

TARGET PRELIMS 2019

Question Bank (Vol I)

June 2018 till August 2018.

350+ Questions with Explanation, Approach, Related TopicsURLs.



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ECONOMY



Q1. Which of the following is the best description of the term 'Asian Premium' often seen in news?

- a) It is the money which developed countries agreed to give to the poor countries of Asia to avoid climate change.
- b) Extra charges being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to Western countries.
- c) The total amount of investments Asian Countries received from World Bank in the last decade.
- d) The extra amount of FDI Asian Countries received in last few years due to their population and lack of development.

Q2. Consider the following about 'Compact 2025':

- 1. It is an initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025.
- 2. It has been started by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

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

Q3. 'Consumer Confidence Survey' often seen in the news is released by:

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) The Reserve Bank of India
- d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Q4 Consider the following about 'Directorate of Revenue Intelligence':

- 1. It is the apex anti-money laundering agency of India.
- 2. It works under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, 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

Q5. Consider the following about 'Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts':

- 1. It is a non-profit organisation established under the Companies Act in the year 1986-87.
- 2. It is an apex body of handicrafts exporters for promotion of exports of Handicrafts from country.

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

Q6. 'Generalised System of Preferences', often seen in the news is:

- a) A preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries.
- b) Non-discriminatory trade policy commitment offered by one country to another on a reciprocal basis.
- c) A preferential tariff system extended by India to African countries.
- d) A generalised system of mapping consumer preferences

Q7. Consider the following about 'Global Real Estate Transparency Index':

- 1. The survey is released by United Nations Human Settlement Programme.
- 2. In the latest edition (2018) of index, India has moved up one place due to improvement in market fundamentals, policy reforms, and liberalisation of FDI.

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

Q8. Which of the following best describes 'Liberalised Remittance Scheme' of RBI:

- a) All resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- b) All non-resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- c) All resident individuals, excluding minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- d) All foreigners are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

Q9. Which of the following is the best description of the term 'Mathew Effect' sometimes seen in news?

- a) A social phenomenon wherein people who

already possess high economic or social status continue to do so over time
 b) A social phenomenon wherein people who possess high economic or social status suddenly lose that status.
 c) A social phenomenon wherein people who possess low economic or social status improve their status over time
 d) Convergence of income between the poor and the rich.

Q10. Which of the following best describes 'No-Fly List'?

- It is a list prepared by the government, of people who are prohibited to travel through airways.
- It is a list prepared by the government, of aircrafts which are prohibited from flying.
- It is a list prepared by the government, of zones where private aircrafts are prohibited from entering.
- It is a list prepared by the government of types of drones which are prohibited from flying near government premises.

Q11. Consider the following about 'RAIL-MADAD':

- It is a mobile App to register complaints by passengers through mobile phone/web.
 - It relays real time feedback to passengers on the status of redressal of their complaints
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Q12. Consider the following about 'Renewal Energy Dialogue':

- This dialogue is organised by Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).
 - It offers a platform for engaged deliberations on the role of different stakeholders in advancing renewable energy deployment, balancing both domestic priorities and international mitigation ambitions and commitments.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Q13. Consider the following about 'Mission Solar Charkha':

- It is an initiative of The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

2. Its main objective is to leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for sustenance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q14. In which of the following locations Strategic Oil Reserves have not been established?

- Visakhapatnam
- Mangalore
- Padur
- Ambala

Q15. Which of the following state government has launched 'Surya Shakti Kisan Scheme'?

- Uttar Pradesh
- Gujarat
- Madhya Pradesh
- Rajasthan

Q16. Consider the following statements about 'UDYAM SANGAM':

- It is organised by The Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The purpose of the Conclave is to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem and for promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on MSME related issues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q17. Consider the following statements about 'Unorganised Worker Identification Number':

- It is an initiative of The Ministry of Corporate Affairs under Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.
- It will improve unorganised workers' access to all social security schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q18. Consider the following about 'Water Productivity Mapping of Major Indian Crops Report':

- The report is released by Niti Aayog.

2. The report presents for the first time, maps on the water productivity of ten major Indian crops across cultivating districts and 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

Q19. Consider the following about 'Zero Budget Natural Farming':

1. 'Zero budget' farming promises to end a reliance on loans and drastically cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for desperate farmers.
2. Under this initiative there is no use of chemicals.
3. The movement first evolved in Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q20. With reference to 'Financial stability report', consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Ministry of Finance.
2. It reflects the overall assessment of the stability of India's financial system and its resilience to risks emanating from global and domestic factors.

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

Q21. With reference to 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework', consider the following statements:

1. It is a set of guidelines by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to private companies for improving their financial condition.
2. It is a framework for improving the financial condition of the scheduled commercial banks.

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

Q22. What is/are possible factor for depreciation of rupees?

- a) Rise in international crude oil prices.
- b) Tightening of U.S. monetary policy
- c) Both a and b
- d) None of the above

Q23. With reference to 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016', consider the following statements:

1. It deals primarily with insolvency issues in the banking sector.
2. Timeline for Insolvency resolution process is 2 years under IBC, 2016.

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

Q24. With reference to 'Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)', consider the following statements:

1. It is a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation.
2. It provides insurance to deposits up to 10 lakhs.

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

Q25. 'Compact2025', sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) It is an initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025.
- b) It is an initiative for increasing forest cover up to 30 percent all over the world by 2025.
- c) It is an initiative for the elimination of gender inequality by 2025.
- d) It is an initiative for increasing primary health coverage by 2025.

Q26. With reference to 'Consumer Confidence Survey', consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO)
2. This Survey is being used by the Reserve Bank as one of the important inputs for monetary Policy formulation.

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

Q27. With reference to 'Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS)', consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. Regulations for the scheme are provided under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

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

Q28) 'MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel)', recently in the news is related to

- a) Monitoring the Non-performing assets (NPA) of banks
- b) Monitoring drop out rate in primary schools
- c) Promotion of girl education in India.
- d) Expedite and streamline passenger grievance redressal

Q29. With reference to 'Monetary Policy Committee', consider the following statements:

1. The committee was created in 2016 to bring transparency and accountability in fixing India's Fiscal Policy.
2. All members of the committee are nominated by the 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

Q30. Consider the following Statements about Advance Pricing Agreement:

1. It is an agreement between the taxpayer and the tax authority regarding transfer pricing in the future.
2. The agreement will be binding on both the taxpayer and the tax authorities.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q31. Which of the following sequence is correct about share capital in Regional Rural Banks?

- a) Union Government>Sponsor Bank>State Government
- b) Sponsor Bank>State Government>Union

Government

- c) Union Government>State Government>Sponsor Bank
- d) State Government>Sponsor Bank>Union Government

Q32. Consider the following statements about Atal Pension Yojana:

1. All workers in the unorganized sector up to the age of 60 years are eligible for the scheme.
2. On the death of the subscriber, the spouse will receive 50% of the normal pension amount.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q33. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the e-way bill?

- a) It is mandatory for interstate movement of goods of value more than Rs. 50,000 in motor vehicles.
- b) Only GST registered entities can register in the e-way bill portal.
- c) The Validity of e-Way Bill is fixed as one day for every 100 Kms which can be extended.
- d) A single e-way bill can be generated for multiple consignments.

Q34. 'Cabotage Law', recently seen in the news, is related to

- a) Shipping
- b) Civil Aviation
- c) Military Aviation
- d) Space Exploration

Q35. Consider the following statements about 'Green bond'

1. The first Green bond was issued by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in 2007.
2. The bond is voluntary and only issued by a financial institution.
3. A Green bond is functionally a debt instrument, like any other bond.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q1.

Answer: B

Explanation

Asian Premium is extra charges being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to Western countries.

The Asian Premium has its origins in the late 1980s when Saudi Arabia, the de-facto OPEC leader, adopted a marker based price system for its oil exports – West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for the US, Brent for Europe and Dubai/Oman for Asia. The Asian marker was costlier than the American and European ones, and did not fully reflect market dynamics. This was due to lack of substantial production centers (other than in the Gulf region) and oil derivatives market in Asia. Also Asian countries, dependent heavily on oil imports, were essentially price-takers. In short, the oil exporters used their superior bargaining power to squeeze Asian oil importers while charging less to their American and European customers.

Approach: There was a news ‘Scrap ‘Asian Premium’ on oil’. So always be cautious while reading the newspaper. Otherwise you won’t even get the idea how to handle this question.

Related Topics: OPEC countries.

Q2.

Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Compact2025 is an initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It has been started by The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

To help countries develop and implement strategic actions for food security and nutrition, Compact2025 employs the following approaches and activities:

- Engaging countries: Compact2025 begins with an initial focus on four countries—Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Rwanda—which seek to accelerate their progress toward ending hunger and undernutrition.
- Stimulating knowledge and innovation: It creating a Knowledge and Innovation (K&I) Hub to provide policymakers and practitioners with pragmatic, evidence-based guidance on scaling up success stories to end hunger and undernutrition.
- Supporting existing initiatives and partnerships

Approach: To tackle this question you need to be very well prepared with current affairs.

Related Topics: International Food Policy Research Institute and Food Corporation of India

Q3.

Answer: C

Explanation

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY

It is released by RBI. The survey seeks responses on households' perceptions and expectations on the general economic situation, the employment scenario, the overall price situation and their own income and spending.

Recent survey (Dec 2018) was conducted in 13 cities : Ahmedabad; Bengaluru; Bhopal; Chennai; Delhi; Guwahati; Hyderabad; Jaipur; Kolkata; Lucknow; Mumbai; Patna; and Thiruvananthapuram.

Approach: Always keep a watch on the surveys and indices released by Government. They have a high chances of coming in the exam.

Q4.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It works under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.)

It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items, as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty.

Q5.

Answer: C

Explanation

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a non-profit Organisation, with an object to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is an apex body of handicrafts exporters for promotion of exports of Handicrafts from country and projecting India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality of handicrafts goods & services and ensured various measures keeping in view of observance of international standards and specifications.

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) was established under the Companies Act in the year 1986-87.

Approach: All these councils, organisations and committees are very important. So always give them time when you see them in the news.

Q6.

Answer: A

Explanation

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries (also known as preference giving countries or donor countries) to developing countries (also known as preference receiving countries or beneficiary countries).

It involves reduced MFN Tariffs or duty-free entry of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of donor countries.

Benefits of GSP:

- 1) Indian exporters benefit indirectly - through the benefit that accrues to the importer by way of reduced tariff or duty free entry of eligible Indian products
- 2) Reduction or removal of import duty on an Indian product makes it more competitive to the importer - other things (e.g. quality) being equal.
- 3) This tariff preference helps new exporters to penetrate a market and established exporters to increase their market share and to improve upon the profit margins, in the donor country.

Most Favoured Nation: Non-discriminatory trade policy commitment offered by one country to another on a reciprocal basis.

Q7.

Answer: B

Explanation

‘Global Real Estate Transparency Index’

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The survey is released by JLL, a property consultancy company.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: India has improved its ranking by one notch to 35th in the global real estate transparency index, driven by policy reforms and liberalisation of FDI rules in property as well as retail sectors.

The 2018 Index covers 100 markets, from the mature economies of Western Europe and North America to opaque markets in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Based on 186 different indicators, the index reveals a truly global picture of real estate market transparency. It is a bi-annual survey. According to the survey, the UK is at the top position followed by Australia and the US. France, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland and Sweden are in the top 10 in the list of 100 countries.

Q8.

Answer: A

Explanation

‘Liberalized Remittance Scheme’ : Under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. Further, resident individuals can avail of foreign exchange facility for the purposes mentioned in Para 1 of Schedule III of FEM (CAT) Amendment Rules 2015, dated May 26, 2015, within the limit of USD 2, 50,000 only. The Scheme was introduced on February 4, 2004, with a limit of USD 25,000. The LRS limit has been revised in stages consistent with prevailing macro and micro economic conditions. In case of remitter being

a minor, the LRS declaration form must be countersigned by the minor's natural guardian. The Scheme is not available to corporates, partnership firms, HUF, Trusts etc.

Q9.

Answer: A

Explanation

MATHEW EFFECT: Also known as accumulated advantage, this refers to a social phenomenon wherein people who already possess high economic or social status continue to do so over time. By the same logic, people with the low economic or social status struggle to improve their status.

Approach: This question deals with Economics and was asked from current affairs. Sometimes UPSC picks concepts like these from newspapers.

Q10.

Answer: A

Explanation

NO-FLY-LIST: It is a list prepared by the government of people who are prohibited to travel through airways.

Approach: The news related to No-Fly List became very popular in recent time and this is why having a basic knowledge of this term becomes necessary.

Q11.

Answer: C

Explanation

RAIL-MADAD

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Coal launched a new App "Rail Madad" – An App to expedite & streamline passenger grievance redressal.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It relays real time feedback to passengers on the status of redressal of their complaints- the passenger gets an instant ID through SMS on registration of complaint followed by a customized SMS communicating the action taken there on by Railway.

RPGRAMS (Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System), which has been developed by Northern Railway (Delhi Division) and comprises many novel features including 'Rail Madad' – a mobile App to register complaints by passengers through mobile phone/web.

RPGRAMS integrates all the passenger complaints received from multiple modes (14 offline/online modes currently) on a single platform, analyzes them holistically and generates various types of management reports which enable the top management to continuously monitor the pace of grievance redressal as well as evaluate the performance of field units/ trains/ stations on various parameters viz cleanliness, catering, amenities etc. It also identifies weak/deficient areas and laggard trains/stations for undertaking focused corrective actions.

Approach: Since the app was launched recently so it is very important for us. You have to always keep a track of all newly launched Government Apps and Portals.

Q12.

Answer: C

Explanation

Renewal Energy Dialogue

STATEMENT 1 is correct: This dialogue is organised by CEEW, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Solar Alliance (ISA), Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The CEEW Renewable Energy Dialogue offers a platform for engaged deliberations on the role of different stakeholders in advancing renewable energy deployment, balancing both domestic priorities and international mitigation ambitions and commitments.

The Dialogue brings together several national and international stakeholders from the renewable energy community to deliberate on the drivers and challenges facing the sector, both in India and globally. The second edition of RE Dialogue will have a specific focus on market needs, creation and trends. With participants from all relevant stakeholder communities and multiple geographies, the Dialogue will aim to reduce information asymmetries and make incisive calls for impactful actions.

Approach: These types of questions are frequently asked by UPSC from Current Affairs. So always make notes of this type of news.

Related Topics: Other related organisations and events in the renewable energy sector.

Q13.

Answer: B

Explanation

MISSION SOLAR CHARKHA

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The Solar Charkha Mission is a Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) initiative launched during June 2018. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) would implement the programme.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: To leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for sustenance.

BACKGROUND: A pilot project on Solar Charkha was implemented at Khanwa village, Nawada District of Bihar in 2016. Based on the success of the pilot project, Government of India has accorded approval to set up 50 such clusters with a budget of Rs. 550 Crore for 2018-19 and 2019-20. The scheme is envisaged to generate direct employment nearly to one lakh persons in the approved Fifty (50) clusters.

The objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

1. To ensure inclusive growth by generation of employment, especially for women and youth, and sustainable development through solar charkha clusters in rural areas.
2. To boost rural economy and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.
3. To leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for sustenance.

Approach: Government Schemes are always very important. Never leave any government scheme specially the newly launched schemes and initiatives.

Related Topics: All the related schemes of Government.

Q14.

Answer: D

Explanation

ISPRL (INDIAN STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE LIMITED) has already constructed underground rock caverns for storage of 5.33MMT of crude oil at three locations, viz. Visakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT).

Recently Union Cabinet has approved establishment of additional 6.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facilities at two locations, i.e. Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka, including construction of dedicated SPMs (Single Point Mooring) for the two SPRs.

Approach: This question was in news and important since this related to our energy security. Never leave any news which is strategically important for India.

Q15.

Answer: B

Explanation

The Gujarat government recently launched a solar power scheme for farmers- Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.

As per the scheme, farmers having existing electricity connection will be given solar panels as per their load requirements. The State and Central governments will give 60 per cent subsidy on the cost of project.

The farmer is required to take 5 per cent cost, while 35 per cent will be provided to him as an affordable loan with interest rates of 4.5-6 per cent. The scheme duration is 25 years, which is split between 7-year period and 18-year period.

Approach: Not only central government schemes but also some state government schemes are also important sometimes.

Related Topics: Look for more out of the box state schemes.

Q16.

Answer: B

Explanation

UDYAM SANGAM

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), organized National Conclave (UdyamSangam) on 27th June 2018 on the occasion of UN MSME Day.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The purpose of the Conclave is to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem and for promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on MSME related issues.

The program will focus on agri businesses, arts and village enterprises, manufacturing and services sector MSMEs and corporates, health and traditional medicine sector ventures, social enterprises, women led enterprises, divyaang entrepreneurs, young

entrepreneurs, enterprises steered by citizens from socially and economically backward communities and areas, entrepreneurs from North-east states and special category states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and those from aspirational districts.

It will outline challenges and opportunities for each of the sectors and stakeholder groups and explore solutions in the areas of access to finances, knowledge services and markets, the role of technology, innovation and infrastructure and media and communication in the growth of the MSME sector.

Approach: This type of question are frequently asked by UPSC from current affairs. So always make notes of this type of news.

Q17.

Answer: B

Explanation

Unorganised Worker Identification Number

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is an initiative of The Ministry of Labour and Employment under Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Under this Act, there is a provision to issue a unique national Unorganized Worker Identification Number making use of the State Administration, in order to improve access to all social security schemes.

Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) being the administrative Ministry is mandated to provide technical support and guidelines for the conduct of registration of unorganized workers.

'Unorganized Sector' includes an enterprise engaged in production and sale of goods or providing services where less than 10 workers are employed, irrespective of whether or not the employer provides equipment, materials or other inputs.

Q18.

Answer: B

Explanation

WATER PRODUCTIVITY MAPPING OF MAJOR INDIAN CROPS REPORT

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The report is released by NABARD

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The report presents for the first time, maps on the water productivity of ten major Indian crops across cultivating districts and states.

This study on Water Productivity Mapping of Major Indian Crops explores two primary questions: Are the existing cropping patterns in India in line with the natural water resource endowments of various regions? Are these cropping patterns sustainable from a water-use perspective?

The broad findings of the study indicate that there are regions in India which are heading towards unsustainable agriculture with highly skewed distribution of water for certain crops. Rice in Punjab and sugarcane in Maharashtra are classic examples of highly inefficient, inequitable, and unsustainable use of water resources

The study seeks to inform targeted policies and investment interventions for meeting the twin objectives of "har khet ko pani" (water to every field) and 'more crop per Drop'.

Approach: Never miss any report related to agriculture as it is one such area where you can expect a question every year.

Q19.

Answer: D

Explanation

ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a set of farming methods, and also a grassroots peasant movement, which has spread to various states in India.

The movement first evolved in Karnataka state was born out of collaboration between Mr Subhash Palekar, who put together the ZBNF practices, and the state farmers association Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), a member of La Via Campesina (LVC).

'Zero budget' farming promises to end a reliance on loans and drastically cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for desperate farmers.

The word 'budget' refers to credit and expenses, thus the phrase 'Zero Budget' means without using any credit, and without spending any money on purchased inputs. Natural farming' means farming with Nature and without chemicals.

Approach: Agriculture is a very important concept. When preparing for agriculture topic one should prepare it from different angles like economic, social, political etc. Always treat any news related to agriculture important.

Q20.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as 'Financial stability report' is released by the Reserve Bank of India. It is not released by the Ministry of Finance.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Financial stability report reflects the overall assessment of the stability of India's financial system and its resilience to risks emanating from global and domestic factors.

Approach: There was news regarding 'Financial stability report released by RBI. So we should prepare important analysis of these reports.

Q21.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework is a set of guidelines for a scheduled commercial bank that is weak in terms of identified indicators including – poor asset quality, insufficient capital, and insufficient profit or losses. This was released by RBI.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it is a framework for improving the financial condition of the scheduled commercial banks.

Approach: There was news regarding 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework' released by RBI. So we should prepare an analysis of these reports.

Q22.**Answer: c)****Explanation:**

Due to the rise in international crude oil prices, the current account deficit (CAD) of India will increase. In such a situation, the Supply of rupees has to increase. Due to an increase in the supply of rupee, there will be depreciation of rupees. It is a simple demand and supply rule. So option (a) is correct

Option (b) is also correct as due to Tightening of U.S. monetary policy, a supply of dollars will decrease in India. It will lead to an increase in the supply of rupees as compared to the dollar.

So option (a) and option (b) both are correct

So option(c) will be the correct option.

Factors that Affect Foreign Exchange Rates:

1. Inflation Rates

Changes in market inflation cause changes in currency exchange rates. A country with a lower inflation rate than another's will see an appreciation in the value of its currency. The prices of goods and services increase at a slower rate where inflation is low. A country with a consistently lower inflation rate exhibits a rising currency value while a country with higher inflation typically see depreciation in its currency and is usually accompanied by higher interest rates

2. Interest Rates

Changes in interest rate affect currency value and dollar exchange rate. Forex rates, interest rates, and inflation are all correlated. Increases in interest rates cause a country's currency to appreciate because higher interest rates provide higher rates to lenders, thereby attracting more foreign capital, which causes a rise in exchange rates

3. Country's Current Account / Balance of Payments

A country's current account reflects balance of trade and earnings on foreign investment. It consists of total number of transactions including its exports, imports, debt, etc. A deficit in current account due to spending more of its currency on importing products than it is earning through sale of exports causes depreciation. Balance of payments fluctuates exchange rate of its domestic currency.

4. Government Debt

Government debt is public debt or national debt owned by the central government. A country with government debt is less likely to acquire foreign capital, leading to inflation. Foreign investors will sell their bonds in the open market if the market predicts government debt within a certain country. As a result, a decrease in the value of its exchange rate will follow.

5. Terms of Trade

Related to current accounts and balance of payments, the terms of trade is the ratio of export prices to import prices. A country's terms of trade improves if its exports prices rise at a greater rate than its imports prices. This results in higher revenue, which causes a higher demand for the country's currency and an increase in its currency's value. This results in an appreciation of the exchange rate.

6. Political Stability & Performance

A country's political state and economic performance can affect its currency strength. A country with less risk for political turmoil is more attractive to foreign investors, as a result, drawing investment away from other countries with more political and economic

stability. Increase in foreign capital, in turn, leads to an appreciation in the value of its domestic currency. A country with sound financial and trade policy does not give any room for uncertainty in the value of its currency. But, a country prone to political confusions may see a depreciation in exchange rates.

7. Recession

When a country experiences a recession, its interest rates are likely to fall, decreasing its chances to acquire foreign capital. As a result, its currency weakens in comparison to that of other countries, therefore lowering the exchange rate.

8. Speculation

If a country's currency value is expected to rise, investors will demand more of that currency in order to make a profit in the near future. As a result, the value of the currency will rise due to the increase in demand. With this increase in currency value comes a rise in the exchange rate as well.

Q23.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 deals primarily with insolvency issue in the corporate sector and not the banking sector. The basic idea of the new law is that when an enterprise (individual, firm or corporation person) defaults, the resolution process completes in time bound manner.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the Timeline for Insolvency resolution process is 6 months under IBC, 2016. And not 2 years.

Q24.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it provides insurance to deposits up to 1 lakhs and not up to 10 lakhs.

Approach:

There was news regarding The Financial and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017. So we should know about Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

Q25.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Compact2025 is an initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. It brings stakeholders together to set priorities, innovate and learn, fine tune actions, build on successes, and share lessons to accelerate progress. The Compact2025 objective of ending hunger and undernutrition is fully consistent with and supportive of SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and cuts across many others (e.g. Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, and Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

Q26.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as 'Consumer Confidence Survey' is released by RBI and not by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Consumer Confidence Survey is being used by Reserve Bank as one of the important inputs for monetary policy formulation

Approach: There was news regarding Consumer Confidence Survey report released by the RBI. So we should read about the provisions of this report.

Q27.**Answer: D****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as LRS is a facility provided by the RBI for all resident individuals including minors to freely remit up to a certain amount in terms of US Dollar for current and capital account purposes or a combination of both.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Regulations for the scheme are provided under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and not under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

Approach: There was news regarding changes in rules of LRS. So we should prepare these schemes.

Related topics: Read about provisions of FCRA and FEMA

Q28)**Answer: D****Explanation:**

MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) is an application to expedite and streamline passenger grievance redressal. It relays real-time feedback to passengers on the status of redressal of their complaints- the passenger gets an instant ID through SMS on registration of complaint followed by a customized SMS communicating the action taken thereon by Railway.

Q29.**Answer: D****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the Monetary Policy Committee was created in 2016 to bring transparency and accountability in fixing India's Monetary Policy and not the fiscal policy of India.

Fiscal Policy of India is decided by the Ministry of finance.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as three members of the committee are nominated by the Government of India and not all the members are nominated by the Government of India.

Q30.**Answer: c****Explanation:**

Both the STATEMENTS 1 and 2 are correct

An Advance Pricing Agreement is an agreement between a taxpayer and tax authority determining the transfer pricing methodology for pricing the tax payer's international transactions for future years. The methodology is to be applied for a certain period of time and it is based on the fulfillment of certain terms and conditions. It is done in the format of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral agreements. It shall be binding on all entities in the agreement.

It reduces the tax uncertainty and number of tax litigation. It also makes the country as a favorable destination of investments.

Approach: Be aware of the measures taken to avoid windfall by corporates in transfer pricing.

Related Topics: Base erosion and profit shifting.

Q31.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Regional Rural Banks are established under the RRB Act, 1976. Section 6 of this act proposed the share capital by the Union Government, Sponsor Bank, and the State Government in the ratio of 50:35:15 respectively. The sponsor bank will any of the public sector banks in the region. The main aim of the bank is to reach the rural areas of India and achieve financial inclusion. There are around 56 RRB functioning in various parts of India.

Approach: Static economy topic, do revision of the facts.

Related Topics: Payment bank, Small Finance Bank, Investment Bank, Systematically Important Bank.

Q32.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Age limit - 28 to 40 years of age.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The same pension will be given to the spouse.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) addresses the old age income security of the working poor and the longevity risks among the workers in the unorganized sector. The age limit for eligibility is between 18 and 40 years of age. Persons covered under the statutory social security schemes are not eligible for the APY. The minimum years of contribution should be 20 years. The same pension is payable to Spouse after the death of the Subscriber. Return of indicative pension wealth to nominees after the death of the spouse. Contributions to the Atal Pension Yojana is eligible for tax benefits similar to the National Pension System (NPS).

Approach: Atal Pension Yojana is one of the major social security tools introduced to the unorganized sector workers. Be aware of the major social security measures.

Related Topics: Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan and New Pension System.

Q33.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: Registered GST Taxpayers can register in the e-Way Bill Portal using

GSTIN. Unregistered person or Transporters can enroll in the e-Way Bill System by providing their PAN and Aadhaar. Supplier or Recipient or Transporter can generate the e-Way Bill. Hence it is incorrect. e-Way Bill is mandatory for Inter-State movement of goods of consignment value exceeding Rs.50,000/- in a motorized conveyance. The Validity of e-Way Bill is fixed as one day for every 100 Kms or part thereof. The validity can be extended online before the expiry. Consolidated e-Way Bill can be generated for a vehicle carrying multiple consignments. Registered GST Taxpayers can register in the e-Way Bill Portal using GSTIN. Unregistered person or Transporters can enroll in the e-Way Bill System by providing their PAN and Aadhaar. Supplier or Recipient or Transporter can generate the e-Way Bill.

Approach: E-way bill is an important initiative under the GST, hence be aware of the provisions.

Related Topics: Anti-profiteering authority

Q34.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cabotage is a term of maritime law. It refers to transit of a vessel along the coast of a nation for the purpose of the trade from one port to another within the territorial limits of that nation. Usually, this coastal trading is regulated by the national law of the host nation. The terms coastal trade or coastal trading is more used now instead of cabotage. Hence the option A is correct.

Approach: Current affairs based question – Stick to your newspapers and monthly current affairs magazines.

Related Topic: Admiralty law in India

Q35.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect

The bond is voluntary and may be issued by a financial institution, the government or even a company to raise funds for a defined period. The issuer has to ensure that the proceeds are invested in green projects, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, projects leading to reduced carbon emissions, etc.

The first Green bond was issued by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in 2007. At that time, the size of the issuance was relatively small. Again in 2008 World Bank also issued the green bond. A Green bond is functionally a debt instrument, like any other bond. It offers a fixed return, and a promise to use the proceeds to finance or refinance, in part or fully, new or existing sustainable projects.

Approach: Study in detail about different climate financing mechanism

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POLITY



Q1. With reference to 'voting in India' which of the following statements is/are correct:

1. In India, Voting can be done in three ways: in person, through posts and through a proxy.
 2. Voting through post and proxy are only allowed to NRIs.
 3. Lok Sabha recently passed Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to provide for online voting facility to NRIs.
- Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1,2 and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Legislative Council of a State in India can be larger in size than half of the Legislative Assembly of that particular State
 2. The Governor of a State nominates the Chairman of the Legislative Council of that particular State.
 3. The State Assembly can abolish a legislative council or create it on its own.
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q3. 'Justice BN Srikrishna Committee', often seen in the news is related to:

- a) Review of revenue shortfall of GST
- b) Data Protection
- c) Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
- d) Lokpal

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. A Supreme Court judge holds the office till the age of 62.
 2. SC judge can only be removed on the ground of 'misbehaviour'
- 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

Q5. Which of the following Directive Principle was not added by 42nd Amendment Act of 1976?

