. Answer: a**Explanation:**

The right to form the trade union in India is a fundamental right provided under Article. 19 (1) (C) in the Indian Constitution. Hence the right to form trade union is justifiable in courts and an aggrieved citizen can approach the judicial court for enforcement of his right to form a trade union.

Context: Modification in Registration and Regulation of Trade Unions.

4. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: The Chief Election Commissioner has a tenure of six years. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: The review of any poll result will be done by the Supreme Court or the High Court and not the Election Commission. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have a tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament. Once

the polls are completed and results declared, the Commission cannot review any results on its own. This can only be reviewed through the process of an election petition, which can be filed before the High Court, in respect of elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. In respect of elections for the offices of the President and Vice President, such petitions can only be filed before the Supreme Court.

Context: Year of general election and ECI is prominent in the news.

5. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a statutory body to promote the principles of Cooperation. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The board of management of NCDC is headed by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

NCDC is a statutory Corporation set up under an Act of Parliament with the objectives of NCDC are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles and for matters concerned therewith or incidental thereto. . The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is the President of the General Council and the Secretary (Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare) Government of India is the Chairman of the Board of Management. The main responsibility of the General Council is to lay down policy framework, approve Programme of Activities and Annual Report of NCDC. The main responsibility of the Board of Management is to implement the policies and guidelines of the General Council.

Context: Making the NCDC model to the cooperatives for modern banking.

6. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Under section 3 of RTI, Act only Indian citizens can claim information. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: There is no timeline for filing a complaint with the information commission. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Right to Information Act mentions that only Indian citizens can file an application to get information under the act. This had been mentioned in section 3 of the RTI Act, 2005. Not all information cannot be claimed as there are exemptions under Section 8, Section 9 and Section 24 of the RTI Act. There is no timeline mentioned before which a complaint can be filed from the date of occurrence of the issue.

Context: Issue of the Supreme court under the RTI Act.

7. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Fighter aircraft, Helicopters, Submarines, and Battle Tanks are included in the strategic partnership model. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Products with 40% of components or 60% of cost are classified as IDDM. It will be given the highest priority in defense procurement. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Strategic Partnership model is being implemented to enable participation of private Indian firms in Make in India in defense. The SP is expected to play the role of a System Integrator by building an extensive eco-system comprising development partners, specialized vendors, and suppliers, in particular, those from the MSME sector. Initially, the fighter aircraft, helicopters, submarines, and armoured fighting vehicles or main battle tanks are allowed under the scheme. Any hardware with the 40% Indian components or 60% cost on Indian components is called as the Indian Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM). IDDM will be given the highest priority in the defense procurement process.

Context: Rafale controversy over the strategic partnership manufacturing in India.

8. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: National e-Governance Services Limited is the first information utility under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: There is no post called ex-officio chairman in the insolvency board. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Information utility is an information network which would store financial data like borrowings, default and security interests among others of firms. The utility would specialise in procuring, maintaining and providing/supplying financial information to businesses, financial institutions, adjudicating authority, insolvency professionals and other relevant stakeholders. National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) became India's first information utility (IU) for bankruptcy cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016. NeSL is owned by State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation Ltd., among others. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board is headed by a full time member as Chairman. Presently Dr. M.S. Sahoo, functions as the chairman of the IBBI.

Context: Increasing number of companies under the insolvency process.

9. Answer: a**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: Ordinary bills can be introduced in either house of the legislature. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: There is no provision of joint sitting in the case of deadlock in the state legislature. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Introduction and passage of ordinary bills can be made in either houses of the state legislature.. However, in case of disagreement between the two Houses, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council. The final power of passing an ordinary bill also lies with the assembly. At the most, the council can detain or delay the bill for a period of four months to three months in the first instance and one month in the second instance. In other words, the council is not even a revising body like the Rajya Sabha; it is only a dilatory chamber or an advisory body. There is no provision of joint sitting as made in the Parliament.

10. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It was formed by an executive resolution and not by a statutory provisions. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It was formed on the basis of recommendation of the Rangarajan Committee. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Government of India through a resolution dated 1st June, 2005 set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC). The setting up of the NSC followed the decision of the Cabinet to accept the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission, which reviewed the Indian Statistical System in 2001. The NSC was constituted with effect from 12th July 2006 with a mandate to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters. The NSC has four Members besides a Chairperson, each having specialization and experience in specified statistical fields.

Context: Resignation of the members of the national statistical commission.

11. Answer: b**Explanation:**

The Central Government will appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him. In 2014, the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014 made a change in the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of C.B.I. It states that where there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

Context: Appointment of new director for CBI.

12. Answer: d**Explanation:**

Consultative committees are constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. These committees provide a forum for informal discussions between the ministers and the members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the government and the manner of their implementation. They are attached to various ministries / departments of the Central Government. They consist of members of both the Houses of Parliament. The Minister / Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry. The membership of these committees is voluntary and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties. The maximum membership of a committee is 30 and the minimum is 10.

Context: Meeting of consultative committee of social justice and empowerment.

13. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: No prosecution can be made against person protected by AFSPA. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The arrested person has to be produced to the nearest police station at the earliest. Hence statement 2 is correct.

AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”. They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law. If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search a premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms. Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

Context: Revocation of the AFSPA Act in Tripura.

14. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a statutory body to demarcate territorial constituencies. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The order of the commission cannot be questioned in any courts. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body. Such a body is known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission. In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

15. Answer: a

Explanation:

The Twenty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as The Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971, enables Parliament to dilute Fundamental Rights through Amendments of the Constitution. It also amended article 368 to provide expressly that Parliament has power to amend any provision of the Constitution. The amendment further made it obligatory for the President to give his assent, when a Constitution Amendment Bill was presented to him. Hence the President has to give his assent to the constituent amendment bills.

16. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Each parliamentary forums consists not more than 31 members with not more than 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The parliamentary forum on population and public health has chairman of Rajya

sabha as its ex-officio president. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Parliamentary Forums are formed provide a platform to the members to have interactions with the ministers concerned, experts and key officials from the nodal ministries with a view to have a focused and meaningful discussion on critical issues with a result-oriented approach for speeding up the implementation process. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-officio President of all the Forums except the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health wherein the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the ex-officio President and the Speaker is the ex-officio Co-President. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the concerned Ministers and Chairmen of Departmentally-Related Standing Committees are the ex-officio Vice-Presidents of the respective Forums.

17. Answer: d

Explanation:

The bill introduced by the member of parliament other than the council of ministers is called a private member bill. It needs one month prior notice for introduction in the house of the parliament. The private member can introduce any bill in the house, but in the case of the money bill and financial bill it needs prior approval from the President. Also the money cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Context: Right to disconnect bill was introduced as a private member bill.

18. Answer: c

Explanation:

The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court under article 130. But, it also authorises the chief justice of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court. He can take decision in this regard only with the approval of the President. This provision is only optional and not compulsory. This means that no court can give any direction either to the President or to the Chief Justice to appoint any other place as the seat of the Supreme Court. The location of the supreme court causes many cases not able to approach it, due to the cost it demands. It will be significant to consider forming of regional benches at different parts of India.

Context: Demand for regional seats of Supreme Court of India.

19. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Maximum detention period is one year under the act. Hence statement 1 is correct.
STATEMENT 2: No FIR is filed under the act. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security. The government can also detain a person to prevent him from disrupting public order or for maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community. The maximum period for which one may be detained is 12 months. But the term can be extended if the government finds fresh evidence. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which collects and analyses crime data in the country, does not include cases under the NSA in its data as no FIRs are registered. Hence, no figures are available for the exact number of detentions under the NSA.

Context: Controversy of the Act in Madhya Pradesh.

20. Answer: b

Explanation:

'Master of the Roster' refers to the privilege of the Chief Justice to constitute Benches to hear cases. A Constitution Bench, led by the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, declared that the Chief Justice is the master of the roster and he alone has the prerogative to constitute the Benches of the Court and allocate cases to the Benches so constituted. No Judge can take up the matter on his own, unless allocated by the Chief Justice of India, as he is the master of the roster.

21. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is formed by the Ministry of Industry to promote productivity and inclusive

growth in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is a constituent of the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organisation. Hence statement 2 is correct.

NPC is a national level organization to promote productivity culture in India. Established by the Ministry of Industry, Government of India in 1958, it is an autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization with equal representation from employers' & workers' organizations and Government, apart from technical & professional institutions and other interests. NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member. The Council promotes a comprehensive view of productivity-focused on improving the triple bottom line – economic, environmental and social and adds value for all stakeholders through generation & application of advanced knowledge for Inclusive Growth.

22. Answer: b

Explanation:

The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a tele-law mobile application that is integrated with a dashboard and an application called Nyaya Bandhu. The pro bono legal service was developed to accelerate and facilitate practicing advocates to register and connect with the registered eligible beneficiaries and thereby, solidify the pro bono culture in the country. The mobile application will enable the paralegal volunteers (PLV)'s to perform on-field pre-registration of cases with a facility to seek appointment from the panel lawyer on preferred date and time. The application will benefit 73,000 PLVs of National Legal Service Authority and State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) in the country who will be associated under the tele-law service.

23. Answer: a

Explanation:

The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous organization with the Ministry of Home Affairs, organizes the Communal Harmony Campaign coinciding with the Qaumi Ekta Week and also observes the Communal Harmony Flag Day. The Foundation promotes Communal Harmony and strengthens National Integration. Under its Project 'Assist', the NFCH also provides financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation of children rendered orphan or destitute in communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence.

Context: Communal Harmony Flag Day celebration.

24. Answer: b

Explanation:

No person who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may specify, shall be eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder. The OCI status will be canceled when the Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder has, within five years after registration, been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years. OCI card holder can travel lifelong to India without a visa. There is no need for him to register with the local police station even for staying in India for more than 180 days.

Context: Amendment to the Citizenship Act, 2016

25. Answer: d

Explanation:

The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added four new Directive Principles to the original list. They require the State:

1. To secure opportunities for the healthy development of children (Article 39).
2. To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A).
3. To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).
4. To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife (Article 48 A).

The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added one more Directive Principle, which requires the State to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities (Article 38). In addition, there were changes in Article 45 and the introduction of Article 43 A regarding the cooperatives.

Context: Basic features of the Indian Constitution.

26. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: Article 358 automatically suspends the fundamental rights under article 19 during a national emergency. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: President can revoke a national emergency by a proclamation even without the approval of the parliament. Hence statement 2 is correct.

According to Article 358, when a proclamation of national emergency is made, the six Fundamental Rights under Article 19 are automatically suspended. No separate order for their suspension is required. When the National Emergency ceases to operate, Article 19 automatically revives and comes into force. Any law made during Emergency, to the extent of inconsistency with Article 19, ceases to have an effect. However, no remedy lies for anything done during the Emergency even after the Emergency expires.

A proclamation of emergency may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval. The President must revoke a proclamation if the Lok Sabha passes a resolution disapproving its continuation which was added through the 44th constitutional amendment act.

27. Answer: d**Explanation:**

Parliamentary committees assist the parliament in the discharge of its duties as the functions of the parliament became more complex. The parliamentary committees are classified as the standing committee and the ad-hoc committee. These committees are formed by the presiding officer of the house. The Speaker of Lok Sabha himself heads the parliamentary committees like General purpose committee, Business Advisory committee, and Rules committee of the Lok Sabha. The similar committees of the Rajya Sabha will be headed by the Chairman.

28. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: Under article 323 A the parliament establish both the central and the state administrative tribunals. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The Parliament can transfer the administrative disputes from formal courts to the tribunals. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations, and other public authorities. In other words, Article 323 A enables the Parliament to take out the adjudication of disputes relating to service matters from the civil courts and the high courts and place it before the administrative tribunals. The Administrative Tribunals Act of 1985 empowers the Central government to establish the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) on the specific request of the concerned state governments

Context: Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in India.

29. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It emphasis on the importance of a good relationship with the neighboring countries. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is based on the principle of Non-reciprocity. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Gujral doctrine advocates that India, being the biggest country in South Asia, should extend unilateral concessions to the smaller neighbors. In other words, the doctrine is formulated on India's accommodating approach towards its smaller neighbors on the basis of the principle of nonreciprocity. It recognizes the supreme importance of friendly and cordial relations with India's neighbors. It was propounded and initiated in 1996 by I.K. Gujral, the then Foreign Minister in the Deve Gowda Government.

Context: Strained relations of India with the neighboring countries.

30. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: If no vacation of a seat is made both the seat will be treated as vacant. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: According to the representation of the people act, a candidate can contest in not more than two constituencies. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The contesting of two seats simultaneously is popular among political heavyweights. On the election to both the seats, one seat has to be vacated within one month otherwise both the seats will be treated as vacant. Section 30.7 of the representation of the people act, 1951 mentions that a candidate cannot contest in more than two constituencies simultaneously in the general elections.

Context: Political leaders contesting in two seats simultaneously.

31. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It replaces the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The chairperson should be a judge of the supreme court or judge of the high court or an eminent jurist. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Ordinance, 2019 was promulgated on March 2, 2019. It seeks to establish an autonomous and independent institution for better management of arbitration in India. Previously, a similar Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on January 4, 2019. The Ordinance seeks to provide for the establishment of the NDIAC to conduct arbitration, mediation, and conciliation proceedings. It declares the NDIAC as an institution of national importance. The Ordinance seeks to transfer the existing ICADR to the central government. Upon notification by the central government, all the rights, title, and interest in the ICADR will be transferred to the NDIAC.

The NDIAC will consist of seven members including: (i) a Chairperson who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, or an eminent person with special knowledge and experience in the conduct or administration of arbitration, (ii) two eminent persons having substantial knowledge and experience in institutional arbitration, (iii) three ex-officio members, including a nominee from the Ministry of Finance and a Chief Executive Officer (responsible for the day-to-day administration of the NDIAC), and (iv) a representative from a recognised body of commerce and industry, appointed as a part-time member, on a rotational basis.

Context: Approval of an ordinance regarding the Arbitration Centre.

32. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a statutory body to advise the central and state governments in governing the WAQF boards. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It functions under the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs with a Union Minister as its ex-officio Chairman. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Central Waqf Council is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in 1964 as per the provision given in the Waqf Act, 1954 as an Advisory Body to the Central Government on matters concerning the working of the Waqf Boards and the due administration of Auqaf. However, the role of the Council was expanded significantly under the provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013. The Council has been empowered to advise the Central Government, State Governments and State Waqf Boards.

The Council consists of a Chairperson, who is the Union Minister In charge of Waqf and such other members, not exceeding 20 in number, as may be appointed by the Government of India. Presently Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister of Minority Affairs is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Central Waqf Council.

Context: Amendment to the WAQF properties rules.

33. Answer: a

Explanation:

A circuit bench is for territories which are far-flung but do not have too many matters to justify a full-fledged permanent bench. These courts are established by the President by issuing an order for its purpose. Before that, it needs an assessment by a group of judges for the need of a circuit

bench. Then it has to be approved by the Union Cabinet, which will finally be approved by the President.

Context: Cabinet approval for the establishment of circuit bench of the Calcutta high court at Jalpaiguri.

34. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as When a voter presses a button in the EVM, a paper slip is printed through the VVPAT. The slip contains the poll symbol and name of the candidate.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as

- When a voter presses a button in the EVM, a paper slip is printed through the VVPAT.
- The slip contains the poll symbol and name of the candidate.
- It allows the voter to verify his/her choice. After being visible to the voter from a glass case in the VVPAT for seven seconds, the ballot slip will be cut and dropped into the drop box in the VVPAT machine and a beep will be heard.
- So . The paper slip printed through the VVPAT is not given to voter physically

Context: The Election Commission has recently announced that there will be 100% use of VVPATs during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

35. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) is a constitutional body in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338-A of the Constitution.
- The National Commission for SCs and STs came into being consequent upon passing of the 65th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1990.
- The Commission was established under Article 338 of the Constitution with the objective of monitoring all the safeguards provided for the SCs and STs under the Constitution or other laws

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect as

- The Commission presents an annual report to the President.
- It can also submit a report as and when it thinks necessary.
- The President places all such reports before the Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations made by the Commission. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations.

Context: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) celebrated its 15th foundation day

36. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as At present it is non-statutory body.

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was a statutory body that looks into matters concerning the Safai Karamcharis' welfare and makes recommendations to the government.
- For the first time, NCSK was constituted as a statutory body under the NCSK ACT, 1993. This commission continued till February 2004, when the relevant Act expired.
- Thereafter, the tenure of the commission has been extended from time to time, as a non-statutory body, the last such extension being up to 31 March 2016. .

STATEMENT 2 is correct .as It works under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- It was constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993', for a period of three years i.e. up to 31st March, 1997. As per sub-section (4) of Section 1 of the Act, it was to cease to exist after 31.3.1997. However, validity of the Act was extended up to March, 2002, and then up to February, 2004 vide Amendment Acts passed in 1997 and 2001 respectively.
- With the lapsing of the "The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993" w.e.f. 29.2.2004, the Commission is acting as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

37. Answer: D**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as The Parliament can make laws on any subject of the three lists (including the State List) for the union territories. This power of Parliament also extends to Puducherry and Delhi, which have their own local legislatures.

STATEMENT: 2 is incorrect. As The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu. In the case of Puducherry also, the President can legislate by making regulations but only when the assembly is suspended or dissolved.

38. Answer: C**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is correct as The judges of the Supreme Court are provided with the Security of Tenure .

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as The retired judges of the Supreme Court are prohibited from pleading or acting in any Court or before any authority within the territory of India .

39. Answer: C**Explanation:**

Fourth Schedule

- It has provisions regarding Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and the union territories.

- So option (a) is not Correct..

Fifth Schedule

- Provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.

- So option (b) is Correct.

Sixth Schedule

- Provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

- So option (c) is not Correct.

Seventh Schedule

- Division of powers between the Union and the States in terms of List I (Union List), List II (State List) and List III (Concurrent List).

- Presently, the Union List contains 100 subjects (originally 97), the state list contains 61 subjects (originally 66) and the concurrent list contains 52 subjects (originally 47)

- So option (d) is not correct.

40. Answer: B**Explanation:**

STATEMENT: 1 is incorrect as

- The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 552. Out of this, 530

- members are to be the representatives of the states, 20 members are to be the representatives of the union territories and 2 members are to be nominated by the president from the Anglo-Indian community

STATEMENT: 2 is correct as The president can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian community if the community is not adequately represented in the Lok Sabha. Originally, this provision was to operate till 1960 but has been extended until 2020 by the 95th Amendment Act, 2009.

41. Answer : C**Explanation:**

Directives principles under Gandhian Principles are based on Gandhian ideology.

Separation of Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state is based on liberal Intellectual Principles. Under article 50, there is provision for Separation of Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state. So OPTION (a) is not correct.

Promotion of cottage industries in rural areas is based on Gandhian Principles. So OPTION (b) is not correct.

Promotion of equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor is based on Socialistic Principles So OPTION (c) is Correct.

Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines are based on liberal Intellectual Principles. So OPTION (d) is not Correct.

42. Ans: d

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect because the Constitution provides a scheme for demarcation of powers through three 'lists' in the seventh schedule.

Statement: 2 is also incorrect as Public health, sanitation, betting and gambling etc are part of state list.

- The union list details the subjects on which Parliament may make laws e.g. defence, foreign affairs, railways, banking, among others.
- The state list details those under the purview of state legislatures e.g. Public order, police, public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries, betting and gambling etc.
- The concurrent list has subjects in which both Parliament and state legislatures have jurisdiction e.g. Education including technical education, medical education and universities, population control and family planning, criminal law, prevention of cruelty to animals, protection of wildlife and animals, forests etc

Context: The CM of Telangana demand for abolishing the concurrent list.

43. Ans: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct as Under Article 243 (K) (4) of Indian Constitution State Government by law can lay down the qualification for elections to local bodies.

Statement 2 is correct because Article 243 (O) bans the interference of courts in electoral matters. If there is a dispute in the Panchayat elections, the Courts have NO jurisdiction over them. This means that the Panchayat election can be questioned only in the form of an election petition presented to an authority which the State legislature by law can prescribe.

Statement 3 is incorrect because in several states of India like Haryana, Assam and Uttarakhand have brought in legislation to make minimum education criteria for contesting local polls.

Context: Recently Rajasthan Government has scrapped education criteria for Panchayati Raj elections.

44. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

The scheme consists of six Parts, and all the parts are interrelated. Part I consists of the definitions of the various terms used in the Scheme such as "Witness Protection Application, Witness Protection Fund, Witness Protection Order, Witness Protection Cell, Competent Authority".

The Competent Authority under the scheme has been defined to mean Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and he/she alone can pass witness protection order for the witness protection under this Scheme and who may issue orders for protection of identity/change of identity/relocation of a witness, categorisation of threat, duration and types of protection

The second part of the scheme spells out the categories of witnesses as per the threat perceptions. It also spells about the creation of State Witness Protection Fund. This part contains the procedural aspects such as filing and processing of applications for protection.

Context: Recently Supreme Court asked the states to adopt Witness Protection Scheme.

45. Ans: C

Explanation:

As an approach to solving the challenges of development of 100 Smart Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs MoHUA has announced the initiation of a research project with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore titled "India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), an open source software platform aimed at enabling cities to harness the full potential of the enormous data being generated in our smart cities.

Context: Recently, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has launched a pilot project for the Indian Urban Data Exchange (IUDX) in Electronics City (a township of Bangalore).

46. Answer: B

Explanation:

Among the given options only Guwahati, Kolkata and Kerala having territorial jurisdiction lies in

more than one States or UTs

Guwahati Assam
 Nagaland
 Mizoram
 Arunachal Pradesh

Kerala Kerala & Lakshadweep

Kolkata West Bengal
 Andaman & Nicobar islands

Context: Following a Supreme Court (SC) order to the Centre to notify the bifurcation of the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Courts (HC) by January 1, 2019 the President Ram Nath Kovind ordered the separation of the common Hyderabad High Court into the separate High Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

47. Ans: A

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: The EC has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting MPs and MLAs. Further, cases of persons found guilty of corrupt electoral practices which come before the Supreme Court and high courts are also referred to the EC for its opinion on whether such a person should be disqualified and, if so, for what period.

Statement: 2 is incorrect: The State Election Commission is responsible for preparation of Electoral Rolls for direct elections to Grama Panchayats under Article 243K of the Constitution

Context: Election is a very common phenomenon in democratic country like India. Process of election and related bodies are always important for the examination.

Related Topics: Structure, powers, role in legal issues of EC

48. Ans: D

Explanation:

Jammu and Kashmir, on account of its special status, has a slightly different mechanism in place when it comes to Governor's rule and President's rule.

Statement 1 is incorrect: President's rule under Article 356 can be imposed in Jammu and Kashmir when the Governor's rule is not revoked for six months.

Statement 2 is incorrect: During the President's rule under Article 356 in Jammu and Kashmir all the functions of the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and all the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State shall, subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the President

Context: Recently President's rule came into effect in Jammu and Kashmir after the six month of the state under Governor's rule as after BJP withdrew support to its alliance partner, People's Democratic Party.

49. Ans: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: India became the 12th country to introduce NOTA or a similar option in its electoral proceedings. Other countries which provide this option are- France, Belgium, Greece, Brazil, and Bangladesh.

Statement 2 is correct: By providing NOTA button in the EVMs, accelerated the effective political participation in the present state of democratic system and the voters were empowered. Thus, it ensured wide participation of people.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In the 2014 general election, NOTA polled 1.1% of the votes, counting to over 6,000,000.