- a) To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39).
- b) To promote equal justice and to provide

free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A).

c) To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).

d) State to minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities (Article 38)

Q6. Consider the following statements about 'Election Commissioners of India':

1. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
 2. The election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary, allowances and other perquisites, which are similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court.
- 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

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'Inner Line Permit':

1. Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
2. It is issued for travel purpose only.
3. It is operational in Arunachal Pradesh Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about 'National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC)':

1. It is a constitutional body.
 2. It has the power to examine complaints regarding inclusion or exclusion of groups within the list of backward classes, and advise the central government in this regard.
- 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

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'The Representation of the People Act, 1950':

1. It provides for allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies for elections,

qualifications of voters, and preparation of electoral rolls.

2. The Act provides for the conduct of elections and offences and disputes related to elections.

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

Q10. 'NOTA' option is available to voters in which of the following elections:

- 1. Lok Sabha elections
- 2. Rajya Sabha elections
- 3. State Assembly elections
- 4. State Council elections

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q11. Consider the following statements about 'National Commission for Scheduled Castes':

- 1. It is a constitutional body.
- 2. NCSC has the power to look into complaints and welfare measures with regard to Scheduled Castes, backward classes and Anglo-Indians.
- 3. The commission presents an annual report to the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin':

- 1. It is being implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- 2. It mainly focuses on ensuring the use of toilets, besides their construction.

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

Q13. Which of the following does tantamount to Sedition?

- a) Political dissent
- b) Right to offend

c) Expressing different or conflicting ideas of Indian nation

d) Threatening the security of State or of public.

Q14. Which of the following releases 'Varieties of Democracy Report'?

- a) United Nations Development Programme
- b) Walk Free Foundation
- c) Transparency International
- d) University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Q15. Article 35-recently seen in news relates to:

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Sedition
- c) Privacy
- d) Uniform Civil Code

Q16. Under the constitutional provisions, which authority has the power regarding the formation of new states or altering the boundaries of existing states?

- a) Election commission of India
- b) Delimitation commission of India
- c) Parliament
- d) President of India

Q17. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Territorial Integrity or continued existence of any Indian state is guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.
- 2. Parliament of India can form new States, alter the area, boundaries or names of the existing States by a law passed by a special majority.

Which of the above statement is correct?

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

Q18. Consider the following statements about Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:

- 1. In the election of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, member of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha participate.
- 2. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is subordinate to Chairman of Rajya Sabha and is not directly responsible to Rajya Sabha.

Which of the above statement is Correct?

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

Q19. Consider the following statements about the administration of Union Territories

- 1. The parliament can make laws on subjects

of the state list of Union Territories.

2. An administrator of Union Territory (UT) is head of UT like the governor of the state.

Which of the above statement is correct?

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

Q20. Consider the following statements about a new initiative Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS):

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. It will help in reducing government litigation and making government litigation more efficient.

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

Q21. Which of the following statements is correct with respect to Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir?

- a) Under the Governor's rule, all the legislative power is vested in Parliament.
- b) Under the Governor's rule, all the legislative power is vested in the President of India.
- c) Under the Governor's rule, all the legislative power is vested in the governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- d) Under the Governor's rule, all the legislative power is vested in the legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

Q22. Consider the following statements regarding governor and president rule in Jammu and Kashmir

1. Governor's rule is mandatory before imposing president rule in J & K.

2. Governor's rule in the case of J & K depends on the discretionary power of President.

Which of the above statement is correct?

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

Q23. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance:

1. Chairman of the committee is nominated by the chairman of Rajya Sabha.

2. It consists of 31 members, 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

Which of the above statement is correct?

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

Q24. Which of the following is/are a constitutional body?

- 1) National Human Right Commission.
- 2) Central Information Commission
- 3) Union Public Service Commission
- 4) Finance Commission

Choose using the correct code:

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

Q25. Which schedule of the constitution has provisions regarding disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the ground of defection?

- a) Tenth Schedule
- b) Ninth Schedule
- c) Eighth Schedule
- d) Seventh Schedule

Q26. Which one of the following has power regarding disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the ground of defection?

- a) The presiding officer of the House
- b) President
- c) Governor of state
- d) None of the above

Q27. With reference to 'The Law Commission of India', consider the following statements:

1. The Law Commission of India is a statutory body constituted through the act of Parliament.

2. It works towards the progressive development and codification of the laws of the country.

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

Q28. With reference to 'Election Commission of India', consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a statutory body constituted through the act of Parliament.

2. The Chief Election Commissioner of India can be removed from his office similar to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

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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

Q29. With reference to 'North Eastern Council (NEC)', consider the following statements

1. It is a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member.
2. Minister of DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region) is ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC).

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

Q30. With reference to 'Rules Committee of Lok Sabha', consider the following statements:

1. It considers and advises on matters concerning the affairs of the house, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.
2. Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-officio chairman of the Rules Committee of 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

Q31. Which committee of parliament considers and advises on matters concerning the affairs of the house, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.

- a) General Purpose Committee
- b) Rules Committee of Lok Sabha
- c) Business Advisory Committee
- d) Committee on Subordinate legislation

Q32. Which committee of parliament examines and reports to the house whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament or conferred by the Constitution to the executive is being properly exercised by it.

- a) Committee on Subordinate legislation
- b) Rules Committee of Lok Sabha
- c) Business Advisory Committee

d) General Purpose Committee

Q33. Which one of the following directives principles are based on liberal Intellectual Principles?

- a) Separation of Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state
- b) Promotion of cottage industries in rural areas.
- c) Raising the level of nutrition and standard of living of people and to improve public health.
- d) Organization of village Panchayats and enable them to function as units of self-government.

Q34. With reference to the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI), which was in the news, is related to:

- a) It is an international comparative study of the state of development and the governance of political and economic change processes in 129 developing and transition countries.
- b) It is an index to measure gender inequality at the workplace.
- c) It is an Index to study about the ill effects of climate change on agriculture.
- d) It is an international comparative study of the state of development and the governance of political and economic change processes in developed countries.

Q35. Consider the following about gambling in India:

1. Both the Union and the State Governments can make legislation on gambling.
2. The states of Goa and Sikkim form the 90% market of gambling 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

Q36. 'Memorandum of Procedure' often seen in the news is related to

- a) Foreign Direct Investment
- b) Judicial appointment
- c) Lateral entry into civil services
- d) Institute of Eminence

Q37. Consider the following about the cVIGIL:

1. A mobile application launched by central vigilance commission to prevent corruption in government offices.
2. The complainer will receive the details action taken by authorities within 100 minutes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q38. Consider the following statements about the DNA Technology bill, 2018:

1. All collection of DNA requires written consent by the individual who gives the sample.
2. The collection of DNA samples is applicable to both criminal cases and civil cases.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q39. With reference to the constitutional provisions for the minority in India consider the following statement:

1. The Constitution of India does not define the word minority.
2. Gujarat became the first state in India to grant minority status for Jews.
3. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, and Jains are the only communities to which the Union Government has accorded the status of minority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q40. The provisions of 'religious denomination' under article 26 of the constitution, needs to satisfy which of the following conditions?

1. It should be a collection of individuals who have a system of beliefs (doctrines) which they regard as conducive to their spiritual well-being
2. It should have a common organization.
3. It should be designated by a distinctive name.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q41. With reference to the Election of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The election of a Deputy Chairman shall be

held on such date as the election commission may fix and the Chairman shall send to every member notice of this date.

2. The Constitution is silent on the time period within which the Deputy Chairperson of the Upper House should be chosen.

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

Q42. Consider the following statements about Public Affairs Index (PAI):

1. It is released annually since 2010.
2. It examines governance performance in all 30 states on social and economic development they are able to provide.
3. Kerala has topped the Public Affairs Index for 2018 as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year in smaller states category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q43. Which among the following is/are the key takeaways in the first data privacy blueprint recently released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)?

1. The report lays the foundation for individual ownership of data, making data collectors and data processors "mere custodians" of data.
2. The data protection framework should apply equally to the government and to private entities.
3. Existing privacy laws that apply to telecom service providers (TSPs) should also apply to all entities in the digital ecosystem.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q44. Recently a "historic agreement" had been signed among the governments of Mizoram and Tripura related to a tribal community, who had been displaced from Mizoram and were living in Tripura.

Which among the following tribal community is referred to in the above statement?

- a) Bru
- b) Abor
- c) Lakher
- d) Bodo

Q45. Consider the following statements:

1. The Citizenship Rules, 2003 prescribe the manner of preparation of the National Register of Citizens.
2. The National Register of Citizens will include persons whose names appear in the electoral rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971.

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

Q46. With reference to the term "cVIGIL" recently, seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It can be useful for entrepreneurs and businesses to learn about the current and applicable GST rates.
2. It will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).
3. It requires an Android smartphone equipped with a camera, good internet connection, and GPS access.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q47. With reference to the provisions of 'no-confidence motion' consider the following statements:

1. The motion needs the support of one-third members to be admitted in the lower house.
2. It need not state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
3. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q48. Consider the following statements:

1. For changing the name of any city, state government requires no objection certificate

from parliament.

2. Changes in the name of the existing states and official language can be done by a simple majority and by the ordinary legislative process.

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

Q49. Branding people, mostly women, as a witch and killing them is a very old problem across this state and recently in a move which is one more step towards creating a just and equitable society, President has approved the Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, for that state.

Which of the following state is referred to in the above statements?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Bihar
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

Q50. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Constitution does not have any provision for categorization of any state as a Special Category Status State.
2. For special category status category states, the Centre pays 90 percent of the funds required in a centrally-sponsored scheme as against 60 percent in case of normal category states.
3. Low population density or the presence of a sizeable tribal population is one of the features required to get Special Category Status.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q51. Consider the following statements about the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the aegis of Supreme Court of India.
2. The Chief Justice of India is the ex-officio chairperson of the body.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q52. 'SVEEP', recently seen in the news, is related to

- a) Swachh Bharat
- b) Voters education
- c) Environmental education
- d) Electricity Efficiency

Q53. Consider the following statements about the Payment Council of India:

- 1. It works to create a less cash economy and to promote financial inclusion.
- 2. It was formed by the initiative of RBI and the Indian Bank's Association.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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



Q1.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: In India, voting can be done in three ways: in person, through post and through a proxy.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect : Voting through post and proxy are only allowed to a “classified service voter” — a definition that includes members of the armed forces, BSF, CRPF, CISF, General Engineering Reserve Force and Border Road Organisation.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: Lok Sabha recently passed Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to provide for proxy voting facility to NRIs.

Proxy voting: a registered elector can delegate his voting power to a representative.

Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Bill seeks to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to allow for proxy voting and to make certain provisions of the Acts gender-neutral.

The 1950 Act provides for allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies for elections, qualifications of voters, and preparation of electoral rolls. The 1951 Act provides for the conduct of elections and offences and disputes related to elections.

The 1950 Act permits the registration of persons in electoral rolls who are ordinarily resident in a constituency. These persons include: (i) persons holding a service qualification (such as member of armed forces, member of armed police force of a state, serving outside the state, or central government employees posted outside India); and (ii) persons holding certain offices in India declared by the President in consultation with the Election Commission. Under the Act, the wives of such persons are also deemed to be ordinarily residing in India. The Bill replaces the term ‘wife’ with ‘spouse’.

The 1951 Act permits an overseas voter to vote only in person. An overseas voter is a citizen of India who is absent from his place of ordinary residence in India. The Bill seeks to amend the 1951 Act to permit an overseas voter to cast their vote in person or by proxy in the constituency where the poll is taken. The 1951 Act provides for the wife of a person holding a service qualification to vote. The Bill replaces the term ‘wife’ with ‘spouse’.

Approach: Recently Lok Sabha passed the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017. Also there was an article ‘How, why Bill proposes to let NRIs nominate proxies to vote on their behalf’ in the newspaper ‘Indian Express’.

Related Topics: Revise ‘CITIZENSHIP’ AND ‘ELECTION COMMISSION’

Q2.

Answer: D

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect : The maximum strength of the State council is fixed at one-third of the total strength of the assembly and the minimum strength is fixed at 40. It means that the size of the council depends on the size of the

assembly of the concerned state.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect : The Chairman of the Legislative Council is elected by the council itself from amongst its members and not by the governor.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: The Parliament can abolish a legislative council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist), if the legislative assembly of the concerned state passes a resolution to that effect.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- Also called the 'Vidhan Parishad' , it is the upper house of the state legislature.
- The Parliament can abolish a legislative council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist), if the legislative assembly of the concerned state passes a resolution to that effect.
- Such a specific resolution must be passed by the state assembly by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the assembly and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the assembly present and voting.
- This Act of Parliament is not to be deemed as an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368 and is passed like an ordinary piece of legislation (ie, by simple majority).
- The constitution has fixed the maximum and the minimum limits, the actual strength of a council is fixed by Parliament.
- The members are elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable votes.

Approach : There was a news 'Odisha to get Legislative Council' (Aug 2018, The Hindu). Link this news with your syllabus of Polity. Also go through the number and name of states who already have this 'Bicameral System'.

Related Topics: STATE LEGISLATURE

Q3.

Answer: B

Explanation:

JUSTICE BN SRIKRISHNA COMMITTEE

The committee recommended:

1. Critical personal data of Indian citizens be processed in India.
2. Central government to notify categories of personal data that will be considered as 'critical'.
3. Other personal data may be transferred outside the territory of India with some exceptions. However at least one copy of the data will need to be stored in India.
4. The processing of the personal data should be on the basis of 'explicit consent'.
5. It has recommended that the companies be barred from certain types of data processing such as behavioral monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising and any other type of processing which is not in the best interest of the child.
6. Data Protection Authority to be established which will ensure that every entity that handles data is conscious of its obligations and that it will be held to account in case of failure to comply.
7. The bill calls for a separate Appellate Tribunal to be set up that will hear appeals made against DPA orders.

Review of revenue shortfall of GST: Sushil Modi Panel

Data Protection: Justice BN Srikrishna Committee

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management: NK Singh panel

Lokpal Search Committee: Justice Ranjana Desai

Approach: Recently 'The Personal Data Protection Bill 2018' has been submitted by the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee on Data Protection to the Government. Whenever any important committee is established or a report is submitted then always go through the main recommendations.

Q4.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: A Supreme Court judge holds the office till the age of 65 whereas a HC judge holds the office till the age of 62.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The grounds of removal are two—proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the high courts below it.
- Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the Organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court.
- The Parliament is also authorized to regulate them.
- The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president.
- A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. (a) He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or (b) He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or (c) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.
- Tenure of Judges: The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court. However, it makes the following three provisions in this regard:
 1. He holds office until he attains the age of 65 years. Any question regarding his age is to be determined by such authority and in such manner as provided by Parliament.
 2. He can resign his office by writing to the president.
 3. He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.

Approach: An article in 'The Hindu' was published titled : 'The case for increasing the retirement age of judges'. This article deals with the important topic of our Polity section.

Related Topics: HIGH COURT

Q5.

Answer: D

Explanation:

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

- The Directive Principles of State Policy are enumerated in Part IV of the

Constitution from Articles 36 to 51.

- The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the Irish Constitution of 1937, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution

Features:

1. The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws.
 2. The Directive Principles constitute a very comprehensive economic, social and political programme for a modern democratic State.
 3. The Directive Principles are non-justiciable in nature.
 4. The Directive Principles, though non-justiciable in nature, help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law.
- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added four new Directive Principles to the original list. They require the State:
 1. To secure opportunities for 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).So a, b, c can't be the Answer.
 - 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).

Approach: The Law Commission headed by former Supreme Court Judge Justice B.S. Chauhan in its 'Consultation Paper on Family Law Reforms' said a Uniform Civil Code "is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage"

Q6.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct : The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.

STATEMENT 2 is correct : The election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary, allowances and other perquisites, which are similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

- The Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country
- Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.
- The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.
- The chief election commissioner is provided with the security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.

- Any other election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner.

Approach: EC's meeting with Political Parties. When an Organisation comes in the news again and again it becomes important for us.

Q7.

Answer: B

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct : It is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.

STATEMENT 2 is correct : It is issued for travel purposes only and not for any other purpose.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect : It is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Approach : A bill was recently passed by the Manipur Assembly to regulate the entry and exit of 'outsiders' on the lines of British-era regulatory regime. This topic is usually avoided by the aspirants but when it is in the news do give time to these topics.

Related Topics: Article 19 and Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

Q8.

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha. It seeks to grant the National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) constitutional status, at par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 has been passed by the Parliament.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It has the power to examine complaints regarding inclusion or exclusion of groups within the list of backward classes, and advise the central government in this regard.
- The NCBC is a body set up under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- Purpose of the Bill :The Bill seeks to establish the NCBC under the Constitution, and provide it the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

Approach: NCBC was in the news recently. All these bodies are very important. One must be aware of these commissions.

Related Topics : National Commission for SCs/STs, National Human Rights Commission.

Q9.

Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The Representation of the people 1951 Act provides for

the conduct of elections and offences and disputes related to elections.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The 1950 Act provides for allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies for elections, qualifications of voters, and preparation of electoral rolls. The 1950 Act permits the registration of persons in electoral rolls who are ordinarily resident in a constituency.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

The 1951 Act permits an overseas voter to vote only in person. An overseas voter is a citizen of India who is absent from his place of ordinary residence in India.

The 1951 Act provides for the conduct of elections and offences and disputes related to elections. (STATEMENT 2 is incorrect)

Approach: Recently Lok Sabha passed the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017. Also there was an article 'How, why Bill proposes to let NRIs nominate proxies to vote on their behalf' (Indian Express). You should be well aware about all these Acts.

Related Topics: Revise 'CITIZENSHIP AND ELECTION COMMISSION'

Q10.

Answer: A

Explanation

NOTA : "NOTA" or "none of the above" is a ballot option provided in the elections to Indian voters. Through NOTA, a citizen has the right to not vote for any candidate contesting the elections.

NOTA is an option in direct elections like Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Whereas elections to Rajya Sabha and State Councils are Indirect elections. Hence Option 'B' and 'D' can't be the Answer.

Option C has only Lok Sabha, so this is also eliminated.

Approach: We see the word 'NOTA' very often in the news. Also recently SC scrapped the use of 'NOTA' for Rajya Sabha and State Councils. So it is better for us to have some basic knowledge of this.

Related Topics: Rajya Sabha, EVM, VVPAT and Election Commission

Q11.

Answer: B

Explanation

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) is a constitutional body in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338 of the Constitution. It consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members.

They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. Their

conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: NCSC has the power to look into complaints and welfare measures with regard to Scheduled Castes, backward classes and Anglo-Indians.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: The commission presents an annual report to the president.

The Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha. It seeks to grant the National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) constitutional status, at par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

The Bill seeks to remove the power of the NCSC to examine matters related to backward classes.

Approach: NCBC was in the news recently. All these bodies are very important. One must be aware of the basics of these commissions. Always prepare for these bodies.

Related Topics : National Commission for STs , National Human Rights Commission.

TOPIC: Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin

Q12.

Answer: C

Explanation:

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION - GRAMIN

STATEMENT 1 is correct : It is being implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

STATEMENT 2 is correct : It mainly focuses on ensuring the use of toilets, besides their construction

Vision

The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019

Objectives

-To bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.

-To accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019.

-To motivate communities to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education.

-To encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

-To develop, wherever required, community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in the

rural areas.

-To create significant positive impact on gender and promote social inclusion by improving sanitation especially in marginalized communities.

Approach: WHO released the progress report on potential health impact from increased sanitation coverage through the SBM-G.

Related Topics Cover all the related schemes.

Q13.

Answer: D

Explanation

SEDITION : As per Section 124A of IPC, Sedition is an act that brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise. As per this Section, a person is liable to be punished with imprisonment for life or imprisonment up to three years with fine.

An act is a seditious act only if it includes :

1. Disruption of public order
2. Attempt to violently overthrow a lawful government
3. Threatening the security of State or of public.

Following does not amount to Sedition:

1. Political dissent
2. A thought non-consonant with the government and its policies
3. Expression of frustration over the state of affairs e.g. racist state or gender biased state
4. Expressing different or conflicting ideas of Indian nation
5. Right to offend
6. Peaceful protest

Approach: This particular section has been in the news for some time. Direct question from this topic is less expected in prelims but UPSC can ask the question differently. So we must care as much as we can.

Related Topics : Concerns related to Sedition.

Q14.

Answer: D

Explanation

Varieties of Democracy Report is released by V-Dem Institute, the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY REPORT

- Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy.
- It provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections.
- The V-Dem project distinguishes between five high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian, and collects data to measure these principles.

- The Headquarters is based at the V-Dem Institute, the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Approach: Reports are always asked in the exam. Recently there has been a lot of debate about the democracy in India. So this report is important this year.

Related Topics: Other major reports released by international organisations.

Q15.

Answer: A

Explanation

ARTICLE 35-A

- It empowers Jammu and KASHMIR'S State Legislature to define 'permanent residents' of state.
- The provision mandates that no act of state legislature coming under the ambit of Article 35-A can be challenged for violating the Indian constitution or any other law of the land.

Approach: This particular article is in the news for some time and has many issues related to it.

Q16.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Election commission's main function is to determine territorial areas of electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of delimitation Act of parliament. So Election commission has no power regarding the formation of new states or alters the boundaries of existing states. So option (a) is wrong.
- Delimitation Commission of India's main function is redrawing the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census. So Delimitation commission has no power regarding the formation of new states or alters the boundaries of existing states. So option (b) is wrong.
- Under Article 3 Parliament has power regarding the formation of new states or alter the boundaries of existing states. So option(c) is correct
- Under article 3, the prior recommendation of President is necessary regarding redrawing of states but the President has no authority to redraw the boundaries of states. So option(d) is wrong.

Approach: There was news regarding demand for statehood by Delhi. So try to correlate polity question with current affairs. The function of different bodies mentions is very similar. So try to differentiate the function of these bodies during preparation

Related Topics: Read about Delimitation commission of India

Q17.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Territorial Integrity or continued existence of any Indian state is

not guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. India is a union of the indestructible union of destructible state. Under Article 3 Parliament has power regarding the formation of new states or alter the boundaries of existing states. So statement 1 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 2:

Parliament of India can form new States, alter the area, boundaries or names of the existing States by a law passed by a simple majority and not by the special majority. So statement 2 is also incorrect.

Approach: There was news regarding demand for statehood by Delhi. So try to co-relate polity question with current affairs.

Related topics: Read about Unitary bias in the Indian constitution.

Q18.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as in the election of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha only member of Rajya Sabha participate and not a member of Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT 2 is also incorrect as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is not subordinate to Chairman of Rajya Sabha and is directly responsible to Rajya Sabha.

Approach : There was News regarding the election of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. So try to co-relate polity question with current affairs. There is a similarity in function of chairman and Deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha. Try to differentiate the election process of these bodies.

Related topics: Read about the election process of Vice President and member of Rajya Sabha.

Q19.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The parliament can make laws on subjects of the state list of Union Territories. In the case of the state list of state, Parliament can make laws in a special situation and not in normal condition.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect. As An administrator of Union Territory (UT) is not head of UT like the governor of a state.

Related topics Read about the administration of Union Territories.

Q20.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is Incorrect as it is an initiative of the Ministry of law and justice and not of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as LIMBS main function is to reduce government litigation and Make government litigation more efficient.

Q21.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Under Article 92 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, under which all the legislature powers are vested with the governor in case of governor's rule. So option (c) is correct

Approach: There is news regarding Governor's and President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir. So try to correlate polity question with current affairs. There is a difference in the Governor's and President's Rule in case of J&K. So try to understand the difference between the governor and president rule.

Q22.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. In the case of J & K, President rule cannot be directly imposed. Since the state has a separate Constitution, six months of governor's rule is compulsory under Article 92 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution. So the governor's rule is compulsory before imposing president rule in J & K.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect. As Governor's rule in case of J & K does not depend on discretionary power of President, state does not come under President's rule under Article 356 of the Constitution and is promulgated under Section 92 of the state Constitution, all the decisions taken thereof shall have a concurrence of the President under Article 74 (1) (i) under which council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head will aid and advise the President. So governor rule in J & K does not depend on the discretionary power of J & K.

Related Topics: Read about the differences between President's Rule in J&K and other states.

Q23

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Chairman of the committee is nominated by the speaker of Lok Sabha and not by the chairman of Rajya Sabha. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance comes under Lok Sabha and not under Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as standing committee consists of 31 members, 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

Approach: There was news regarding RBI governor summon or meeting with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. So it is necessary to know about structure, appointment, and functions of this committee.

Related Topics: Read about the Parliamentary committee and different standing committees.

Q24.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: NHRC is a statutory body. It is not a constitutional body So

statement 1 is wrong.

STATEMENT 2: CIC is a statutory body. So statement 2 is also wrong. STATEMENT 3 UPSC is a constitutional body.

STATEMENT 4: Finance commission is a constitutional bodies.

So option (d) is correct

Q25.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In Tenth Schedule, there are provisions regarding disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the grounds of defection. Constitution 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 provided provisions related to anti-defection in India. In this amendment, articles 101, 102, 190 and 191 were changed. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection and inserted schedule 10.

The Ninth schedule was added by 1st amendment(1951) to protect the laws included in it from judicial scrutiny on the ground of violation of fundamental correct.

Under the eighth schedule, there is a provision regarding languages recognized by the constitution. Under the seventh schedule, there is a provision regarding the division of power between Union and State in terms of Union List, State List and the Concurrent List.

Approach : There was news regarding 18 MLAs in Tamil Nadu who were disqualified by the Assembly Speaker under Anti Defection Law. So prepare all facts related to Anti Defection Law.

Related Topics : Read about the role of Speaker in disqualification of disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the ground of defection.

Q26.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Under 10 schedule, Presiding officer of House has power regarding disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the grounds of defection.

In Tenth Schedule, there are provisions regarding disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the grounds of defection.

Constitution 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 provided provisions related to anti-defection in India. In this amendment, articles 101, 102, 190 and 191 were changed

Q27.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time. The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is reconstituted every three years. It was not established through an Act of Parliament

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Law Commission of India works towards the progressive development and codification of the laws of the country. Its major function is to work for legal reform. Its membership primarily comprises legal experts, who are entrusted a mandate by the Government. The Commission is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Approach: There was news regarding that the Law Commission will codify Personal Laws. So we should prepare such a topic like its function and structure.

Q28

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Election Commission of India is not a statutory body constituted through the act of Parliament. The Election Commission operates under the authority of the Constitution as per Article 324. The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body

STATEMENT 2 is correct as The Chief Election Commissioner of India can be removed from his office similar to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Q29.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as North Eastern Council (NEC) is a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member. NEC implements various projects through the State and Central agencies. NEC was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States. Subsequent to the Amendment of 2002, NEC has been mandated to function as a regional planning body for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan for this area, shall give priority to the schemes and projects benefiting two or more states provided that in the case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Minister of DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region) is not ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC). Under the new arrangement with Home Minister as Chairman and Minister of DoNER as Vice Chairman, NEC and all the Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States as Member would provide a forum for discussing inter-state matters more comprehensively and also consider common approaches to be taken in future.

Approach : There was news regarding Union Home Minister will be ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC)

Q30.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Rules Committee of Lok Sabha's functions is to consider the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the house and recommends and necessary amendments. General Purpose committee considers and advises on matters concerning the affairs of the house, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-officio chairman of the Rules Committee of Lok Sabha.

Approach : There was news regarding 'Agnihotri Committee' to make recommendations for revising the rules of the Upper House.

Q31.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- General Purpose committee considers and advises on matters concerning the affairs of the house, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.
- Rules Committee of Lok Sabha's functions is to consider the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the house and recommends and necessary amendments
- Business Advisory Committee regulates the programme and time table of the house.
- Committee on Subordinate legislation examines and reports to the house whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament.

Q32.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Committee on Subordinate legislation examines and reports to the house whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament.

Rules Committee of Lok Sabha's functions is to consider the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the house and recommends and necessary amendments.

Business Advisory Committee regulates the programme and time table of the house.

Q33.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Directives principles under liberal Intellectual Principles are based on the ideology of liberalism.

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 correct

Promotion of cottage industries in rural areas is based on Gandhian Principles. Raising the level of nutrition and standard of living of people and to improve the public health are based on Socialistic Principles.

Q34.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) is an international comparative study of the state of development and the governance of political and economic change processes in 129 developing and transition countries. So option (a) is correct

The BTI has been presented every two years since 2006 by the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

The index measures and compares the quality of governmental action internationally with self-collected data and analyzes successes and regressions on the way to constitutional democracy and socially flanked market economy

Q35.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Gambling is a state subject in the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Gambling is placed in the State subject in the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution. Most states have their own legislation on it and the majority of them banned gambling in their state. It is the Goa and Sikkim which has a thriving gambling market in India. Combined they form 90% of the market in India.

Approach: Law Commission of India has recommended legalizing gambling in India. It has made it a hot topic which you need to be aware of.

Q36.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Memorandum of Procedure is the set of rules to be followed in the selection of the Chief Justice of India and other Judges of the higher judiciary. After striking down the 99th constitutional amendment act, the Supreme Court directed the Government to draft a memorandum of procedure for appointment of judges to the higher judiciary in India. This was seen as an attempt to reform the opaque collegium system that is followed presently in judicial appointments.

Approach: National Judicial Appointment Commission was seen as an important reform in the judicial sector in India. Be aware of the latest developments in the reform process.

Related Topics: Collegium system, Judges appointment procedure in other countries.