Context: In *People's Union For Civil Liberties v. Union Of India*, the Supreme Court (SC) had ruled that None of the Above (NOTA) option may be provided in EVMs so that voters are able to exercise their Right not to vote while maintaining their Right of Secrecy.

50. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect: India is also a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and accordingly has a strong legal framework to protect children which

include the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012.

Statement: 2 is correct: Unlike the National Child Policy, 2013, the latest document Draft National Child Protection Policy doesn't talk about children who may need additional special protection measures: including those affected by migration, communal or sectarian violence, children forced into begging or in conflict with the law, and those infected with HIV/AIDS. And also the document needs to define what child protection is, as well as what it means by institutions or organisations.

Context: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed the Draft National Child Protection Policy and it will be the first policy dedicated to the protection of children, an area that until now was only a part of the broader National Child Policy, 2013.

51. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Women working in the organised sector will now be entitled to paid maternity leave of 26 weeks, up from 12 weeks.

Statement 2 is correct: It also makes it mandatory for every establishment with more than 50 employees to provide creche facilities within a prescribed distance. The woman will be allowed four visits to the creche in a day. This will include her interval for rest.

Statement 3 is correct: The new law will apply to all establishments employing 10 or more people and the entitlement will be for only up to first two children.

Context: The Centre has prepared the guidelines for setting up of crèches at workplaces, which prescribe trained personnel to man the facility as well as infrastructure requirements and safety norms.

52. Ans: C

Explanation:

J&K has become the first State in the country to bring a law to prevent people in power from exploiting subordinates sexually.

Under Section 354E of the RPC, the new law explicitly bans sexual exploitation of women by those in positions of authority, having a fiduciary relationship, or a public servant

Context: Governor Satya Pal Malik's administration in Jammu & Kashmir approved an amendment to the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), to insert a section to provide for the offence of "sextortion."

53. Ans: D

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: Nordic countries Norway (2nd, 83.5 per cent), Sweden (3rd, 82.2 per cent), and Finland (4th, 82.1 per cent) dominated the top slots.

Statement: 2 is correct: India has been ranked 108th in the index, same as 2017. It maintains a stable ranking this year, but its gap is directionally larger this year, with a 33 per cent gap yet to be bridged.

Statement: 3 is correct: South Asia was the second-lowest ranking region in the index, with only 65 percent of its gender gap now closed. However, it is worth noting that, from a low base, South Asia has made the fastest progress on closing its gender gap of any world region over the past decade.

Context: The World Economic Forum has released the Global Gender Gap Report 2018.

Government Programme and Schemes

1. Indian Railways has recently launched Vande Bharat train with modern facilities. Consider the following statements about the Vande Bharat train:

1. It is the first indigenously built engine less semi-high speed train in India.
2. It is designed and manufactured by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.
3. It will help in the cutting of energy and fuel demand of Indian Railways.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements about the Institute of Eminence:

1. All institutes of eminence will receive Rs. 1000 crores for their upgradation to world class educational centres.
2. Only Indian institutes in top 500 ranking global list or institutes in top 50 in National ranking will be eligible for the eminence classification.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements about the Sea Vigil:

1. It is the multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy under the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
2. It aims to prevent the anti-national activities and sea bound terrorism in coastal areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Which of the following are included in the Minor Forest Produce?

1. Bamboo
2. Neem seed
3. Tendu

Select the correct code from the following:

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

5. The development of the agriculture sector needs a healthy education and research sector. In this context, consider the recently launched National Agricultural Higher

Education Project:

1. It increases the quality of agriculture education by directly financing the investment needs of agricultural universities.
2. The project is funded equally by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements about the Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins Initiative:

1. It provides awareness and accessibility of sanitation facility to poor women by Oil Marketing Companies.
2. It is initially implemented through common services center only in the state of Odisha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about the Atal Jyoti Yojana:

1. It aims to illuminate the unelectrified villages of India through fast track grid connectivity.
2. It is implemented in mission mode by the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8. A government job is much sought among the youths of India. In this context, which of the following states had announced an ambitious one government job to every family?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Telangana
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Odisha

9. Consider the following statements about the rare diseases in human beings:

1. The prevalence factor is the major determinant of a disease as rare diseases.
2. Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi provides financial assistance for the treatment of poor patients affected by rare diseases.
3. The drugs developed for the treatment of rare diseases due to its unprofitability are known as Orphan Drugs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only

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

10. Consider the following statements about the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana:

1. It is a pilgrimage for Indian diaspora to religious places of all major religions of India.
2. It is completely sponsored by the Government of India right from the country of the beneficiary.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. LED lighting will reduce energy consumption and contribute to the fight against climate change. In this context, consider the following statements about the Ama Ghare LED Scheme:

1. It provides LED lights to families registered under the National Food Security Act at free of cost.
2. It is an initiative of the Government of Odisha to reduce the burden of electricity bill on rural families.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements about the District Mineral Foundation:

1. Every Mine leaseholder should contribute to the foundation of the district of operation in addition to royalty.
2. The functions of the body should be carried out on the basis of directions from the Union Ministry of Mines.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

13. In order to protect the rich cultural heritage of India, the Government of India came up with Hunar Haats Scheme. Consider the following statements about the scheme:

1. It is a platform for the artisans and craftsmen to display their rich heritage and skills.
2. It is the flagship initiative of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements about

the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana:

1. The government pays 50% of the provident fund contribution made by the employer to new employees.

2. It increases the employment generation in the organized sector.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. The development of smart villages is inevitable for smart cities in India. In this context, consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana:

1. It aims to provide integrated development of villages with more than 50% scheduled caste population.

2. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

1. It aims to provide LPG connections to 10 crores below poverty line households.

2. It provides interest-free loans to purchase stoves and refill of cylinders.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. The highest honor an Indian Citizen can receive from the Indian Government is the Bharat Ratna. Consider the following statements about the honor:

1. The recommendation to Bharat Ratna will be made by the Prime Minister to the President.

2. The award cannot be given for more than three people in a particular year.

3. The award carries a medal and a monetary grant of Rs. 50 Lakh.

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

18. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana:

1. It aims to remove the imbalances in the healthcare services and provide a quality medical education in the country.

2. It is a comprehensive healthcare scheme covering from the primary to tertiary healthcare infrastructure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements about the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG):

1. Tribes depending on the hunting and gathering for their livelihood are included into the PVTG.

2. Odisha has the highest number of tribes classified as the particularly vulnerable tribes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements about the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik 3.0 (UDAN 3.0):

1. The scheme will be applicable on the route length between the 200 km to 800 km.

2. The viability gap funding for the scheme will be shared equally between the Union and the state governments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the status of school education in India?

a) The overall enrollment in primary school remained more than 95% for over a decade.

b) The number of girls out of school has reduced by more than 50% over the past decade.

c) The percentage of enrollment in private schools has seen a rapid increase in the period of 2016-18.

d) The average attendance of the students is below the average attendance of the teachers.

22. Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram:

1. It is a scheme for the development of leadership qualities for youths in the age group of 15-35 years.

2. It is 100% funded by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

23. Consider the following statements about the recently commissioned INS Kohassa:

1. It is an indigenously developed modern multirole patrol vessel in the Andaman and Nicobar Region.

2. It helps to enhance the surveillance in the North Andaman region to check the foreign intrusion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

24. Consider the following statements about the Mission Indradhanush:

1. The mission provides complete immunization to Children, Pregnant women and Adolescent girls against twelve diseases.

2. It aims to make a complete coverage of immunization by the year 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

25. Consider the following statements about the Inter-state Council:

1. It is a constitutional body with the duty to enhance the interstate and center-state relation.

2. It is headed by the Union Home Minister with all state chief ministers as members.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

26. With reference to the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

2. It is an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R).

3. BEE is a statutory body under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs which is mandated to implement policy and programmes in the area of energy efficiency and conservation in Residential Buildings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) was recently launched by

- a) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Coal
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

28. To give students a platform to become solution creators for the problems government has launched 'Ideate for India' programme, with reference to it consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a national challenge to students of classes 6 - 12 across the country.
- 2. It is designed and launched by the Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements about Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS) initiative:

- 1. It is an initiative of the National eGovernance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 2. To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country, including all Universities and to ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode is its objective.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. With reference to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - 2. It comprises one Chairman whose rank and status is of the Union Minister for States.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. Consider the following statements:

- 1. National Testing Agency(NTA) is an autonomous body, constituted under the Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- 2. NTA has taken the mantle of conducting

competitive exams like UGC-National Eligibility Test, NEET and JEE (Main) from CBSE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has formed an expert committee under former governor Bimal Jalan to:

- a) Decide the appropriate level of reserves that the regulator should hold.
- b) Monitor bad loan, and rising cases of fraud.
- c) Simplify public credit registry in India
- d) Prepare a report on the present status of financial inclusion in India

33. With reference to the recently published 'Global Burden of Disease report', consider the following statements:

- 1. This report was recently published by the World bank.
- 2. India recorded more than 25% of the global premature deaths and disease burden due to air pollution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Geographical indications tag is given by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- 2. GI tag is valid only for a period of 10 years.
- 3. A single product can not have two geographical indications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements about 'National Drones Policy - Drone Regulations 1.0'

- 1. Under the new policy, Nano drones which weigh less than 250 grams or equal does not need a registration or license.
- 2. Digital Sky portal is an online platform as part of an enforcement system designated as No Permission No Takeoff (NPNT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. India has targeted a 10 percent blending of petrol with biofuel by 2022.
- 2. By producing second generation ethanol, India can address a major environmental issue like crop residue burning.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Appointments of district judges in any State shall be made by the President in consultation with the High Court.
- 2. Appointments of persons other than district judges to the judicial service of a State shall be made by the Governor of the State after consultation with the State Public Service Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements about 'National Health Authority'

- 1. National Health Agency has been dissolved and will be replaced by National Health Authority as an attached office to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- 2. National Health Authority shall have full accountability, authority and mandate to implement Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. With reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)', consider the following statements:

- 1. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2018 under the name Jan

Aushadi Campaign.

2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

1. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is engineless semi-high speed train indigenously developed in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is designed and developed by Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

STATEMENT 3: It uses electricity and 30% more efficient than present fleets. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Train 18 or Vande Bharat is a semi-high speed modern engine less train developed by the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai. It runs at a maximum speed of 160 kmph. All the coaches in the train are motorized and this gives a smooth ride. The Train also uses regenerative breaking of electric motors which makes it 30% more efficient.

In addition, it incorporates many modern features which debut for the very first time on Indian Railways. It has been provided with 'State of the Art' passenger amenities like On-board wifi entertainment, GPS based passenger information system, CCTV, bio-vacuum toilets, rotating chairs in executive class, etc. at par with global standards. It also has the provision of Divyang-friendly facilities. It will have 16 coaches with Chair Car type configuration with 2 Executive Class Chair Cars and 14 Chair Cars. It is developed as a part of the Make in India program and completed within 18 months.

Context: Development of first engineless train in India.

2. Answer: d**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: Only government run institutes will be provided with Rs. 1000 for upgradation. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Indian institutes with top 500 globally, top 50 nationally and greenfield institutes will be eligible for the eminence classification. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Primary objective to establish Institutes of Eminence in India is to set up higher educational institutions that become world class teaching as well as research institutes. A total of 10 Government institutes and 10 Private institutes will be selected as institutions of Eminence. These educational institutes need to be a good mix of Central Universities as well as Arts, Management and Technical Institutes. The Government run Institutes of Eminence would be awarded financial assistance amounting to Rs 1000 crore or 50% to 75% of the requirement projected by the institution in the proposal, whichever is less. A four-member panel headed by Goplaswami to select 20 institutes of eminence as part of the initiative to build world class educational centres. Only Indian institutes in top 500 ranking global list or top 50 ranking in National ranking will be eligible for the eminence classification. There are also provision for the giving the status to newly formed greenfield institutes.