Q37.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is launched by the Election Commission of India to conduct free and fair elections. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

cVIGIL is a mobile application released by the Election Commission of India for effective implementation of Model Code of Conduct during Parliament and Assembly elections. It helps the citizen to send a complaint by capturing video or picture and sending it on the application. The action will be taken within 100 minutes and details will be sent the complainer.

Approach: The regular following of the new initiatives in the electoral sector will help to get the question correct. Stick to your current affairs.

Related Topics: Model Code of Conduct.

Q38.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: consent not required for death row convicts or more than seven-year imprisoned convicts. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The DNA Technology Bill regulates the use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of persons in respect of issues related to criminal matters and civil matters such as parentage disputes, emigration or immigration, and transplantation of a human organ.

DNA Data Bank will maintain the following indices:

1. crime scene index.
2. suspects or under trials index.
3. offenders index.
4. missing persons index.
5. unknown deceased persons index.

Written consent by individuals is required to collect DNA samples from them. Consent is not required for offenses with the punishment of more than seven years of imprisonment or death.

Approach: Keep updated about the legislation in the Parliament.

Related Topics: How will the DNA Technology Bill affects the right to privacy.

Q39.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect

Gujarat becomes the third state in India after Maharashtra and West Bengal to have granted minority status for Jews.

The Constitution of India does not define the word minority but refers to the word while according rights to religious and linguistic minorities and enshrines various provisions like article 25, 29, 30 for the protection of the rights and interests of the minorities.

The Union Government accords the status of minority communities to six religious communities viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Zoroastrians (Parsis), Buddhists, and Jains.

Approach: Read in detail about Jews community.

Q40.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Article 25 guarantees the rights of individuals, while Article 26 guarantees the rights of religious denominations or their sections. In other words, Article 26 protects collective freedom of religion. Like the rights under Article 25, the rights under Article 26 are also subject to public order, morality and health but not subject to other provisions relating to the Fundamental Rights.

The Supreme Court held that a religious denomination must satisfy three conditions:

1. It should be a collection of individuals who have a system of beliefs (doctrines) which they regard as conducive to their spiritual well-being;
2. It should have a common organization; and
3. It should be designated by a distinctive name.

Under the above criteria, the Supreme Court held that the 'Ramakrishna Mission' and 'Ananda Marga' are religious denominations within the Hindu religion. It also held that Aurobindo Society is not a religious denomination.

Approach: Sabarimala temple entry issue

Q41.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect

The election of a Deputy Chairman shall be held on such date as the Chairman may fix and the Secretary-General shall send to every member notice of this date

The Constitution is silent on the time period within which the Deputy Chairperson of the Upper House should be chosen. Article 89(2) of the Constitution states that the Council of States shall as soon as may be, choose a member of the Council to be Deputy Chairman thereof and so often as the office of Deputy Chairman becomes vacant the Council shall choose another member to be Deputy Chairman thereof

Approach: while reading these topics, look into the intricate details

Related topics: Speaker of Lok Sabha, Vice President

Q42.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect : It is released annually since 2016.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect : Kerala has topped the Public Affairs Index (PAI) for 2018 as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 among large states.

Public Affairs Index 2018 released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre. The index examines governance performance in all 30 states through a data-based framework, ranking them on social and economic development they are able to provide. Founded in 1994 by renowned Indian economist and scholar late Samuel Paul, the think tank works to mobilize demand for better governance in the country.

Among smaller states (with a population less than two crores), Himachal Pradesh topped the list, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura which figured among the top five states with good governance. Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at the bottom of the index among small states.

Approach: keep a close watch on the different indices released annually. Questions from these topics are asked regularly.

Related topics: Indices released by NITI Aayog

Q43.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a set of recommendations regarding privacy, security, and ownership of data in the telecom sector — the first data privacy blueprint by a statutory body.

Four key takeaways

The report lays the foundation for individual ownership of data, making data collectors and data processors “mere custodians” of data who are subject to regulations. The report says both collectors and processors should be accountable for “unintended harm” caused to the user.

The data protection framework should apply equally to the government and to private entities

It suggests that existing privacy laws that apply to telecom service providers (TSPs) should also apply to “all entities in the digital ecosystem”. The other digital entities, TRAI states, include devices (mobiles and computers), browsers, software operating systems, applications, and over-the-top (OTT) service providers (that distribute media streamed over the Internet).

An overarching theme is that “inadequate” data protection allows digital ecosystem entities an advantage in the use of the data, as compared to the user.

Related topics: Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

Q44.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently in July Home Ministry announced that a “historic agreement” had been signed among the governments of Mizoram and Tripura and Mizoram Bru Displaced People’s Forum, it brought to an end a 21-year wait for over 32,000 Bru tribals, who had been displaced from Mizoram and were living in Tripura. Although the Brus have been seeking relief on the lines of that given to Kashmiri Pandits and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, their story is not as well known.

Approach: tribes that are news in the last one year are important from the preliminary perspective

Q45.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register containing the names of all genuine Indian citizens residing in Assam. The register was first prepared after 1951, Census of India.

The NRC is now being updated in Assam to include the names of those persons (or their descendants) who appear in the NRC, 1951, or in any of the Electoral Rolls up to midnight on 24 March 1971 or in any one of the other admissible documents issued up to midnight of 24 March 1971, which would prove their presence in Assam or in any part of India on or before 24 March 1971. The update process of NRC started in the year 2013 under the strict monitoring of the Supreme Court of India. On the midnight of 31 December 2017, Part Draft NRC was released and subsequently on 30 July 2018, the Complete Draft NRC was released.

The Citizenship Act, 1955 provides for compulsory registration of every citizen of India and issuance of National Identity Card to him. The Citizenship Rules, 2003 framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955 prescribe the manner of preparation of the National Register of Citizens.

Those whose names aren't included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) list can be considered illegal citizens. • It will include persons whose names appear in any of the electoral rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971 or National Register of Citizens, 1951 and their descendants and those who had arrived post that date would be declared illegal immigrants. NRC applies to only one state in India, Assam.

Approach: Current based topic. High chance of this news appearing in the exam.

Related topics: Citizenship chapter in Laxmikanth

Q46.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect : GST Rate Finder is another app through which Entrepreneurs and businesses can learn about the current and applicable GST rates for themselves.

“cVIGIL” is a user-friendly and easy to operate Android application which will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till the day after the polls. By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.

The app requires an Android smartphone equipped with a camera, good internet connection and GPS access. The operating system should be Android Jellybean and above. The application supports all the latest Android smartphones.

Approach: since the election is due this year, this topic becomes important

Related topics: Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), Model Code of Conduct

Q47.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect

Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It means that the ministry stays in office so long as it enjoys the confidence of the majority of the members of the Lok Sabha. In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect

It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only and if it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office.

A government can function only when it has majority support in the Lok Sabha. The party can remain in power when it shows its strength through a floor test which is primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature. If any member of the House feels that the government in power does not have a majority then he/she can move a no-confidence motion. If the motion is accepted, then the party in power has to prove its majority in the House. The member need not give a reason for moving the no-confidence motion.

A no-confidence motion can be moved by any member of the House. It can be moved only in the Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha. Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha specifies the procedure for moving a no-confidence motion. The member has to give written notice of the motion before 10 am which will be read out by the Speaker in the House. A minimum of 50 members have to accept the motion and accordingly, the Speaker will announce the date for discussion for the motion. The allotted date has to be within 10 days from the day the motion is accepted. Otherwise, the motion fails and the member who moved the motion will be informed about it.

Unlike Censure motion, it need not state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.

Related topics: Read the difference between Censure motion and the no-confidence motion

Q48.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Both STATEMENTS are incorrect

For changing the names of villages, towns/cities, railway stations etc., the proposals received from the respective State Government are considered in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in consultation with the agencies concerned. Thereafter, if found appropriate, the MHA conveys its 'No Objection' to the State Government concerned for issuing required Gazette Notification.

Changes in the name of the existing states can be done by a simple majority under article 3 but changes in official language need to amend schedule 8 that can be done by special amendment process under Article 368.

Approach: The names of some of the cities have been changed recently. Eg: Allahabad

Related topics: Reorganization of states

Q49.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In a move which is one more step towards creating a just and equitable society, President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, converting it to an Act.

The Assam Assembly on August 13, 2015, had unanimously passed a Bill, which imposes imprisonment of up to seven years, along with a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh, for branding someone as a witch. This Bill has now become an Act.

Approach: Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill, 2017

Q50.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Constitution does not include any provision for categorization of any State in India as a Special Category Status (SCS) State. But, recognizing that some regions in the country were historically disadvantaged in contrast to others, Central plan assistance to the SCS States has been granted in the past by the erstwhile Planning Commission body, National Development Council (NDC).

The NDC granted this status based on a number of features of the States which included:

- hilly and difficult terrain
- low population density or the presence of sizeable tribal population
- strategic location along international borders
- economic and infrastructural backwardness and
- non-viable nature of State finances.

For special category status category states, the Centre pays 90 percent of the funds required in a centrally-sponsored scheme as against 60 percent in case of normal category states, while the remaining funds are provided by the state governments.

Approach: SCS demand is from many states for the last couple of years. Keep a track of the news related to the topic.

Related topics: Demand of Andhra Pradesh for special category status.

Q51.

Answer: C

Explanation:

International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution was registered as a society under society registration act, 1860. s. It is an autonomous organization with its Headquarters at New Delhi and Regional Centres at Hyderabad and Bangalore. It works under the aegis of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India is the Chairperson of ICADR and at the regional level, the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court is the Patron of the Regional Centre of ICADR.

Approach:

Lesser known organization related to Judiciary, hence give a glance to it.

Related Topics: Indian Council of Arbitration.

Q52.

Answer: B

Explanation:

SVEEP or Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.

SVEEP's primary goal is to build a truly participative democracy in India by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision during the elections. The programme is based on multiple general as well as targeted interventions which are designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as the history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections.

Approach: Be aware of the major initiatives of the Election Commission of India.

Related Topics: Model Code of Conduct, Voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT)

Q53.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It was formed under the Internet and Mobile Association of India in 2013. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The Payments Council of India was formed under the aegis of IAMAI in the year 2013 catering to the needs of the digital payment industry.

The council works with all its members to promote payments industry growth and to support our national goal of 'Cash to Less Cash Society' and 'Growth of Financial Inclusion' which is also the Vision Shared by the RBI and Government of India. PCI works closely with the regulators i.e. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Finance Ministry and any similar government, departments, bodies or Institution to make 'India a less cash society'.

Approach:

Current affairs based questions, stick to your current affairs sources for updates on this topic.

Related Topics: National Payments Corporation of India

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY



Q1. Consider the following regarding 'Central Water Commission':

1. Central Water Commission is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources.

2. It is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

Q2. Madhav Gadgil Committee relates to which of the following:

- a) Conservation of Eastern Ghats
- b) Conservation of Western Ghats
- c) Conservation of Himalayas
- d) Conservation of rivers in India

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project':

- 1. It is fully funded by Central Government.
- 2. The objectives of DRIP are to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. Which of the following statements is correct about 'National Disaster Management Authority':

- 1. It is a Constitutional Authority
- 2. It is headed by the Home Minister.
- 3. NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q5. Which of the following best describes 'REDD+':

- a) It aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.
- b) It aims to achieve climate change mitigation by reducing ozone depletion.
- c) It aims to clean the oceans and make them free from plastic

d) It aims to achieve climate change mitigation by reducing GHG emissions from vehicles.

Q6. For which of the following purposes, the web based application 'PARIVESH' has been launched:

- a) It has been launched to share the success stories of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- b) It has been launched to make online auction of Government Resources more transparent
- c) It has been launched to seek environment clearances from Government authorities
- d) It has been launched by Delhi Municipal Corporation for grievance redressal of the public.

Q7. Consider the following about 'Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee':

1. It functions under The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

2. It is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.

3. It is headed by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding 'GENETICALLY MODIFIED crops':

1. As per report of International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, 2018, India ranks 5th in global cultivation of GM crops.

2. Bt. cotton is the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in the Country.

3. The approval of any new genetically modified crop is given on a case to case basis after thorough scientific evaluation of health and environment safety as per applicable guidelines made under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules, 1989.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q9. Anupam Verma Committee, recently seen in news relates to:

- a) Technical Review of selected pesticides which are banned in other countries but continued to be registered in India.
- b) To study the impact of GM crops
- c) To suggest measures to improve farmer's income
- d) To suggest how to increase agricultural exports

Q10. Identify the following National Park:

- 1. Brahmaputra river flows through this National Park.
- 2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 3. Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot, the park combines high species diversity and visibility.
- 4. It has also been declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006.

Select the correct Answer:

- a) Manas National Park
- b) Kaziranga National Park
- c) Nameri National Park
- d) Orang National Park

Q11. Recently which state has written to National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the state's sanctuary?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Orissa

Q12. 'Nauradehi Sanctuary' is located in which of the following states?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Q13. Consider the following statements about 'National Tiger Conservation Authority':

- 1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- 2. It has been constituted under enabling provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.
- 3. Prime Minister is the chairman of the authority.

Select the correct Answer using the code given below:

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

Q14. Consider the following statements

regarding 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index':

1. It is a nationwide Index, which is a joint effort of the NITI Aayog and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

2. It assesses state policies and programmes aimed at improving energy efficiency across various sectors.

Choose the correct Answer using the code given below:

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

Q15. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding 'Bio-jet Fuel':

1. It has been developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research based in Dehradun along with Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP).

2. It can be produced from animal fat, used cooking oil, waste dairy fat, sewage sludge, etc.

3. The oil needs to have a freezing point below -47 degrees so it doesn't freeze at altitudes at which planes fly.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q16. 'C40' recently seen in news is related to:

- a) Network of world's megacities committed to address climate change
- b) Group of African nations demanding reforms in United Nation Security Council
- c) Group of island nations demanding more concrete efforts to address climate change
- d) A list released by European Union of World's top 40 Virtual currencies.

Q17. Which of the following is not a tributary of river Ganga?

- a) Yamuna
- b) Son
- c) Tons
- d) Gandak

Q18. Identify the Biosphere Reserve:

1. It is the highest biosphere reserve in India.

2. It comprises of India's first 'Mixed Heritage Sites'

3. It is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots that has good species diversity with high levels of endemism, with many

mountains, peaks, lakes, caves, rocks, stupas (shrines) and hot springs.

Select the correct answer:

- a) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
- b) Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve
- c) Dehang Debang Biosphere Reserve
- d) Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

Q19. Consider the following statements about 'Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species':

1. It is a dedicated facility of CSIR's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad.

2. It would facilitate exchange of genetic material between the Indian zoos for maintaining genetic diversity and conservation management made accessible to scientists and wildlife managers for implementing conservation programs.

Which of the following statements is/are correct:

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

Q20. 'Neonicotinoids' recently seen in news relates to

- a) Insecticides
- b) Antibiotics
- c) Group of insect eating plants
- d) Nitrogen fixing bacteria

Q21. With reference to 'Ken-Betwa river Inter-linking Project', consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first river interlinking project.