Context: Effort to place Indian educational institutions in global list.

3. Answer: b**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is national naval exercise participated by Indian Navy, Coast Guards and State Marine Police. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It aims to prevent the sea bound terrorism in the coastal areas. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The first coastal defense Exercise Sea Vigil, conducted by the Navy and Coast Guard, in close coordination with State Governments and Union Territories concluded today, 23 Jan 2019. It was the largest such exercise the country had ever witnessed in recent times and saw participation by more than 100 ships, aircraft, and patrol boats manned and operated by various security agencies. A wide range of contingencies, including simulated attacks on vital installations and assets along the coastline, will be exercised to assess the response, coordination and information sharing between agencies. This exercise will provide an opportunity to stakeholders to assess the capability and preparedness of individual organizations, identify deficiencies, if any and address them on priority. Multi-agency teams will be deployed in all coastal districts to undertake security audit of various vulnerable locations such as Fish Landing Centres, as well as major, minor and intermediate ports, lighthouses, coastal police stations, control rooms, and operations centers.

Context: Tenth Year of the 2008 Mumbai Terror Attack

4. Answer: c

Explanation:

The Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers and the like. It has been defined in Section 2(i) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. It also includes bamboo and cane, thereby changing the categorization of bamboo and cane as “trees” under the Indian Forest Act 1927.

Twelve notified MFPs are Tendu, Bamboo, Mahuwa Seed, Sal Leaf, Sal Seed, Lac, Chironjee, Wild Honey, Myrobalan, Tamarind, Gums, and Karanj. Recently the coverage extended to new components like neem seeds, Kusum Seeds, Arjuna Bark, and Soap Nuts among others.

The Government of India has launched a central sector scheme for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain to ensure fair monetary returns to MFP gatherers for their efforts in the collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation, etc. The scheme envisages fixation and declaration of Minimum Support Price for the selected MFP based on the suggestions /inputs received from Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India.

Context: Introduction of new items into Minor Forest Produce scheme.

5. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It finances the investment needs of agricultural universities. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is equally funded by the World Bank and the Government of India. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The objective of the National Agricultural Higher Education Project for India is to support participating agricultural universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students. There are three components to the project, the first component being a support to agricultural universities. This component will finance investments by participating AUs to improve the quality and relevance of agricultural education and research toward agricultural transformation. The second component is the investment in ICAR leadership in agricultural higher education. Finally, the third component is project management and learning. The project will be financed by the World Bank and the Government of India on 50:50 ratio.

Context: Establishment of second Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Jharkhand.

6. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a Women hygiene project by IOL, HPCL, and BPCL. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is initially implemented in thirty districts of Odisha through CSC. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins initiative by three oil marketing companies – IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL aimed to educate women on female hygiene and health, improve accessibility to low cost eco-friendly sanitary pads and boost rural employment and economy. The three companies will set up 100 manufacturing units at the Common Service Centres (CSC) covering 93 Blocks across 30 districts of Odisha at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.94 crore.

At least 10 Ujjwala beneficiary women will get employment at each CSC. Each facility will have a capacity to produce 1,200-2,000 pads per day and will have a sterilization room to ensure that the napkins are sterilized before they are packed for use by rural women. The Ujjwala pads will be made of virgin wood pulp sheet, non-woven white sheet and a gel sheet which are all biodegradable in nature and will leave a minimal carbon footprint.

Context: Corporate Social Responsibility initiative for women's health.

7. Answer: d**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It aims to provide illumination through off-grid solar power. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched the Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) to illuminate dark regions across five states through solar power. It is a sub scheme under off-grid and decentralized solar application scheme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has been entrusted to implement this path-breaking initiative in a mission mode. MNRE will provide 75% of the cost of street lights and remaining 25% will come from Member of Parliament Local Area Development funds (MPLADS), Panchayat funds or Municipalities and other Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) Funds.

Context: Launching of the second phase of the Atal Jyoti Yojana.

8. Answer: a**Explanation:**

The One Family, One Job scheme envisions employment to a member of every family which does not have a government job in the state. It is a scheme of the state government of Sikkim. Under this scheme, all loan debts in the farming and agriculture sector would be revoked. Though the scheme looks as a significant initiative, its replication in the bigger state will be difficult.

Context: Ambitious programme to reduce unemployment by Sikkim Government.

9. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: A disease is classified as rare based on its prevalence. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi provides financial assistance to poor patients of rare diseases. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3: Drugs for rare diseases are known as orphan drugs as it does not provide the required profit to the drug companies. Hence statement 3 is correct.

A rare disease is a health condition of particularly low prevalence that affects a small number of people in comparison to the other prevalent diseases in the general population. The World Health Organisation defines rare diseases if it occurs for one in a thousand population. But the definition varies from one country to the other. India does not have any definition due to the lack of epidemiological data of these diseases. They are mostly genetic related problems affecting the children. Some of the examples of rare diseases are hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and muscular dystrophy.

The Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) will have three components namely 1. Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), 2. Health Minister's Cancer Patients Fund (HMCPF) and 3. Scheme for financial assistance for patients suffering from specific rare diseases.

The availability of medicines to these diseases is not easily available. This is due to the factor of profitability and market for the drugs treating the rare diseases. Hence they are called as Orphan Drugs.

Context: Revision of the National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases.

10. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is a pilgrimage for Indian diaspora to major religious places in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is a Government of India sponsored tour including the air travel from the country of the beneficiary. Hence statement 2 is correct.

11. Answer: c**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It provides free LED lights to families under the NFSA Act. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is an initiative of the government of Odisha to reduce the burden of electricity bill on rural areas. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Ama Ghare LED scheme was launched by the Government of Odisha. Under the scheme about 95 lakh families in the State will each get four LED bulbs free of cost. The beneficiaries will be those who are registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the State Food Security Scheme (SFSC). The beneficiaries will have to produce biometric authentication to get the benefits of the scheme. It requires about 3.8 crore LED bulbs for the purpose and it will reduce the power consumption in the state significantly. The LED bulbs will be distributed through camps and PDS outlets across the State.

Context: Launch of the Ama Ghare LED Scheme.

12. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Every mine lease holder to contribute to the DMF of the district of operation. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The functions of the DMF is according to the directions of the respective state government. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affected by the mining works, to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations. It is funded through the contributions from miners. Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government. Every holder of a mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to the District Mineral Foundation of the district in which their mining operations are carried on. If the mining area is spread across several districts, the fund is shared on a pro-rata basis by these districts. DMF contribution would not be exceeding one-third of royalty and the Central Government retains the power to prescribe the rates of contribution, though DMF's operation is under state governments. The contributions made to DMFs are collected by the State Governments and the details in this regard are not maintained centrally at the moment.

Context: Welfare measures for people affected by mining activities.

13. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It helps the artisans and craftsmen to display their rich heritage and skills. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is conducted by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under the USTAAD. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Ministry of Minority Affairs is organizing Hunar Haat under "USTTAD" scheme at different parts of the country and Hunar Haat has become a successful mission to provide employment and employment opportunities and national as well as international markets for thousands of master artisans, craftsmen, and culinary experts. The scheme on one hand "Hunar Haat" have provided a platform to master artisans and craftsmen to display their rich heritage and skill, on the other hand, these exhibitions are providing domestic and international markets to these artisans and craftsmen.

Context: Measures to Development with Dignity for the Artisans and Craftsmen.

14. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: The government pays 8.33% of the employer contribution to the provident fund to the new employees. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It will result in an increase in the employment generation in the organised sector. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The PMRPY Scheme aims to incentivize employers for employment generation by the Government paying the employers' EPS contribution of 8.33%, for the new employees, for the first three years of their employment and is proposed to be made applicable for unemployed persons that are semi-skilled and unskilled. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and

Employment and is operational since August 2016.

It will incentivize employers registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for job creation by the Government paying the 8.33% contribution of employers to the Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) in respect of new employees having a new Universal Account Number (UAN). For the textile (apparel) sector, the Government will also be paying the 3.67% Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contribution of the eligible employer for these new employees.

This Scheme has a dual benefit, where, on the one hand, the employer is incentivized for increasing the employment base of workers in the establishment, and on the other hand, a large number of workers will find jobs in such establishments. A direct benefit is that these workers will have access to social security benefits of the organized sector.

15. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It aims to provide integrated development of the villages with majority SC population. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), a Government of India initiative for the empowerment of deprived sections, aims to achieve integrated development of selected villages through the convergent implementation of all relevant Central and State schemes. The scheme was launched in March 2010 on a pilot basis for the integrated development of 1000 villages each with more than 50% SC population. A Model village is one which has the adequate physical and institutional infrastructure, in which minimum needs of all sections of the society are fully met; they live in harmony with each other, as also with the environment, and a village which is progressive and dynamic. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Context: Rural infrastructural development of the marginal villages.

16. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It provides the LPG connections to 5 crore BPL households which later revised to 8 crores. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It provides interest-free loans to purchase stoves and refilling of cylinders. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana aims to provide five crore LPG connections are to be provided to BPL households. The identification of eligible BPL families will be made in consultation with the State Governments and the Union Territories. The Scheme provides financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households, interest-free loan to purchase a stove and refill by Oil Marketing Companies. The administrative cost of Rs. 1600 per connection, which includes a cylinder, pressure regulator, booklet, safety hose, etc. would be borne by the Government. While providing the new connections to BPL households, priority would be given to the States which have lower LPG coverage.

Context: The beneficiary under the PM Ujjwala scheme reached around six crores.

17. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Prime Minister himself recommends the names for Bharat Ratna to the President of India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Maximum of only three people can be given the award. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3: It includes a Medal and certificate with no monetary grant. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year 1954. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavor. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. No formal recommendations for this are necessary. The number of annual awards

is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year. On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a certificate signed by the President and a medallion. The Award does not carry any monetary grant.

Context: Raising number of demand for Bharat Ratna for political nature.

18. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It aims to reduce the imbalances in healthcare services and provide quality medical education. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It mainly focuses on tertiary health care services. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities in different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular.

The first phase in the PMSSY has two components - setting up of six institutions in the line of AIIMS; and upgradation of 13 existing Government medical college institutions.

Context: Setting up new AIIMS like institutions in different parts of India.

19. Answer: c

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Extremely backward tribes with the hunting and gathering as part of their life are included in the PVTG. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Odisha has the 13 tribes under PVTG highest among all states/UT. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness. Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having a pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy. These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc. There are a total of 75 tribes classified as PVTG with Odisha having highest number of tribes under the classification.

Context: Implementation of the Scheme for development of particularly vulnerable tribe group.

20. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: UDAN is applicable for the route length of 200 to 800 km. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Viability gap funding for the scheme is shared between the Union and the state government in the ratio of 80:20. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

RCS plans are to connect these underserved airports to key airports through flights that will cost Rs 2,500 per hour flight. RCS envisages providing subsidy to airlines to offer these fares. AAI would invest Rs 17,500 crore in upgrading airport infrastructure over a period till 2019-20. The regional connectivity scheme will be applicable on route length between 200 to 800 km with no lower limit set for hilly, remote, island and security sensitive regions. A Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) will be created to fund the scheme via a levy on certain flights. States are expected to contribute 20 percent to the fund. Market-based reverse bidding mechanism to determine least VGF to select the airline operator with the right to match to the initial proposer.

The government said VGF will be reduced if passenger load factor remains high and will be discontinued after 3 years when a route becomes self sustainable.

Context: Announcement of the UDAN 3.0

21. Answer: c

Explanation:

At the all India level, no major change is seen in students' and teachers' attendance. Average

teacher attendance has hovered at around 85% and average student attendance at around 72% for the past several years in both primary and upper primary schools.