2. This Project involves deforesting a portion of Kanha Tiger reserve.

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

Q22. With reference to 'Damanganga - Pinjal River interlinking project', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) The inter-linking project is between Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- b) The project is planning to transfer water from the Pinjal reservoir to the Damanganga basin.
- c) The Primary aim of the project is to increase the supply of water to Mumbai
- d) None of the above

Q23. In recent time uranium contamination in the groundwater has increased. Which of the following is/are the prime factor for this?

- a) Excessive extraction of groundwater causing decline in the water table.
- b) Nitrate pollution due to overuse of fertilizers.
- c) Increasing the water table due to good monsoon
- d) Both a and b

Q24. A tiger reserve situated in the heartland of Odisha. River Mahanadi flows through the valleys in the middle of that tiger Reserve. Forest vegetation of this tiger reserve comprises of North Indian tropical moist deciduous Forests. This tiger reserve is the natural habitat of two endangered species viz. freshwater crocodile and the gharial.

Which tiger reserve has these features?

- a) Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- b) Similipal Tiger Reserve
- c) Udandi and sidandi Tiger Reserve
- d) Indravati Tiger reserve

Q25. A tiger reserve located in the northernmost part of Odisha. Tributaries of Baitarani River flowing from this Reserve. This reserve is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.

Which tiger reserve has these features?

- a) Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- b) Similipal Tiger Reserve
- c) Udandi and sidandi Tiger Reserve
- d) Indravati Tiger reserve

Q26. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. Keibullamjao National Park: Manipur
- 2. Kanha National Park: Madhya Pradesh
- 3. Buxa Tiger reserve: West Bengal

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

Q27. With reference to 'Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a World Bank supported initiative.
- 2. Four European countries - Italy, France, Spain, and Ireland - started this \$500 million initiative.
- 3. It creates incentives aimed at large scale cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries to combat climate change.

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

Q28. With reference to 'National Disaster Risk Index for India', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Climate change with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. The Index is in line with India's commitment to the Sendai Framework.

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

Q29. With reference to Report 'South Asia's Hotspots: The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation changes on living standards', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. It estimates how changes in temperature and monsoon patterns will affect GDP and living standards in the South Asian 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

Q30. Consider the following statement about Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

1. It is part of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserves.

2. It is bounded by protected area network of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka in the northeast, and on the southeast by Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu.

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

Q31. Consider the following statement about Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)

1. It was established under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change,

2. Its main function is to Support implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) activities 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

Q32. With reference to 'Blue Flag Standards', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985 in France.

2. The Blue Flag is an environmental award for beaches, sustainable boating tourism operators, and marine.

3. Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha's Konark coast was first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.

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

Q33. 'Operation Shikhar' recently seen in news, is related:

- a) To stop the illegal trade in Ivory
- b) To stop the illegal poaching of Tiger
- c) To stop the illegal trade in Sandalwood
- d) To stop the illegal poaching of one-horned rhinoceros

Q34. Consider the following statements about the Chilka Lake:

1. It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world.

2. At present, it is included in the 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

Q35. Consider the following statement about the Keibul Lamjao National Park

1. The Park is situated in the North Eastern state of Manipur.

2. Loktak Lake is under the 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

Q36. Consider the following statement about the Animal Welfare Board of India:

1. It is a non-statutory advisory body on Animal welfare laws and promotes animal welfare.
2. It was established under 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

Q37. Consider the following statement about the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):

1. It was established under the wildlife protection Act, 1972.
2. It is a non-statutory and Autonomous body.

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

Q38. Consider the following pairs:

1. Great Himalayan National Park : Sikkim
2. Nokrek biosphere reserve : Meghalaya
3. Nanda Devi National Park : Uttarakhand

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

Q39. Consider the following statements about Formalin:

1. It is a water-soluble chemical used as a disinfectant and preservative.
2. It is used to artificially reduce the sensory attributes of fish.
3. It is a carcinogenic material which can cause cancer through the ingestion route.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q40. Consider the following statements about Oxytocin:

1. It is a life-saving drug under the National List of Essential Medicines.

2. In agriculture, it is misused to increase the size of pumpkins, watermelons, and brinjals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q41. Lake Titicaca where an underwater museum is being built is located in

- a. Bolivia
- b. Belgium
- c. Newzealand
- d. Finland

Q42. Consider the following statements about Pet Coke:

1. Pet Coke is a byproduct of the petroleum industry which has a calorific value higher than brown coal.
2. It contains very low carbon but has high sulfur in addition to heavy metals.
3. Its import into India is highly restricted and it needs a license to import.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q43. Consider the following statements about the Small Grants Programme:

1. It provides both financial and technical assistance for environmental conservation and restoration projects.
2. It is a part of the Global Environmental Facility implemented by UNEP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q44. Consider the following about the Harrier Bird:

1. They are migratory birds whose major prey base lies in the grasslands, meadows and wetland region.
2. The decline in their population will reduce farm productivity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Q45. Consider the following about the Red Sanders:

1. Its distribution is highly restricted to the southeastern part of the Indian Peninsula.
2. It prefers lateritic soil and can withstand water logging for a longer period of time.
3. Loss due to smuggling has resulted in its endangered status in the IUCN red list.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q46. Which of the following is the objective of Sagar Nidhi?

- a) Study of Monsoon in Arabian Sea
- b) Study of polymetallic nodules in central Indian Ocean
- c) Study of Monsoon in Bay of Bengal
- d) Polar research in the Antarctic region

Q47. Consider the following pairs?

Species	Habitat
1. Boto-	Yangtze River
3. Susu	- Ganges River
Bhulan	- Indus River

Which of the above pair is/are correctly matched?

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

Q48. Consider the following statements about Nilgiri Tahr:

1. They are stocky goats with females being larger than the male in size.
2. Adult males develop a light grey area on their back known as saddlebacks.
3. The highest number of their population is found in the Agasthyamalai biosphere reserve region.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q49. Consider the following about Salicornia plant:

1. It is a succulent flowering plant growing in freshwater lakes.
2. It is served as salads and substitute of salt with low sodium content.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

Q50. Which of the following statements about Neelakurinji is incorrect?

- a. It blossoms once in twelve years with a majority in blue color.
- b. It is endemic to Shola forests and found only on the slopes of the Western Ghats in India.
- c. Shorter varieties occur at higher altitudes and longer at lower altitudes.
- d. None of the above

Q51. Which of the following are commonly found pollutant in groundwater in the Western part of India?

1. Fluoride
2. Arsenic
3. Uranium

Codes:

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

52. Consider the following statements about World Environment Day:

1. It is conducted by the Worldwide Fund for Nature.
 2. The theme of the 2018 edition was 'Beat Plastic Pollution' which was hosted by India.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q53. Which of the following state is proposed to turn into the first Zero Budget Natural Farming state in India?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Kerala
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Q54. Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism for which of the following international environmental conventions?

1. Minamata Convention on Mercury
2. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
3. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
4. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q55. With reference to 'Meghalayan Age' consider the following statements:

1. The Meghalaya age runs from 4,200 years ago to the present.
2. A stalagmite which was found in the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya has provided chemical signatures as evidence.
3. The Greenlandian and the Northgrippian are younger than Meghalayan age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q56. Recently in which state of India, the court has ruled that all animals should enjoy the same rights as human beings, saying "they have distinct personas with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person"?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Maharashtra

Q57. Which among the following is/are not a part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves list?

1. Dihang-Dibang
2. Achanakmar-Amarkantak
3. Cold Desert
4. Pachmarhi
5. Simlipal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q58. "This Biosphere Reserve is one of the highest ecosystems in the world. It falls within the Himalaya global biodiversity hotspot and recently included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves list. The above statements describe which among the following biosphere reserves?

- a) Achanakmar-Amarkantak
- b) Great Nicobar
- c) Agasthyamala
- d) Kanchenjunga

Q59. With reference to 'National Bamboo Mission' consider the following statements:

1. National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is being implemented as a subscheme under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF).

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

Q60. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Deep Ocean Mission' has been launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

2. India was the first country in the world to have been given the Pioneer Area for exploration of deep-sea mineral.

3. Research Vessel Gaveshani collected the first sample of Polymetallic nodules from the Arabian Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q61. Consider the following statements:

1. Neelakurinji flower blooms in the Anamalai hills once in 12 years.

2. Neelakurinji plant is a tropical plant species which is generally found in Asia and Australia.

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

Q62. Which of the following is/are the carriers of the Nipah virus?

- a) Fruit bat
- b) Pig
- c) Freshwater Fish
- d) Both a and b

Q1.

Answer: C

Explanation

CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Central Water Commission is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.
- The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation of the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country, for the purpose of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply and Water Power Development.
- It also undertakes the investigations, construction and execution of any such schemes as required.
- Central Water Commission CWC is headed by a Chairman, with the status of Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of India.
- The work of the Commission is divided among 3 wings namely, Designs and Research (D&R) Wing, River Management (RM) Wing and Water Planning and Projects (WP&P) Wing.

Approach: Last year there was severe flood in Kerala. The commission was in the news at that time. So we should have a basic knowledge of that.

Q2.

Answer: B

Explanation

MADHAV GADGIL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The UPA government had formed a Western Ghats ecology expert panel, which was headed by Pune-based ecologist Madhav Gadgil.

- The key recommendation is taking the villagers residing in ecologically sensitive areas into confidence, making them aware of any project coming into their localities and letting them decide whether they want the project to commence or not.
- It has recommended considering a tehsil as a unit and addressing all the villagers about the importance of ecology around them.
- It has recommended that 94-97% area of the Western Ghats should be considered eco-sensitive.
- It has focused on educating the villagers.
- It classified the Western Ghats taluks located on the boundary as Eco-Sensitive Zones 1, 2, 3.
- No new dams of large scale storage be permitted to be built in ESZ1.

Approach: The committee was in the news recently due to floods in Kerala. Although question has already been asked related to it but still it is important for us to know some basic recommendations of the committee.

Q3.

Answer: B

Explanation

DAM REHABILITATION AND IRRIGATION PROGRAM

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Govt. of India has taken up the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with the financial assistance of the World Bank.
- It has been launched for the repair and rehabilitation of initially about 225 dam projects across the seven states of India, namely Jharkhand (DVC), Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand (UJVNL).
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The objectives of DRIP are to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.

Approach: Again the scheme was in the news as there was some allegations between Kerala and Tamil Nadu regarding the operation of Dam.

Related Topics: Other irrigation schemes and initiatives.

Q4.

Answer: B

Explanation

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- STATEMENT 1 and 2 are incorrect: It is a statutory body .On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. Towards this, it has the following responsibilities:-
 1. Lay down policies on disaster management ;
 2. Approve the National Plan;
 3. Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan;
 4. Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan;
 5. Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects;
 6. Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management;
 7. Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation;
 8. Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government;
 9. Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situations or disasters as it may consider necessary
 10. Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

Approach: The authority was in the news recently due to floods in Kerala.

Related Topics: salient features of Disaster Management Act

Q5.

Answer: A
Explanation

REDD+ : Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) was first negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2005, with the objective of mitigating climate change through reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries. Most of the key REDD+ decisions were completed by 2013, with the final pieces of the rulebook finished in 2015.

India recently launched their National REDD+ Strategy

- REDD+ activities will help in sustainable livelihood of local communities and also in conservation of biodiversity.
- REDD+ strategy will help the country to fulfill its NDC commitments and will also contribute to the livelihood of the forest dependent population.
- REDD+ means “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation”, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.
- The strategy seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also developing a roadmap for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and achieving sustainable management of forests through REDD+ actions.
- The National REDD+ Strategy will soon be communicated to the UNFCCC.

Approach: REDD+ is important for Prelims. The recent release of National REDD+ strategy makes it even more important.

Q6.

Answer: C
Explanation

PARIVESH : PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single window hub) is a web based, role based workflow application which has been developed for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the proponents for seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities. It automates the entire tracking of proposals which includes online submission of a new proposal, editing/updating the details of proposals and displays status of the proposals at each stage of the workflow.

Approach: A new and recent approach in environment sector by the government which makes it important for us.

Q7.

Answer: B
Explanation

GENETIC ENGINEERING APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: GEAC is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of

Biotechnology (DBT).

- STATEMENT 2 is correct: As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
- The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.

The functions of GEAC as prescribed in the Rules 1989 are as follows:

1. To appraise activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
2. To appraise proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
3. The committee or any persons authorized by it has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

Approach: Recently there was a news 'CSE study finds GM presence in infant food, packaged snacks'. Also genetic food has been in the news for some time. It is important to know about the important committee associated with it.

Related Topics: All the merits and challenges associated with GM crops.

Q8.

Answer: D

Explanation

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS: Genetically modified crops (GM crops or biotech crops) are plants used in agriculture, the DNA of which has been modified using genetic engineering methods. In most cases, the aim is to introduce a new trait to the plant which does not occur naturally in the species.

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: As per report of International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, 2018, India ranks 5th in global cultivation of GM crops.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Bt. cotton is the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in the Country.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: The approval of any new genetically modified crop is given on a case to case basis after thorough scientific evaluation of health and environment safety as per applicable guidelines made under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules, 1989.

Approach: Recently there was a news 'CSE study finds GM presence in infant food, packaged snacks'. Also genetic food has been in the news for some time. It is important to know about the basic information associated with it.

Related Topics: GENETIC ENGINEERING APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Q9.

Answer: A

Explanation

ANUPAM VERMA COMMITTEE

- An expert committee was constituted under Dr. Anupam Verma, Former Professor, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), to carry out technical review of 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India.

- The Expert Committee, inter alia, recommended 13 pesticides to be banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020.
- The Committee further recommended continuation of ban on 1 pesticide and did not offer any assessment of a pesticide which is currently sub judice. The Verma Committee recommended continued use of 18 pesticides.

Approach: An important committee which should not be left out. UPSC usually asks one or more question related to committees. It was in the news as Government has decided to ban some of pesticides based on the recommendation of the committee

Related Topics: Any other important committee constituted by The Government of India.

Q10.

Answer: B

Explanation

MANAS NATIONAL PARK :

- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Manas is located in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya and is densely forested.
- The Manas river flows through the west of the park and is the main river within it. It is a major tributary of Brahmaputra river and splits into two separate rivers, the Bwrsi and Bholkaduba as it reaches the plains.
- The Manas river also serves as an international border dividing India and Bhutan.

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK :

- Brahmaputra river flows through this National Park.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot, the park combines high species diversity and visibility.
- It has also been declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006.
- Kaziranga National Park is an outstanding example representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of natural ecosystems consisting of several communities of plants and animals.
- Kaziranga is the most important and significant natural habitat for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and Biodiversity Conservation with Rhino as the flagship species.

NAMERI NATIONAL PARK:

- Nameri National Park is a national park in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam, India
- Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The vegetation type of nameri is of semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests with cane and bamboo brakes and narrow strips of open grassland along rivers.