Overall enrollment (ages 6-14): For more than ten years, since 2007, the enrollment of children for the age group 6 to 14 has been above 95%. The proportion of children (ages 6-14) who are not enrolled in school has fallen below 3% for the first time and stands at 2.8% in 2018

The period 2006 to 2014 saw a year-on-year increase in the proportion of children (ages 6-14) enrolled in private school. In 2014, this figure stood at 30.8%. Since then private school enrollment appears to have plateaued for this age group. The percentage of children (ages 6-14) enrolled in private school was 30.6% in 2016 and is almost unchanged at 30.9% in 2018. There is no major change is seen in students' and teachers' attendance. Average teacher attendance has hovered at around 85% and average student attendance at around 72% for the past several years in both primary and upper primary schools.

Context: Release of the Annual Status of Education Report, 2018.

22. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It develops the leadership qualities of youth in the age group of 15-29. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is 100% funded scheme of the Union Ministry of Youth and Sports. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and has been continuing since the 12th Five Year Plan. The Scheme aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities. The Scheme beneficiaries are the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014. In the case of programme components specifically meant for adolescents, in the age group 10-19 years. It is an umbrella scheme that subsumed all the programme previously existed regarding youth development.

Context: Approval for the continuation of the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram.

23. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: INS Kohassa is a Naval Air Base in the North Andaman region. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is a forward looking base to enhance the surveillance North Andaman region. Hence statement 2 is correct.

NAS Shibpur was commissioned in January 2019 as INS Kohassa. It was established in 2001 as a Forward Operating Air Base for enhanced surveillance in North Andaman. The close proximity of Coco Islands (Myanmar) and a wide expanse of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) makes the base a very vital asset. The airfield provides sustained detached operations of Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and Coast Guard aircraft. The Air Station presently operates Short Range Maritime Reconnaissance (SRMR) aircraft and helicopters. These aircraft undertake EEZ Surveillance, Anti-Poaching Missions, Search and Rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions within the ANC Area of Responsibility. As a point of interest, during the search operations of the Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, Dornier DO 228s of the Navy and Coast Guard operated from this very base.

NAS Shibpur was identified by NITI Aayog as one of the 'Early Bird' project as part of holistic island development. Towards this, IN has been ready in all respects to facilitate civil flight operations from NAS Shibpur. The runway extension to 10,000 ft is also planned in the near future to facilitate operations of wide-bodied aircraft.

Context: Commissioning of the INS Kohassa.

24. Answer: b

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It provides immunization to children and pregnant women only. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It aims to make universal coverage by the year 2020. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Mission Indradhanush was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India on December 25, 2014. Between 2009-2013 immunization coverage has increased from 61% to 65%, indicating only a 1% increase in coverage every year. To accelerate the process of immunization by covering 5% and more children every year, Indradhanush mission has been adopted to achieve a target of full coverage by 2020. It aims to cover all those children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases. India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) provide free vaccines against 12 life-threatening diseases, to 26 million children annually. The Universal Immunization Programme provides life-saving vaccines to all children across the country free of cost to protect them against Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhea. (Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine in select states and districts).

Context: Universal Immunisation of India.

25. Answer: a

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a constitutional body formed under Article.263 of Indian Constitution. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is headed by the Prime Minister and all state chief ministers as its members. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Under article 263 of the Indian Constitution an Inter-State Council shall be formed to promote coordination between the states and between the Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure. The functions of the council are as follows:

1. Enquiring into and advising upon disputes which may arise between states.
2. Investigating and discussing subjects in which the states or the Centre and the states have a common interest.
3. Making recommendations upon any such subject, and particularly for the better coordination of policy and action on it.

Context: Basic polity facts about the formation of the Inter-State Council.

26. Ans: A

Explanation:

Giving a further fillip to India's energy conservation efforts, Ministry of Power (So statement 1 is incorrect)has launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018,an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R)(so statement 2 is correct)

Statement 3 is incorrect: BEE is a statutory body under Ministry of Power which is mandated to implement policies and programmes in the area of energy efficiency and conservation. The objective of such initiatives to reduce energy intensity in our country by optimizing energy demand and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) which are responsible for global warming and climate change. India has committed to reduction of 33-35% GHG emission by 2030 as part of the document submitted to UNFCCC.

Context: TheCode was launched on the occasion of National Energy ConservationDay 2018. The implementation of this Code will give a fillip to energy efficiency in the residential sector. It aims to benefit the occupants and the environment by promoting energy efficiency in the design and construction of homes, apartments and townships.

27. Ans: A

Explanation:

Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) was launched by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. It is aimed at streamlining the process of prequalification of bidders for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity.

Context: The Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari launched Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage.

28. Ans: A**Explanation:**

'Ideate for India – creative solutions using technology', a national challenge by National eGovernance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India and Intel India is one such initiative to spread awareness and make the future citizens understand how they can participate and contribute in this movement. So statement 2 is incorrect.

It is a national challenge to students of classes 6 - 12 across the country to give them a platform to become solution creators for the problems. It will help inculcate innovation skills in youth and equip all students to utilise technology for the betterment of their communities and the society at large. So statement 1 is correct

Context: To be able to truly make use of this opportunity and take our country to the next level; it's imperative to focus on preparing youth to expand their horizons and provide them with platforms to become aware of the problems and challenges in and around their immediate surroundings; while equipping them with skills to create local solutions using appropriate technologies. 'Ideate for India' programme was launched in this direction.

29. Ans: B**Explanation:**

Statement:1 is incorrect: The IMPRESS is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and is being implemented by the Indian Council of Social Science Research.

Statement: 2 is correct: To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country, including all Universities (Central and State), private institutions with 12(B) status conferred by UGC and to ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode are its objective

Other Objectives:

1. To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.
2. To focus research on (11) broad thematic areas such as : State and Democracy, Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society, Employment, Skills and Rural transformation, Governance, Innovation and Public Policy, Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health and Environment, Science and Education, Social Media and Technology, Politics, Law and Economics. The Sub-Theme areas will be decided on the basis of Expert Groups' advice before notifying the scheme and calling for applications.

Context: IMPRESS scheme has been launched to promote Social Science Research in the country.

30. Ans: B**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993' With the lapsing of the "The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993" w.e.f. 29.2.2004, the Commission is acting as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment whose tenure is extended from time to time through Government Resolutions

Statement 2 is correct: The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis comprises one Chairman (in the rank and status of the Union Minister for States) and four members, including a lady member (in the rank and status of the Secretary to the Government of India) and the Secretary (in the rank of Joint Secretary to Govt. of India) along with other supporting staff.

Context: NCSK has recommended that all states across India should have individual state safai karamchari commissions in order to end the practice of manual scavenging.

31. Ans: C**Explanation:**

BOTH statements are correct:

An autonomous body under the Union Human Resources Development Ministry, the NTA was constituted in 2017 to organise various competitive examinations. Starting 2018-19, the agency has taken the mantle of conducting competitive exams like UGC-National Eligibility Entrance Test, NEET and JEE (Main) from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Officials in the NTA

said that talks were on with various states to finalise the modalities.

Context: From 2020, the National Testing Agency (NTA) is likely to conduct board examinations in various states.

32. Ans: A

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday constituted an expert committee headed by former governor Bimal Jalan to review its economic capital framework, and whether the central bank needs to hold as much reserves as it currently does.

Context: According to the government, most central banks keep 13-14 percent of their assets as reserves, but in the case of the RBI, it is 27 per cent. Therefore, the implicit demand was to have a reserve transfer of Rs 3-4 trillion.

33. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Global Burden of Disease report was recently published by The Lancet Planetary Health journal not World bank

Statement 2 is correct: According to report, India, which accounts for 18% of the global population, recorded 26% of the global premature deaths and disease burden due to air pollution.

Context: Although the NCD burden has grown, India still does not have sufficiently detailed data on NCDs for research and policy purposes.

34. Ans: B

Explanation:

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. It is a legal right under which the GI holder can prohibit others from using the same name.

Statement 1 is correct: GI tag is given by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statement 2 is correct: This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The GIs include twenty-nine products which have got two separate GIs each, one for the name and the other for the logo.

India, which is a party to TRIPS, formulated a GI law in 1999, which came into force four years later. India has till now granted 303 GIs, including 11 foreign products like Scotch and Cognac.

Context: Recently, the Commerce and Industry Minister unveiled a tricolour logo that is common for all Geographical Indications (GI), with a tagline —invaluable treasures of incredible India.

35. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

Under the new policy, Nano drones which weigh less than 250 grams or equal does not need a registration or license. However, drones that belong to the remaining categories will need to be registered on the Digital Sky portal.

Digital Sky portal is an online platform as part of an enforcement system designated as No Permission No Takeoff (NPNT). Here, a drone operator can obtain all the necessary paperwork required

Context: The National Drones Policy drafted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation has come into effect from December 1, 2018.

36. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

The EBP was initially launched by oil firms in 2003, with an objective of blending ethanol with petrol. Currently, the programme is being implemented in 21 states and 4 union territories with a target of achieving 5 per cent blending and progressively increasing to 10 per cent blending by

2022.

Second generation ethanol is based on bio-mass such as wheat straw, rice straw and crop stubble that can be converted into ethanol. It is more expensive than first-generation ethanol. However, by producing 2G ethanol, India can also address a major environmental issue like crop residue burning which is causing horrific pollution in cities like Delhi.

Context: Ethanol blending in petrol is an effective way of increasing domestic petrol availability and for that, all-round efforts need to be made to increase ethanol production.

37. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect: Article 233 {Appointment of district judges}

1. Appointments of persons to be, and the posting and promotion of, district judges in any State shall be made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State.

2. A person not already in the service of the Union or of the State shall only be eligible to be appointed a district judge if he has been for not less than seven years as an advocate or a pleader and is recommended by the High Court for appointment.

Statement: 2 is correct : Article 234 {Recruitment of persons other than district judges to the judicial service}

Appointments of persons other than district judges to the judicial service of a State shall be made by the Governor of the State in accordance with rules made by him in that behalf after consultation with the State Public Service Commission and with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State.

Context: The NITI Aayog recently mooted the creation of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS). The idea was mooted on the argument that a centralised judicial recruitment process will help the lower judiciary on timely recruitment and clearing vacancies.

38. Ans: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

"National Health Agency" has been dissolved and will be replaced by National Health Authority as an attached office to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The existing multi-tier decision making structure has been replaced with the Governing Board chaired by the Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India which will enable the decision making at a faster pace, required for smooth implementation of the scheme.

It is envisaged that the National Health Authority shall have full accountability, authority and mandate to implement PM-JAY through an efficient, effective and transparent decision-making process.

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as "National Health Authority" for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

39. Ans: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses. PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name Jan Aushadhi Campaign

Statement 2 is correct: Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

Context: There is an increased push by the government for generic drugs, for affordable healthcare. But the concerns with the quality of the generics calls for a relook on this 'generic-only model

Miscellaneous:

1. With reference to 'Mid-Day Meal Scheme', consider the following statements:

1. The scheme envisages to provide cooked mid-day meal to every child at primary level only.
2. Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Government and Government-Aided Schools.
3. Tithi Bhojan is a substitute to Mid Day Meal.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

2. In Which country recently Hindi is included as the third official language used in the court alongside Arabic and English?

- a) Iran
- b) UAE
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Saudi Arabia

3. The International Astronomical Union has assigned the name Hippocamp to a smallest moon of which of the following planet?

- a) Neptune
- b) Uranus
- c) Mercury
- d) Saturn

4. Recently, Scientist have confirmed that it is the first mammal to be officially driven extinct as a result of human-driven climate change. The name of that mammal is:

- a) Unnuakomys hutchisoni
- b) Daihua sanqiong
- c) Bramble Cay melomy
- d) Bristlenose catfish

5. Recently 'Ghumot',has been notified as a heritage instrument of Goa. It is :

- a) A secular percussion instrument used by both Hindus and Catholics in folk and religious music
- b) A well known ancient hand-held agricultural tool that have curved blade and used for cutting weeds.
- c) An ancient device used to gauge the level and position of ships.
- d) Antique Brass Hand carved Kindi used to keep water

6. With reference to the Wallace's Giant Bee, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare species found only in a group of Indonesian islands called the North Moluccas.