ORANG NATIONAL PARK:

- The Orang National Park also known as Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park which is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam, India.
- It was established as a sanctuary in 1985 and declared a national park on 13 April 1999.
- The park has a rich flora and fauna, including great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, pygmy hog, elephants, wild buffalo and tigers.
- It is the only stronghold of rhinoceros on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river.

Approach: If you are aware of the national parks from which river Brahmaputra passes then this question was easy for you; if not, then it might pose some problems. All the four National Parks belong to Assam.

Related Topics: UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

Q11.

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State's Nauradehi sanctuary. The ambitious project, conceived in 2009, had hit a roadblock for want of funds.
- The country's last spotted feline died in Chhattisgarh in 1947. Later, the cheetah — which is the fastest land animal — was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- The Wildlife Institute of India at Dehradun had prepared a ₹260-crore cheetah reintroduction project six years ago.
- Nauradehi was found to be the most suitable area for the cheetahs as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of the spotted cat. Besides, the prey base for cheetahs is also in abundance at the sanctuary.
- According to the earlier action plan, around 20 cheetahs were to be translocated to Nauradehi from Namibia in Africa. The Namibia Cheetah Conservation Fund had then showed its willingness to donate the felines to India.

Approach: This was in the news recently. UPSC has also asked questions based on similar pattern. So always keep a track of this type of news.

Q12.

Answer: D

Explanation

Nauradehi Sanctuary:

- It is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh.
- 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.
- The protected area sits astride two major river basins of India, namely the Narmada, flowing west to the Arabian Sea and the Ganges, flowing east to the Bay of Bengal.
- The forest is spread over the southern area of the Vindhya Range of hills in which the Bandhavgarh National Park and Panna National Park are also located.

Approach: This was in the news recently. UPSC has also asked questions based on similar pattern. So always keep a track of this type of news. Be informed about the national parks and sanctuaries in news and their respective locations.

Q13.

Answer: A

Explanation

NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

- STATEMENT 1 is correct BUT STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment,

Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is the chairman of the authority.
- It has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees.

Approach: The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State's Nauradehi sanctuary. This news makes this particular authority very important.

Related Topics: Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Q14.

Answer: C

Explanation

STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREPAREDNESS INDEX

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), releases the 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index'.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It assesses state policies and programmes aimed at improving energy efficiency across various sectors.
- The nationwide Index, which is a joint effort of the NITI Aayog and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- The State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index has 63 indicators across Building, Industry, Municipality, Transport, Agriculture and DISCOM with 4 cross-cutting indicators.
- States are categorised based on their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation, as 'Front Runner', 'Achiever', 'Contender' and 'Aspirant'.
- The 'Front Runner' states in the inaugural edition of the Index are: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Rajasthan based on the available data.

Approach: Indices are very important in UPSC. We have to prepare all the major indices because one or more question can be asked. Recently this index was released for the first time which makes it probable question.

Q15.

Answer: D

Explanation

- BIO-JET FUEL
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It has been developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research based in Dehradun along with Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP).
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It can be produced from animal fat, used cooking oil, waste dairy fat, sewage sludge, etc.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: The oil needs to have a freezing point below -47 degrees so it doesn't freeze at altitudes at which planes fly, should not catch fire on the ground when being transferred into a plane, must have the same density as ATF, have a certain calorific value and should not choke the filters.

Approach: SpiceJet operates country's first bio jet fuel flight. This will have a huge impact of future air transport.

Q16.

Answer: A

Explanation

C40 :

- It is a network of world's megacities committed to addressing climate change by assisting with or creating models that other cities and governments can adopt.
- It is focused on tackling climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks while increasing the health, well being and economic opportunities of urban citizens.

Approach: Bengaluru hosts first meeting of C40 Air Quality Network.

Related Topics: Other international organisations related to Climate Change.

Q17.

Answer: C

Explanation

GANGA RIVER SYSTEM

The Ganga originates as the Bhagirathi from the Gangotri glacier. Before it reaches Devaprayag, the Mandakini, the Pindar, the Dhauliganga and the Bishenganga rivers merge into the Alaknanda and the Bheling drain into the Bhagirathi. The Pindar River rises from East Trishul and Nanda Devi unite with the Alaknanda at Karan Prayag. The Mandakini meets at Rudra Prayag. The water from both Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda flows in the name of the Ganga at Devaprayag.

The concept of Panch Prayag

- Vishnuprayag: where the river Alaknanda meet river Dhauli Ganga
- Nandprayag: where river Alaknanda meet river Nandakini
- Karnaprayag: where river Alaknanda meet river Pinder
- Rudraprayag: where river Alaknanda meet river Mandakini
- Devprayag: where river Alaknanda meet river Bhagirathi -GANGA

The main tributaries of the Ganga are Yamuna, Damodar, Sapt Kosi, Ram Ganga, Gomati, Ghaghara, Gandak and Son. The river after traveling a distance of 2525 km from its source meets the Bay of Bengal.

Note: The Tons originating from the Himalayan range is the largest tributary of Yamuna in Himalayan region which meets it near Kalasi.

Approach: Recently there was a news 'Ganga stretches in Bengal unfit for bathing'. You can always expect a question from the tributaries of the rivers in UPSC.

Related Topics: Tributaries of other major river system in India.

Q18.

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR) of Sikkim, the highest biosphere

reserve in the country that includes the third highest mountain peak in the world, Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), has been included in the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WHBR).

- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was the first reserve from the country to be included in the WNBR. India has 18 biospheres reserves, of which 11 have been included in the WNBR.
- The Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP), which comprises the core area of the KBR, was inscribed as India's first "Mixed World Heritage Site" on July 17, 2016.
- Eighty six per cent of the core lies in the Alpine zone and the remaining portions are located in the Himalayan wet temperate and subtropical moist deciduous forest.
- The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots that has good species diversity with high levels of endemism, with many mountains, peaks, lakes, caves, rocks, stupas (shrines) and hot springs.

The list of other Biosphere Reserves in India are :

1. Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)
2. Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu)
3. Sunderban (West Bengal)
4. Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand)
5. Nokrek (Meghalaya)
6. Pachmarhi (Madhya Pradesh)
7. Simlipal (Odisha)
8. Achanakmar-Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh)
9. Great Nicobar (Andaman and Nicobar)
10. Agasthyamala (Kerala/Tamil nadu)

Approach: Recently The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR) of Sikkim was in news.

Related Topics: Location of other biosphere reserves.

Q19.

Answer: C

Explanation

Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences & Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's only facility for conservation of endangered species.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), a dedicated facility of CSIR's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad uses modern biotechnologies for conservation of endangered wildlife. (CCMB-LaCONES is the only laboratory in India that has developed methods for collection and cryopreservation of semen and oocytes from wildlife and successfully reproducing endangered blackbuck, spotted deer and Nicobar pigeons.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It would also facilitate the exchange of genetic material between the Indian zoos for maintaining genetic diversity and conservation management made accessible to scientists and wildlife managers for implementing conservation programs.
- Through this work, it has established Genetic Resource Bank for Indian wildlife.
- So far, genetic resources from 23 species of Indian wild animals have been collected and preserved.

- This facility would increase the collection of genetic resources from wildlife through collaboration with zoos in India.

Approach: A very important progress in the field of Wildlife Protection. Do have a basic information about it.

Q20.

Answer: A

Explanation

- They are a new class of insecticides chemically related to nicotine
- The name literally means 'new nicotine-like insecticides'.
- They affect the central nervous system of insects leading to paralysis and death.

Approach: Be very careful when reading the newspaper and always make a note of these small words. They are usually asked in the exam.

Related Topics: Read about different insecticides and antibiotics which are in the news.

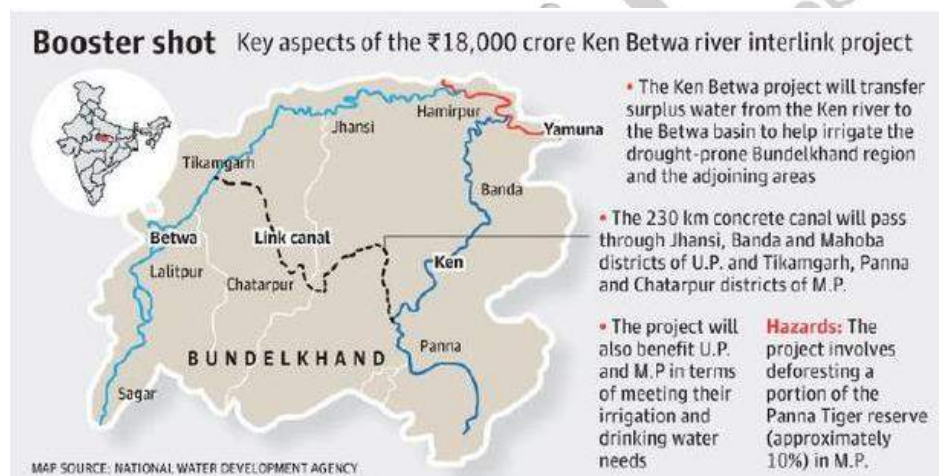
Q21.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. Ken-Betwa river Inter-linking Project is India's first river interlinking Project.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect. The Project will cause deforesting a portion of Panna Tiger Reserve and not Kanha Tiger Reserve. Panna Tiger Reserve is near to ken river.



Approach: There was news regarding Ken Betwa Project. There are concerns of environmental degradation due to this project. Learn about different national park and wildlife sanctuary near these rivers.

Related Topics: Read about different tiger reserve and wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Read about different tributaries of river Yamuna

Q22.

Answer: C

Explanation:

OPTION (a) is incorrect as the Damanganga - Pinjal River interlinking project is between Maharashtra and Gujarat.

OPTION (b) is incorrect as The project is planning to transfer surplus water from Damanganga basin in Gujarat to the Pinjal reservoir in Maharashtra through Bhugad and Khargihill dam.

Option (c) is correct as the primary aim of this project to increase the supply of water to Mumbai.

Approach: There is much news regarding Damanganga - Pinjal River. There is concern regarding environmental degradation due to this project and farmers are protesting against this project.

Related Topics: Read about water basin of Damanganga and Pinjal.

1. Information about Damanganga - Pinjal Project: The proposal of Damanganga-Pinjal link envisages transfer of balance available water at the proposed Bhugad reservoir across Damanganga River and at the proposed Khargihill reservoir across Vagh river, a tributary of Damanganga river, in Damanganga basin for augmentation of water supply to Greater Mumbai to meet its domestic and industrial water requirements in the near future. The Bhugad and Khargi Hill reservoirs (proposed by NWDA) and Pinjal reservoir (proposed by Government of Maharashtra across Pinjalriver, a tributary of Vaitarna river) are proposed to be connected through pressure tunnels.

Q23.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Many of India's aquifers are composed of clay, silt and gravel carried down from Himalayan weathering by streams or uranium-rich granitic rocks. When over-pumping of these aquifers' groundwater occurs and their water levels decline, it induces oxidation conditions that, in turn, enhance uranium enrichment in the shallow groundwater that remains.

While the primary source of uranium is geogenic (naturally occurring), anthropogenic (human-caused) factors such as groundwater table decline and nitrate pollution may further enhance uranium mobilization. So both options A and option B are correct.

Increasing the water table due to good monsoon will not increase the concentration of uranium in groundwater as the oxidation process will decrease only. So option (c) is wrong.

Approach: Groundwater contamination is one of the major problems for India. So we should have a better understanding of the causes and effects of such problems.

Q24.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Out of all the given options Indravati and Udandi and sandhi Tiger Reserve are in Chhattisgarh. So these cannot be the correct option. River Mahanadi flows through Satkosia Tiger Reserve. So option A is correct. Mahanadi does not flow Through Simlipal Tiger Reserve. So Simlipal Cannot be the correct option. Forest vegetation of Satkosia tiger reserve comprises of North Indian tropical moist deciduous Forests. It is also the natural habitat of two endangered species viz. freshwater crocodile and the gharial. So option (a) is correct

Approach: Hint in the question is to know about the direction of Mahanadi. Mahanadi

flow in the lower part of Odisha. But Simlipal is in the upper part of Orissa. Similarly, Satkosia is in the lower part of Odisha. So this will be the correct option. Other tiger reserves are not in Odisha.

Q25.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Out of all the given options, Indravati and Udandi and sandhi Tiger Reserve are in Chattisgarh. So these cannot be the correct option. Satkosia Tiger Reserve is in the eastern part of Odisha or in a lower part of Odisha. It is not situated in the Northern-most part of Odisha. So it cannot be the correct option. Similipal Tiger Reserve is situated in the Northern-most part of Odisha. Tributaries of Baitarani river flowing from this Reserve. Similipal Tiger Reserve reserve is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009. So option (b) is the correct option.

Approach: Hint in the question is Northern-most part of Odisha. One should have a good understanding of the location of these reserves on Map.

Related Topics: Read about all the tiger reserves, rivers, and hills of Orissa

Q26.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Keibullamjao National Park is in Manipur. So statement 1 is correctly matched.

Kanha National Park is in Madhya Pradesh. So statement 2 is correctly matched.

Buxa Tiger reserve is in West Bengal. So statement 3 is correctly matched.

Q27.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. As Four European countries Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland launched the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) to boost large scale climate action in developing countries in Paris. The World Bank Group worked with these countries to develop the initiative. So statement 1 is correct

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect. As the name of four European countries who started this initiative are Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland and not Italy, France, Spain, and Ireland.

STATEMENT 3 is correct. As Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) creates incentives aimed at large scale cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries to combat climate change.

Q28.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As 'National disaster risk index for India' is prepared by the ministry of home affairs with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is not prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Climate change. The

disaster risk index would map hazards and vulnerabilities including economic vulnerabilities across 640 districts and all states including UTs.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the index is in line with India's commitment to the Sendai Framework.

The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Approach: The index has been prepared for the first time in India. It was in the news also. Learn about Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.

Related Topics: Read about the different report published by different organizations like the Environmental Performance Index.

Q29.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As this report is released by the World Bank and not by UNDP.

STATEMENT 2 is correct. As this report estimates how changes in temperature and monsoon patterns will affect GDP and living standards in the South Asian region. The report highlights the hotspots region in the South Asian region. Climate change could cost India 2.8 percent of GDP, and lower living standards of nearly half of its population by 2050, as average annual temperatures are expected to rise by 1-2 percent over three decades, warns this new report released by the World Bank. South Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Approach: This is the first report by the World Bank to estimate the effect of climate change on poor regions of South Asia. So necessary to prepare some basics of this report.

Related Topics: Read about the different report published by different organizations like the Environmental Performance Index.

Q30.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Established in 1973, the Wayanad Wildlife sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and not part of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserves. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is an International Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hills ranges of South India. The Nilgiri Sub-Cluster is a part of the Western Ghats, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012. It includes the Aralam, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Silent Valley national parks, as well as the Wayanad and Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is bounded by protected area network of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka in the northeast, and on the southeast by Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu. So STATEMENT 2 is correct

Approach: There was news that a rare species of spider was rediscovered from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. So we should prepare about the location, biosphere reserves surrounding these areas.