2. Recently Global Wildlife Conservation has declared this bee species as extinct.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Hyper Spectral Programme which is recently commissioned by the Indian Air Force (IAF) helps in :

1. Detecting or identifying the presence of a human below trees, dense foliage, shrubs or inside a structure, whether it is day or night.

2. Detecting human presence from air even if there is clouds cover, dense fog or snow cover.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to the India's first ESG (environment, social and governance) based fund, consider the following statements:

1. ESG criteria are an increasingly popular way for investors to evaluate companies they might want to invest it.

2. SBI had launched India's first ESG Fund to give a differentiated opportunity to investors looking for companies that comply with sustainability standards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana':

1. It aims to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.

2. All Persons who paid Income Tax in the last assessment year shall not be eligible for benefits under the scheme.

3. The farmers have cultivated the land of ten hectares or less than this will be understood eligible for this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only

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

10. Which of the following statements with reference to the 'Technology Collaboration Programme on Bioenergy' is/ are correct?

1. Bioenergy TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA).
2. The benefits of participation in Bioenergy TCP are shared costs and pooled technical resources.
3. Bioenergy TCP is carried out within well-defined 3-years programmes called "Tasks".

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11. Which of the following is/are feature(s) of SHREYAS scheme launched by the Ministry of Human Resources Development?

1. It aims to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend.
2. It establishes an 'earn while you learn' system into higher education.
3. Its basic purpose is setting up Design Innovation Centres to promote a culture of innovation and creative problem solving.
4. It promotes all forms of innovations in the complete value chain from process to product, including innovation as a discipline itself.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

12. The term 'INSTEX SAS' is often mentioned in the news in the context of:

- a) A special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran
- b) An engineering design challenge that will focus on NASA's future mission planning and crewed space missions to other worlds.
- c) A system developed by China's National Research Center of Parallel Computer Engineering & Technology (NRCPC) and installed at the National Supercomputing Center in Wuxi
- d) None of the above.

13. With reference to the 'Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)', consider the following statements:

1. It has a corpus of Rs 2000 crore and created with NABARD.

2. States cannot access AMIF for innovative integrated market infrastructure projects if project is developed under public private partnerships.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to 'National Housing Bank'?

1. National Housing Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Government of India.
2. It was set up under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
3. NHB operates as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

15. This country recently became the 30th member of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). It is a country in the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe and one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

Which of the following country is being referred to in the above statements?

- a) Montenegro
b) Macedonia
c) Belarus
d) Ukraine

16. The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative: the first-ever whole-of-government approach to advance global women's economic empowerment is launched by:

- a) World bank
b) UNESCO
c) USA
d) UN Women

17. With reference to the Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs) recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. The bonds will be raised by SIDBI with the support of World Bank and UN Women.
2. Women's livelihood bond will have a five-year tenor and aims to raise ₹ 300 crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are

correct?

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

18. With reference to "Inclusive Internet Index 2019", consider the following statements:

1. INDEX is prepared by Facebook for the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
2. Men still have more Internet access than women globally but low and lower middle income countries narrowed the gender gap in 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following pairs:

Traditional block printing techniques	State
1. Ajrakh Print	: Gujarat:
2. Bagru block printing	: Rajasthan
3. Bagh Print	: Madhya Pradesh
4. Kalamkari	: Andhra Pradesh:

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

20. He is also referred to as Guru Rinpoche or second buddha, was born in India and is highly respected in Bhutan. His imprint is seen everywhere in Bhutan as there is an image or painting of the guru in every Bhutanese home or temple. Who is being referred to in the above statements?

- a) Padmasambhava
- b) Vasubandhu
- c) Kaundinya
- d) Nagarjuna

21. With reference to the scheduled languages of India, consider the following statements:

1. Eighth Schedule was intended to promote the progressive use of Hindi and for the enrichment and promotion of that language.
2. Maithili and Santhali were added in the eighth schedule together with Nepali and Manipuri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. With reference to the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international network of state-of-the-art telescopes and largest astrophysics projects in Europe used to observe the Universe.
2. It consists of 12 international stations spread across Germany, Poland, France, UK, Sweden and Ireland.
3. It is operated by the European Space Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Project REPLAN (REducing PLastic in Nature) is launched by:

- a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
- b) Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF)
- c) World ocean network
- d) United Nations Development Programme

24. Consider the following statements about Stem Cells:

1. They are capable of dividing and renewing themselves for long periods and can give rise to specialized cell types.
2. Like embryonic stem cells, Induced pluripotent stem cells can develop into any cell type.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements about International IP Index, "Inspiring Tomorrow":

1. It is released by U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC).
2. For the second year in a row, India's score represents the largest gain of any country measured on the index.
3. The index analyses the IP climate in 50 world economies and ranks economies based on 45 unique indicators that are critical to an innovation-led economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

26. Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)'

1. It includes only the BPL families who suffer with at least one deprivation under Socio Economic caste census 2011.
2. It aims to provide 8 crore deposit free LPG connections to women from BPL households by 2020

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. With reference to the 'Coal Swapping Scheme' consider the following statements:

1. Coal India would be the nodal agency for the swapping arrangement.
2. Coal Swapping will now allow state run coal producers to divert more coal to efficient power plants.
3. It's a coal supply rationalization scheme only for public power producers and regulated cement and steel sectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. In the coming years, it is expected that growth of e-commerce will increase like never before with all the current technologies. In light of such development government has come forward with new rules for E-Commerce, with reference to it consider the following statements:

1. Consumers may no longer enjoy the deep discounts offered by retailers that have a close association with marketplace entities.
2. It allows e-commerce companies which running marketplace platforms to sell products through companies, and of companies, in which they hold equity stake.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. With reference to the 'States' Startup Ranking 2018' consider the following statements:

1. It was announced by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and this exercise began from 2016.
2. Gujarat ranked the best performer and

Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, And Rajasthan are the top performers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. With reference to the 'Integrated Government Online Training Programme (iGOT)', consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
2. It will augment the existing training mechanism for government servants with online module-based training coupled with certification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Pokkali is a GI-tagged, saltwater-tolerant paddy crop.
2. Pokkali is endemic to Western ghat..
3. The Pokkali paddy stubble burning in the fields acts as a major source of air pollution in the western ghat region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32: International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and India have been successfully collaborating for more than four decades, synergy of the partnership resulted in advances in developing disease- and insect-resistant varieties suited to various rice environments. With reference to it consider the following statements:

1. IRRI South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) is located in the Philippines.
2. ISARC will serve as a hub for rice research and training in South Asia and the SAARC region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Recently an online portal "ENSURE" has been launched with an aim to:

- a) Provide a very simple, useful and transparent system to the beneficiary with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- b) Find a permanent solution of the financial stress of the power distribution companies.
- c) Enhance the Investment to Women-led Startups.
- d) Provide a comprehensive medical care facilities to Central Government employees and their family members

34. 'Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy(RISE) 2018' report is published by which of the following organisation ?

- a) The International Monetary Fund
- b) The United Nations Development Programme
- c) The World Economic Forum
- d) The World Bank group

35. Consider the following statements about ' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, 2018'

- 1. The index was developed by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with MOSPI.
- 2. Among states kerala tops the rank and among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018, consider the following statements?

- 1. 2010-2020 is UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.
- 2. India is facing a major malnutrition crisis as it holds almost a third of the world's burden for stunting.
- 3. In urban areas percent of overweight children on average is lower than rural areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Train 18 is India's first indigenously built engine-less train.
- 2. It has breached the 300 kmph speed threshold during a test run and become the country's fastest train.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

38. Consider the following pairs:

Nuclear power plant	Location
1. Tarapur Nuclear Reactor	: Maharashtra
2. Kaiga Atomic Power Plant	: Karnataka
3. Narora Nuclear Reactor	: Punjab
4. Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant	: Tamil Nadu

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

39. Consider the following pairs:

Pair 1	Pair 2
1. Noney Bridge	: will connect Manipur with the rest of the Country
2. Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge	: will connect Assam and Meghalaya with the rest of the country
3. Dhola-Sadiya bridge	: over the Lohit river and is the longest one in the country.

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

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

40. With reference to the minority status of communities In India consider the following statements:

- 1. Part three of the Indian Constitution defines the word 'minority'.
- 2. Article 29 provides for the right of the minorities" based on religion or language, to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Which state government of India is going to create an Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department) by merging several existing departments?

- a) Madhya pradesh
- b) Uttar pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Maharashtra

42. Which of the following rivers is/are tributaries of River Yamuna?

1. Tons River
2. Giri River
3. Hindon River
4. Sind River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. A total of 13 intangible cultural heritage elements from India have been inscribed till date on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
2. Mumbai's rich cluster of Victorian and Art Deco buildings in the Fort precinct and Marine Drive is the recent addition on the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list from India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

1. Answer:D**Explanation:**

All statements are incorrect

The scheme guidelines envisage to provide cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20 g of protein at upper primary level.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII (not all) of Government, Government-Aided Schools.

Concept of community participation in the form of Tithi Bhojan will be encouraged under which people from the community celebrate important days such as child birth, marriage, birthdays etc. by contributing to the Mid Day Meal Scheme. Tithi Bhojan is not a substitute to Mid Day Meal but it supplements or compliments Mid DayMeal.

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the revision of norms under Mid Day Meal Scheme with an outlay of Rs.12,054 Crore for 2019-20 in addition to the subsidy of about Rs. 8,000 crore borne by the Department of Food & Public Distribution.

2. Answer:B**Explanation:**

In a landmark decision, Abu Dhabi (UAE Capital) has included Hindi as the third official language used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English, as part of a move designed to improve access to justice.

Context: Indians, reportedly form the largest immigrant community in the UAE, with more than three million living in Dubai. The landmark decision undertaken by the judicial department will benefit a major chunk of workers, who mostly come from Hindi speaking regions of central and north India

3. Answer:A**Explanation:**

Astronomers have given a name — "Hippocamp" — to the most recently discovered moon of Neptune, which also formerly went by S/2004 N1."Hippocamp" is a horse-headed, fish-tailed creature in Greek mythology. The moniker, which has been approved by the International Astronomical Union, is in keeping with naming conventions for the Neptune system, which demand an association with Greco-Roman mythology and the sea. (Neptune, of course, is the Roman god of the sea, the equivalent of the Greek Poseidon.)

It is about 35 km (20 mi) in diameter, which orbits the planet in just under one Earth day. Its discovery on 1 July 2013 increased the number of Neptune's known satellites to fourteen.

Context: Astronomers using the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope, along with older data from the Voyager 2 probe, have revealed more about the origin of Neptune's smallest moon. The moon, which was discovered in 2013 and has now received the official name Hippocamp, is believed to be a fragment of its larger neighbour Proteus.

4. Answer:C**Explanation:**

Climate change induced by human beings has claimed its first victim in 'Class Mammalia' of the 'Animal Kingdom': the Bramble Cay melomys — a 'little brown rat' found in Australia. It was an endemic species of the isolated Bramble Cay, a vegetated coral cay located at the northern tip of the Great Barrier Reef.

Context: The government of Australia reported the species to be extinct in June 2016. Any member of the species had not been seen for about a decade.

5. Answer:A**Explanation:**

Ghumot, an indigenous earthen drum which was once banned due to the use of monitor lizard skin in its making, notified as a "heritage instrument of Goa. It is a secular percussion instrument used by both Hindus and Catholics in folk and religious music.



Context: A ghumot was presented as a gift from Goa to Portuguese Prime Minister Anotnio Costa, who is of Goan origin, in 2017 by an official delegation from the former Portuguese colony.

6. Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It's been 38 years since scientists last spotted the insect known as Wallace's Giant Bee, a rare species found only in a group of Indonesian islands called the North Moluccas. With a wingspan of 2.5 inches and a body the size of a human thumb, it's considered the world's largest bee, and was feared extinct.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Global Wildlife Conservation did not declared this bee species as extinct instead Global Wildlife Conservation, a Texas nonprofit that in 2017 started a global search for 25 "lost" species — animals that are not necessarily extinct but haven't been spotted in at least a decade.

Context: The World's Largest Bee Is Not Extinct:An expedition of conservationists found a living Wallace's Giant Bee on remote islands in Indonesia. It hadn't been seen since 1981.

7. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct:

Hyperspectral imaging, like other spectral imaging, collects and processes information from across the electromagnetic spectrum. The goal of hyperspectral imaging is to obtain the spectrum for each pixel in the image of a scene, with the purpose of finding objects, identifying materials, or detecting processes.

Hyper Spectral Programme will help detect or identify the presence of a human below trees, dense foliage, shrubs or inside a structure, whether it is day or night, even it can detect human presence from air even if there is cloud cover, dense fog or snow cover.

Context: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has commissioned the development of a Hyper Spectral Programme for monitoring suspicious moments along the international border and some parts within the country.

8. Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: ESG framework, is all about stakeholders - shareholders, employees, regulators, suppliers and customers. When you do an analysis of a company based on this, you are capturing the risk factors; and at the same time, looking at opportunities that may not reflect in valuation done the traditional so ESG criteria are an increasingly popular way for investors to evaluate companies they might want to invest it.

Statement: 2 is incorrect: The Avendus India not SBI had launched India's first ESG Fund to give a differentiated opportunity to investors looking for companies that comply with sustainability standards

Context: The Aventus India ESG Fund made its maiden investment on February 1 2109, marking the first time a fund of this kind has been launched in India.

9. Answer: C

Explanation:

Only statement 1 and 2 are correct

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Scheme is an initiative by the Government of India in which 120 million small and marginal Indian farmers who have less than 2 hectares (4.9 acres) of landholding will get up to Rs. 6,000(US\$83) per year as minimum income support.
- The PM-KISAN scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle. This would also protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

The following categories of beneficiaries of higher economic status shall not be eligible for benefits under the scheme.

- All Institutional Landholders.
- Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to the following categories.

1. Former and present holders of constitutional posts.
2. Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ /Rajya Sabha State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.
3. All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi Tasking Staff /Class IV/Group D employees)
4. All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10,000/-or more (Excluding Multi Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees) of the above category
5. All Persons who paid Income Tax in the last assessment year
6. Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.

Context: In the Interim Budget 2019-20, the Union Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

10. Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct

- International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on Bioenergy (IEA Bioenergy TCP) is an international platform for co-operation among countries with the aim of improving cooperation and information exchange between countries that have national programmes in bioenergy research, development and deployment.
- IEA Bioenergy TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status since 30th March, 2017.
- The primary goal of joining IEA Bioenergy TCP by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) is to facilitate the market introduction of advanced biofuels with an aim to bring down emissions and reduce crude imports.
- IEA Bioenergy TCP also provides a platform for international collaboration and information exchange in bioenergy research, technology development, demonstration, and policy analysis with a focus on overcoming the environmental, institutional, technological, social, and market barriers to the near-and long-term deployment of bioenergy technologies.

Context: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India joining IEA Bioenergy TCP as its 25th member.

11. Answer: B

Explanation:

SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three Central Ministries, namely the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment viz the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the National Career Service (NCS) and introduction of BA/BSc/BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.

Objectives of SHREYAS

- i. To improve the employability of students by introducing employment relevance into the learning process of the higher education system
- ii. To forge a close functional link between education and industry/service sectors on a sustainable basis
- iii. To provide skills which are in demand, to the students in a dynamic manner
- iv. To establish an 'earn while you learn' system into higher education
- v. To help business/industry in securing good quality manpower
- vi. To link student community with employment facilitating efforts of the Government

Context: The Minister for Human Resources Development launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

12. Answer:A**Explanation:**

On 31 January 2019, France, Germany and the United Kingdom (the "E3") announced the registration in France of INSTEX SAS ("Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges"), which is a special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

Context: EU's responses to the US decision in May 2018 to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ("JCPOA") and re-impose related sanctions against Iran was the creation of a new mechanism to facilitate legitimate trade for European companies wishing to do business with Iran.

13. Answer:A**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is correct: The CCEA has given its approval for the creation of a corpus of Rs 2000 crore for Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) to be created with NABARD for development and upgradation of agriculture marketing infrastructure in Gramin Agriculture Markets and Regulated Wholesale Markets.

Statement: 2 is incorrect: States can access AMIF for innovative integrated market infrastructure projects, including through public private partnerships.

Context: Union cabinet has recently approved the creation of a Rs, 2,000 crore Agri- Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) for development and upgradation of rural agriculture markets.

14. Answer:B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect: National Housing Bank (NHB), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Statement: 2 is correct: National Housing Bank (NHB) was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1987. NHB is an apex financial institution for housing. It commenced its operations in 9th July 1988.

Statement: 3 is correct: NHB has been established with an objective to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and to provide financial and other support incidental to such institutions and for matters connected therewith. NHB registers, regulates and supervises Housing Finance Company (HFCs), keeps surveillance through On-site & Off-site Mechanisms and co-ordinates with other Regulators.

Context: Cabinet approved payment of ₹ 1,450 crore to Reserve Bank of India to acquire its stake in National Housing Bank.

15. Answer: B**Explanation:**

North Macedonia recently became the 30th member of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). It is a country in the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia. Macedonia was prevented from joining NATO or EU over its name as Greece cited historical concerns and opposed the use of the name "Macedonia" as cultural appropriation.

Context: Accord with Greece to change the name of the former Yugoslav republic to 'Republic of North Macedonia' ended one of the world's longest diplomatic disputes, paving the way for Macedonia to join NATO and the European Union.

16. Answer: C**Explanation:**

The Trump Administration (USA) has launched the first-ever whole-of-government approach to advance global women's economic empowerment, W-GDP.

W-GDP seeks to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025 through U.S. government activities, private-public partnerships, and a new, innovative fund at USAID.

Context: When women are economically empowered, they re-invest in their families and communities, producing a multiplier effect that spurs economic growth and contributes to global peace and stability.

17. Answer: C**Explanation:**

Both statements are correct.

The World Bank, UN Women (a United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have come together to launch a five-year tenor 'women's livelihood bond' to raise ₹ 300 crore. The coupon rate on these bonds will be 3 percent per annum.

Context: The proceeds from these social impact bonds, which will be unsecured and unlisted, will be used to help rural women in the country's poorest States to set up or scale up their own enterprises.

18. Answer: B**Explanation:**

Statement: 1 is incorrect because index was prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook

Statement: 2 is correct as study has revealed the following facts:.

- Men still have more Internet access than women globally but low and lower middle income countries narrowed the gender gap in 2018.
- India ranked 47th in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" score while Sweden topped the chart, followed by Singapore and the US.
- The percentage of households connected to the Internet globally increased, on average from 53.1 percent to 54.8 per cent, the rate of growth in Internet connections slowed to 2.9 per cent in 2019 from 7.7 per cent in 2018.
- In some countries, fixed-line Internet access is too expensive or inaccessible, that's why mobile services are critical.
- While lower middle income countries had a significant 66 per cent improvement in 4G coverage, low income countries saw a moderate 22 per cent improvement.

Context: The Economist Intelligence Unit, commissioned by Facebook, has published the Inclusive Internet Index for a third consecutive year.

19. Answer: D**Explanation:**

All the pairs are correctly matched

Block printing is a form of dying and coloring a fabric using wooden blocks. India is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of block printed fabric in the world.

Some important traditional block printing techniques in different states

- Gujarat: Ajrakh Print
- Rajasthan: Sanganeri, Ajrakh, Dabu

- Madhya Pradesh: Bagh Print, Bherugarh Print (Batik)
- Andhra Pradesh: Kalamkari

Context: The 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru, Rajasthan was inaugurated to preserve the art of traditional Bagru block printing.

20. Answer: A

Explanation:

Guru Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche is known as the Second Buddha because he played a seminal role in spreading Buddhism and Buddhist teachings across the Himalayan region, including Northeast India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet

Context: Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP), India International Centre (IIC) and Sahapedia organised a two-day conference on the rich tradition and legacy associated with Guru Padmasambhava

21. Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is correct: The Constitutional provisions relating to the Eighth Schedule occur in article 344(1) and 351 of the Constitution. Article 344(1) provides for the constitution of a Commission by the President upon expiration of five years from the commencement of the Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of ten years from such commencement, which shall consist of a Chairman and such other members representing the different languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to make recommendations to the President for the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes of the Union. It would thus appear that the Eighth Schedule was intended to promote the progressive use of Hindi and for the enrichment and promotion of that language.

Statement: 2 is incorrect: The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:- (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri. Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added in 1967. Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

Context: The Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to implement the recommendations of a committee for the promotion and protection of Maithili language and its scripts.

22. Answer:C

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 2 are correct

The Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) is an international network of state-of-the-art telescopes used to observe the Universe in unprecedented detail at low radio frequencies. LOFAR is one of the largest astrophysics projects in Europe, consisting of 12 international stations spread across Germany, Poland, France, UK, Sweden and Ireland, with additional stations and a central hub in Netherlands,

It is operated by the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON). So statement 3 is incorrect

Context: The 300,000 new galaxies were discovered as part of a study involving 200 scientists from 18 countries, using a Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope in the Netherlands.

23. Answer:A

Explanation:

A project called REPLAN (Reducing Plastic in Nature) is launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). REPLAN aims to remove the existing waste plastic material from nature and use it in a semi-permanent manner, so that the availability of plastic in nature is reduced to a large extent. The waste plastic from nature is collected, de-structured and de-gradated and then mixed with paper pulp in a ratio of 80 to 20.

Context: Contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign in a

unique way, Khadi India has launched a designer carry bag made from a mix of plastic waste and paper pulp

24. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct:

A stem cell is a cell with the unique ability to develop into specialised cell types in the body. In the future they may be used to replace cells and tissues that have been damaged or lost due to disease.

There are three main types of stem cell:

- embryonic stem cells
- adult stem cells
- induced pluripotent stem cells

Embryonic stem cells supply new cells for an embryo? as it grows and develops into a baby. These stem cells are said to be pluripotent, which means they can change into any cell in the body.

Induced pluripotent stem cells, or 'iPS cells', are stem cells that scientists make in the laboratory. 'Induced' means that they are made in the lab by taking normal adult cells, like skin or blood cells, and reprogramming them to become stem cells. Just like embryonic stem cells, they are pluripotent so they can develop into any cell type.

Context: Induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells, are a keystone of regenerative medicine. Outside the body, they can be coaxed to become many different types of cells and tissues that can help repair damage due to trauma or disease. Now, a study in mice suggests another use for iPS cells: training the immune system to attack or even prevent tumors

25. Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct:

- India has jumped eight places to rank 36th in the seventh annual international intellectual property index of US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC).
- The index Inspiring Tomorrow analyses the IP climate in 50 world economies. It ranks economies based on 45 unique indicators that are critical to an innovation-led economy supported by robust patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret protection.
- For the second year in a row, India's score represents the largest gain of any country measured on the index, which covers over 90 per cent of global gross domestic product

Context: The index shows India moving 44th position in 2018 to 36th in 2019. The improvement reflects important reforms implemented by Indian policymakers toward building and sustaining an innovation ecosystem for domestic entrepreneurs and foreign investors alike.

26. Ans: b

Explanation:

Statement: 1 is incorrect because It has been expanded to cover all SC/ST households, beneficiaries of Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAY), PMAY (Gramin), forest dwellers, most backward classes (MBC), Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, people residing in Islands or rivers island.

Statement: 2 is correct as it aims to provide 8 crore deposit free LPG connections to women from BPL households by 2020. The LPG Connection is released in the name of adult woman of the BPL Family, with a financial support of RS 1600/- subject to the condition that no LPG connection exists in the name of any family member of the household.

Context: Recently, the government has extended the scope of beneficiaries to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

27. Ans: c

Explanation:

Coal Swapping Scheme is a coal supply rationalization scheme to private power producers and non-regulated cement and steel sectors that are importing coal or have domestic supply linkages.(so statement 3 is incorrect)

Now bilateral arrangements can be signed between two consumers for swapping full or part of their entitled quantity of coal allocation for at least six months.

Coal India would be the nodal agency for the swapping arrangement. Coal Swapping will now allow state run coal producers to divert more coal to efficient power plants, benefitting both coal producer and easier availability of coal to power plants. (statement 1 and 2 are correct)

Need for the Coal Swapping Scheme

Inadequate quantity of domestic coal, rising imports and high price for imported coal necessitates government intervention while allocating the available coal among power producing firms and so the government come with this swapping scheme

Context: Government has decided to extend the Coal Swapping Scheme to private power producers and non-regulated cement and steel sectors.

28. Ans: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct as Consumers may no longer enjoy the deep discounts offered by retailers that have a close association with marketplace entities.

Statement 2 is incorrect because From February 1, 2019, e-commerce companies running marketplace platforms — such as Amazon and Flipkart — cannot sell products through companies, and of companies, in which they hold equity stake.

New rules

- It put a cap of 25% on the inventory that a marketplace entity or its group companies can sell from a particular vendor. Inventory of a vendor will be deemed to be controlled by e-commerce marketplace entity if more than 25% its purchases are from the marketplace entity or its group companies.
- No seller can be forced to sell its products exclusively on any marketplace platform, and that all vendors on the e-commerce platform should be provided services in a “fair and non-discriminatory manner”.
- The marketplaces will not be allowed to offer deep discounts through their in house companies listed as sellers (check price cartelization).
- E-commerce marketplace entity will be required to furnish a certificate along with a report of statutory auditor to Reserve Bank of India, confirming compliance of the guidelines, by September 30 every year for the preceding financial year.
- E-commerce entities will have to maintain a level playing field and ensure that they do not directly or indirectly influence the sale price of goods and services.
- From February 1, 2019, e-commerce companies running marketplace platforms — such as Amazon and Flipkart — cannot sell products through companies, and of companies, in which they hold equity stake.

Context: Recently, government introduced changes in e-commerce norms which are said to be clarificatory in nature and are not new restrictions

29. Answer : C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) announced the results of the first ever States’ Start-up Ranking 2018 at an event in New Delhi today. DIPP began this exercise from January, 2016.

States have been identified as leaders across various categories such as Start-up policy leaders, incubation hubs, seeding innovation, scaling innovation, regulatory change champions, procurement leaders, communication champions, North-Eastern leader, and hill state leader.

- Best Performer:Gujarat
- Top Performer: Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, and Rajasthan
- Leaders: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana

Context: States’ Startup Ranking 2018 Announced

30. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct: iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) developed by the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. It will augment the existing training mechanism with online module-based training coupled with certification. This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis. The initiative aims at “Competent Civil Services for Good Governance”. A Hybrid

Course on Administrative Laws developed by DoPT in collaboration with the premier law school, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru was also launched.

Context: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme)

31. Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The GI-tagged Pokkali is a saltwater-tolerant paddy grown in the coastal fields of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts of Kerala.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Pokkali paddy is endemic to central Kerala, the variety is now grown in only over 5,000 hectares, a drop from over 25,000 hectares a few decades ago, due to high labour cost and poor returns.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The single-season paddy is raised in saltwater fields between June and November followed by a season of fish-farming. After the harvest, the paddy stubble in the fields acts as food and shelter for shrimp and small fish. Fish excreta and scales, along with the decomposed stubble, provide excellent natural manure for another season of Pokkali. This paddy stubble is not burned.

Context: Kerala's GI-tagged, salt-water tolerant Pokkali paddy is under threat:

32. Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: IRRI South Asia Regional Center (ISARC), located in Varanasi, India

Statement 2 is correct: IRRI South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) will serve as a hub for rice research and training in South Asia and the SAARC region.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is an independent, nonprofit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960.

India began its partnership with IRRI through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1967 when Indian scientists from ICAR's two main rice research centers — the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI) in Cuttack and the Directorate of Rice Research (DRR) in Hyderabad— began regularly visiting IRRI.

Context: The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the 6th International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (IRRI SARC) in Varanasi

33. Answer: A

Explanation:

National Livestock Mission has been conceived by the government for the sustainable development of the livestock sector. Under the Mission's component called Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG), subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs etc. through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) goes directly to the beneficiary's account. In order to make it better, simpler and transparent, the NABARD has developed an online portal "ENSURE" (<https://ensure.nabard.org>) so that the information related to beneficiary and processing of application can be made readily available.

Context: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh launched a portal ENSURE- National Livestock Mission-EDEG developed by NABARD and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

34. Answer: D

Explanation:

RISE 2018 report, is produced by the World Bank Group and it is the second edition of it, first in 2016.

The latest edition of the Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) finds that in the past decade, the number of countries with strong policy frameworks for sustainable energy has more than tripled since 2010, with a dramatic increase in the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency targets.

However, the report warns that the world, as a whole, is only about half way towards the adoption of advanced policy frameworks for sustainable energy, leaving significant room for improvement in order to reach global climate goals and the sustainable energy goal on energy (SDG7).

Context: Recently RISE 2018 report is published.

35. Ans: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The SDG India Index is developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute, and United Nations in India.

It tracks progress of all States and UTs on 62 Priority Indicators selected by NITI Aayog, which in turn is guided by MoSPI's National Indicator Framework comprising 306 indicators and based on multiple-round consultations with Union Ministries/Departments and States/UTs.

Statement 2 is correct: The nation as a whole has a score of 58, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark. Himachal Pradesh (69), Kerala (69) and Tamil Nadu (68) have emerged as front runners while Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the laggards. Kerala's overall top rank is attributed to its strong performance in providing good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality and providing quality education. • Himachal Pradesh ranks high in providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead

Context: NITI Aayog has released the Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.

36. Ans: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: 2016-2025 is UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is a commitment of Member States to undertake ten years of sustained and coherent implementation of policies and programmes, following the recommendations and commitments of the ICN2 Framework for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the Global Nutrition Report 2018, India is facing a major malnutrition crisis as it holds almost a third of the world's burden for stunting.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In urban areas, there are 7.1 per cent overweight children on average, whereas in rural areas 6.2 per cent children are overweight. It is slightly more common among boys (6.9 per cent) than girls (6.1 per cent), the report highlighted.

Context: The GNR for the year 2018 was released recently. GNR was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013 as a mechanism for tracking the commitments made by 100 stakeholders spanning governments, aid donors, civil society, the UN and businesses.

37. Ans: A

Explanation:

ONLY statement 1 is correct:

Train 18 is India's first indigenously built engine-less train that has breached the 180 kmph speed threshold during a test run in the Kota-SawaiMadhopur section and becoming the country's fastest train replacing shatabdi. The approximate cost of the train is Rs.100 crore and it is expected to go up to a maximum speed of 160 kmph

38. Ans: B

Explanation:

ONLY pair 1 and 2 are correctly matched

Nuclear power in India delivers a total capacity of 6.7GW, contributing to just under 2% of the country's electricity supply. India's nuclear plants are controlled by Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL), a state-owned corporation which was founded in 1987.

- The Tarapur Nuclear Reactor in Maharashtra, Western India is the oldest nuclear facility in India, having commenced commercial operations in 1969.
- The Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in Karnataka, Western India is formed of four 220MW PHWR reactors making a total of 880MW. The reactors became operational in December 1999, October 2000, April 2007 and January 2011.
- Kalapakkam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu first began operating in 1984 and currently has two 235MW reactors, with two more reactors of 500MW and 600MW to be added at a later date.

- The Narora Nuclear Reactor in Uttar Pradesh, Northern India has two PHWR which offer a total capacity of 440MW. Unit 1 was installed in January 1991, and unit 2 following in July 1992.
- The Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant in Gujarat, Western India has two PHWR reactors with a total installed capacity of 440MW. The two reactors were completed in May 1993 and September 1995 respectively.

Context: Kaiga plant in Karnataka has recently created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation for 941 days. It breaks the earlier record of 940 days by the Heysham – 2 reactor of United Kingdom.

39. Ans: D

Explanation:

ALL pairs are correctly matched.

Noney Bridge is going to be constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) across the river Ijai in the state of Manipur. It is set to get the World's tallest railway bridge and it is expected to be over 142 meters tall. It will connect Manipur with the rest of the Country.

Dhubri- Phulbari Bridge is the new bridge going to be constructed across Brahmaputra between Dhubri on North bank and Phulbari on South bank. It will connect Assam and Meghalaya with the rest of the country. The implementing agency is the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), a fully owned company of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. This project is being funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

At present, the 9.15-km-long Dhola-Sadiya bridge (Bhupen Hazarika Setu) over the Brahmaputra (Lohit river) is the longest one in the country. Once completed, Dhubri-Phulbari will be the longest bridge in the country beating the length of Dhola-Sadiya Bridge.

Context: Connectivity to northeastern part of India is strategically important and any development in this field becomes important for the examination.

40. Ans: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution of India does not define the word 'minority'. However, Articles 29 and 30 of the constitution of India stand guarantee to the interest and protection of minorities in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 29 states "Any Section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof, having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same". And Article 30 provides for the right of the minorities" based on religion or language, to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice".

By combining these two articles together, it can be inferred that the Indian constitution safeguards the interests of three different categories of minorities, based on language, religion and culture.

Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, and Jains are the communities notified as minority communities by the Government of India, are

Context: The Union government has rejected the recommendation of the State government to grant religious minority status to Lingayat and Veerashaiva communities

41. Ans: A

Explanation:

The newly elected Kamal Nath led Madhya Pradesh government on is going to create an Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department) by merging several existing departments, a promise that the party has made by in recently concluded state polls.

42. Ans: D

Explanation:

The important tributaries of the Yamuna River are Tons, Chambal, Hindon, Betwa and Ken. Other small tributaries of the Yamuna River include the Giri, Sind, Uttangan, Sengar and the Rind. The main Yamuna and Tons are fed by glaciers, viz., the Bandar Punch Glacier and its branches and originates from the Great Himalayan range.

Context: A small stretch of less than two per cent of the Yamuna accounts for 76 per cent of the river's pollution, according to a monitoring committee overseeing its cleaning.

43. Ans: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: A total of 13 intangible cultural heritage elements from India have been inscribed till date on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

These include the Kumbh Mela, Novruz, Tradition of Vedic chanting, Ramlila, Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre; Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas; Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan; and Chhau dance.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mumbai's Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles inscribed as a Unesco World Heritage Site not in the intangible cultural heritage list.

Context: Colombia to host next Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2019

2018 RESULTS

11 Ranks in Top 50

28 Ranks in Top 100

183 Ranks in Final List



RANK 11
Pujya Priyadarshni



RANK 16
Dhodmise Trupti Ankush



RANK 21
Rahul Jain



RANK 24
Anuraj Jain



RANK 31
Mainak Ghosh



RANK 32
Sameer Saurabh



RANK 33
Awhale Manisha Manikrao



RANK 36
Deepesh Kedia



RANK 39
Patil Hemanta Keshav



RANK 41
Alok Kumar



RANK 43
Akshay Agrawal



RANK 52
Prateek Singh



RANK 53
Sumit Kumar



RANK 56
Dileep Mishra



RANK 59
Chahat Bajpai



RANK 60
Anya Das



RANK 61
Girdhar

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