Related Topics: Read about Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserves.

Q31.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct As It was established under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Government of India.

STATEMENT 2 is correct As SICOM main function is to support the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) activities in India. To implement the World Bank assisted India ICZM Project. To provide Research Development (R&D) and stakeholder participation in the management of the Coastal areas in India. To undertake any additional work or function as may be assigned by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change from time to time in the area of Coastal Management and other related activities.

Approach: There was news regarding Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha's Konark coast got Blue Flag certification. These beaches are developed by SICOM. So read about SICOM.

Q32.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. As it was established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985 in France. The Blue Flag was created in France in 1985, as a pilot scheme from the Office of the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe where French coastal municipalities were awarded the Blue Flag on the basis of criteria covering sewage treatment and bathing water quality. 11 French municipalities got the award in 1985

STATEMENT 2 is correct As the Blue Flag is an environmental award for beaches, sustainable boating tourism operators, and marine.

STATEMENT 3 is correct As Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha's Konark coast was first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.

Approach: There was news regarding Chandrabhaga beach which has got Blue Flag certification. So we should learn about the Blue flag certification.

Q33.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Operation Shikkar is related to stop the illegal trade in Ivory. Operation Shikar' was initiated soon after the discovery of organized elephant poaching in Kerala The operation that unfolded across the country revealed how poachers shot elephants dead on order, hacked their tusks with axes and sell to a middleman.

Approach: There was news regarding operation shikkar to stop the illegal trade in Ivory.

Related Topics: Read about poaching issue of one-horned rhinoceros.

Q34.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Chilka Lake is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world. Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda, and Ganjam districts of Odisha state on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Chilika Lake was removed from the Montreux Record register in 2002 in light of the improved conditions of the lake. In fact, Chilika lake is the first Ramsar site in Asia to be removed from the Montreux Record. At present, it is not included in the Montreux Record.

Approach: There was a news regarding the building of water aerodrome in Chilka Lake and there is the protest against it. So read about location, features, and importance of Chilka Lake.

Related Topics: Read about Montreux record, Ramsar convention, and Wetlands of International Importance.

Q35.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as KeibulLamjao National Park is situated in the North Eastern state of Manipur. The Park is said to be the only floating national park in the world. Brow-antlered deer is found only in KeibulLamjao National Park. Brow-antlered deer is also known as dancing deer and Sangai.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Loktak Lake is under the Montreux Record. Marshland located on the southern end of the Loktak Lake was marked and named KeibulLamjao National Park.

Approach: There was a news regarding the decreasing area of KeibulLamjao National Park due to anthropogenic factors. So read about the features of KeibulLamjao National Park, Loktak Lake, and Montreux Record.

Related Topics: Read about Montreux record, Ramsar convention, and a Wetland of International Importance.

Q36.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is a statutory body under section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Acts 1960. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted in 1960 to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. As per the provisions of the law, the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India.

STATEMENT 2 is also incorrect as it was established under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Acts 1960. It was not established under the wildlife protection Act, 1972.

Approach: Animal Welfare Board of India was in the news regarding raising voice against

animal cruelty.

Related Topics: Read about Central Pollution Control Board, National Green Tribunal, and Central Zoo Authority.

Q37.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. This act is for the preservation of biological diversity in India and provides a mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge. The Act was enacted to meet the obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to which India is a party.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. So statement 2 is wrong.

Approach: National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was in the news regarding genetic resource sharing. So read about the NBA.

Q38.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Great Himalayan National Park is in Himachal Pradesh. Great Himalayan National Park was constituted in 1984 and was formally notified as a national park in 1999. It is located in Banjar Sub-Division of Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh, India, in the far Western Himalayas. GHNP is one of the most recent additions to a huge network of wildlife reserves found in the Himalayan region in India and adjoining countries.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Nokrek biosphere reserve is in Meghalaya. Nokrek National Park, the core area of Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, is a national park located approximately 2 km from Tura Peak in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, India. UNESCO added this National park to its list of Biosphere Reserves in May 2009. Along with Balphakram national park, Nokrek is a hotspot of biodiversity in Meghalaya.

STATEMENT 3 is correct as Nanda Devi National Park is in Uttarakhand. The Nanda Devi National Park or Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, established in 1982, is a national park situated around the peak of Nanda Devi (7816 m) in the state of Uttarakhand in northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m (11,500 ft) above mean sea level.

Q39.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It is used to increase the sensory attribute or freshness of the fish artificially. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Formalin is a common adulterant in fish. Traders and suppliers use it to extend the storage life of fresh or chilled fish and artificially improve the sensory attributes. It is soluble in water and produced by mixing the formaldehyde with water.

WHO classifies formaldehyde as carcinogenic to humans, with sufficient evidence for

causing nasopharyngeal cancer in humans with occupational exposure, although no carcinogenicity is so far established through ingestion route.

Approach: Be aware of reports of the presence of formalin in the fish in the interstate trade in South India.

Related Topics: Adulteration in common foods and their details.

Q40.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Oxytocin is prescribed for the initiation of uterine contractions and induction of labor in women as well as stimulation of contractions during labor. It is also included in the list of the life-saving drug under the National List of Essential Medicines.

Its misuse is widespread in the dairy industry where livestock is injected with oxytocin to make them release milk at a time convenient to farmers. The hormone is also used to increase the size of vegetables such as pumpkins, watermelons, brinjals, gourds, and cucumbers.

Approach: Appeared in the news as the government has banned private manufacturers to produce Oxytocin.

Related Topics: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and Antimicrobial Resistance.

Q41.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Lake Titicaca is located on the border between Bolivia and Peru. Bolivia had planned to build an underwater archeological museum in the lake. It is also the highest navigable lake in the world. It contains a rich resource of the Hispanic civilization. The project will be taken up by the government of Bolivia with the help of Belgium.

Related Topics: Political unrest in Venezuela and its impact on the Latin American Countries.

Q42.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It contains higher levels of carbon and sulfur content than coal. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Pet coke is a byproduct created when bitumen found in tar sands is refined into crude oil. Bitumen contains a higher number of carbon atoms than regular oil and it's these atoms, extracted from large hydrocarbon molecules using heat, that go on to form petcoke. It has a high calorific value (34.8 MegaJoules/kg) but also contains a high amount of sulfur and vanadium.

Import of pet coke into India is allowed for only cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide, and gasification industries when used as the feedstock or in the manufacturing process. The importer requires a license and needs periodic submission to the government about the stock available and their usage.

Approach: Pet coke and furnace oil had appeared in the news, as the Supreme Court

ruled its ban in India due to its greater polluting nature. Hence a good follow up of current affairs will help to make this question correct.

Related Topics: Usage of furnace oil in India, Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)

Q43.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: GEF is implemented by UNDP. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Small Grants Programme was established in 1992 during the year of Rio Earth Summit. This forms the Part of the Global Environment Facility implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

It provides financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods.

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.

Approach: The Global Environment Facility has conducted its sixth summit in July 2018 at Vietnam. It forms an important part of the global environment funding and conservation framework. Hence be aware of the programmes relating to environmental conservation.

Related Topics: Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund.

Q44.

Answer: c

Explanation:

Harrier birds are plain-looking, long-legged, and long-tailed birds of slender build that cruise low over meadows and marshes looking for mice, snakes, frogs, small birds, and insects. They have around eleven sub-species.

Hen, Pallid, Montagu's, Western marsh and Pied are five species of harriers that come to spend the winter in India from Central Asia and Russia. The number migrating into India is decreasing which represents a vulnerability to the population.

They are affected by the use of pesticides and reducing grasslands and wetlands. The bird occupies the top position in the food web which makes it inevitable in controlling the prey population. This makes its reducing population affecting the agricultural productivity as an increase of rodents will affect standing crops.

Approach: A survey has been conducted on the population of the bird and it has shown its declining population. Good knowledge of the food web and inference about the role of the top predator will help to answer this question correctly.

Related Topics: The vulnerability of vulture to Diclofenac.

Q45.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It can tolerate waterlogging. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 3: It is nearly threatened. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

Red Sanders is generally found at altitudes of 150 - 900 m. It grows on dry, hilly, often rocky ground, and occasionally found on precipitous hillsides also. It prefers lateritic and gravelly soil and cannot tolerate waterlogging. In the natural habitat, the tree experiences hot, dry climate with normal rainfall of 88-105 cm received from north-east and south-west monsoons.

They have highly restrictive distribution in the South Eastern portion of Indian peninsula to which it is endemic. The Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Cuddapah-Chittoor districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh are its principal geographical range which extends slightly into the neighboring Anantapur, Kurnool, Prakasam and Nellore Districts of Andhra Pradesh. Sporadic wild populations occur in the adjoining districts of the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu & Karnataka. They are highly wanted timber for furniture & Musical instruments and finds application in traditional medicine of China. They are reclassified as nearly threatened by IUCN from their previous status of endangered due to conservation efforts taken by law enforcement authorities.

Approach: Red Sanders appears frequently in the news due to smuggling activities. Note down the highly smuggled items from India and list down their characteristics and economic importance. This helps to answer this question correctly.

Related Topics: Smuggling of Rhino horns, Ivory and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Q46.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Indian Ocean Research Vessel (ORV), Sagar Nidhi as a part of Indo-US expedition, studies about the vagaries of the Bay of Bengal-fed southwest monsoon, which accounts for 70% of India's annual rainfall.

Sagar Nidhi will sail through the Bay of Bengal for collecting data on ocean conditions at different depths and locations and study the underlying principles of interaction of the uppermost layer of the ocean with the atmosphere.

The project seeks to cast light on the complex mechanics of the monsoon, which have confounded researchers for a long time. The biggest challenge is the unpredictability of the weather phenomenon like breaks in the June-September rainy season.

The research project, which began in 2013, is funded by the ministry of earth sciences, under the national monsoon mission, and the US Office of Naval Research, which has been working with institutions such as Sri Lanka's National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency.

Related Topics: International Deep Ocean Drilling Mission and Deep Ocean Mission.

Q47.

Answer: C

Explanation:

PAIR 1: Boto belongs to the Amazon river. Hence the pair 1 is incorrect.

All the above species are river dolphins belonging to different river system across Asia and

South America. Boto belonging to the Amazon river system, Tucuxi belonging to the Amazon and Orinoco river system, Susu is the local name of Gangetic Dolphin, Bhulan belongs to downstream of Indus river system, Irrawaddy dolphins in Irrawaddy and Mekong river system.

Approach: Gangetic river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India, hence be aware of the similar species in the other parts of the world.

Related Topics: Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary

Q48.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Males are larger than Females. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 3: The Highest population is found at Eravikulam National Park. Hence the statement 3 is incorrect.

Nilgiri tahrs are stocky goats with short, coarse fur and a bristly mane. Males are larger than females and have a darker color when mature. Adult males develop a light grey area or "saddle" on their backs and are hence called "saddlebacks".

They inhabit the open montane grassland habitats at elevations from 1200 to 2600 m of the South Western Ghats. Their range extends over 400 km from north to south, and Eravikulam National Park is home to the largest population. The other significant concentration is in the Nilgiri Hills, with smaller populations in the Anamalai Hills, Periyar National Park, Palni Hills and other pockets in the Western Ghats south of Eravikulam, almost to India's southern tip.

Approach: Be aware of important endemic species of India. It is also the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

Related Topics: Climatic change and Nilgiri Tahr.

Q49.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It grows in salt marshes and mangroves. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Salicornia plant is a succulent flowering plant occurring in the salt marshes and mangroves ecosystem. It is served as a salad in western countries and the trend is also catching up in Indian cities. Salt is also extracted from it which contains a low amount of sodium which is helpful for people with hypertension. Andhra Pradesh Government has proposed to utilize the plant for salt extraction as it occurs abundantly in the state.

Approach: These kinds of questions can be answered by reading current affairs magazines or regular reading of newspapers.

Q50.

Answer: B

Explanation:

OPTION B: It is also found in the Eastern Ghats. Hence option b is incorrect.

Neelakurinji is a unique plant. It blooms only at an altitude above 1000 meters. It can

vary anywhere from 1000 m to 2300 m. But the greater the altitude, shorter is the shrub. It blooms once in twelve years in blue to purple color. They usually occur in the Western Ghats but also found in the Shevroys in the Eastern Ghats, some parts of Idukki in Kerala and of course, the Sandur hills of Ballari district.

Approach: Neelakurinji is a unique plant and related to the fragile western ghats, hence be aware of it.

Related Topics: Shola Forest and Nilgiri Tahr

Q51.

Answer: B

Explanation:

ENTRY 2: Arsenic is found in the eastern part of India. Hence it is incorrect.

Fluoride contamination happens due to overexploitation of the groundwater which is the case of the western states of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. A recent study by Duke University has found that Uranium contamination in more than 16 states in Western India.

Arsenic contamination is more prevalent in the eastern part of India in West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh among others.

Approach: A number of Kidney related problems are due to these contaminations. Hence make a visualization of the area affected by contamination and their details.

Related Topics: Arsenic metal removal by Indian Technology (AMRIT) developed in IIT Madras.

Q52.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is conducted by UNEP. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

World Environment Day is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. It is conducted by the UNEP. In 2018 the celebrations are hosted by India with the theme of Beat Plastic Pollution.

It is the Earth hour that is conducted by the Worldwide Fund For Nature.

Approach: It is one of the major international events hosted in India, hence be aware of the details.

Related Topics: The plastic ban in various states of India.

Q53.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched a scale-out plan to transition 6 million farms/farmers cultivating 8 million hectares of land from conventional synthetic chemical agriculture to Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) by 2024, making Andhra Pradesh India's first 100 percent natural farming state. Hence option C is correct.

Approach: It is one of the agricultural practices from India studied worldwide for

sustainable development.

Related Topics: Role of Subash Palekar in ZBNF, Organic farming, precision farming, GM crops

Q54.

Answer: D

Explanation:

All the given international environmental conventions are financed through GEF.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment — and much more.

The GEF is A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP of 18 agencies — including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities, and international NGOs — working with 183 countries to address the world's most challenging environmental issues. The GEF has a large network of civil society organizations, works closely with the private sector around the world, and receives continuous inputs from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel.

It is a FINANCIAL MECHANISM for five major international environmental conventions: the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Approach: All these organizations are very important. If you read about all the important organizations then you can easily solve the question.

Related topics: Rotterdam convention, Diclofenac, Endosulfan

Q55.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect

We currently live in what is called the Holocene, which reflects everything that has happened over the past 11,700 years. Further, the Holocene is subdivided into three parts, the Greenlandian, the Northgrippian, and the youngest addition, the Meghalayan. The Greenlandian runs from 11,700 to 8,200 years ago; the Northgrippian runs from 8,200 to 4,200 years ago, and finally, the Meghalayan runs from 4,200 years ago to present.

Geologists divide up the Earth's existence into slices of time and have classified a distinct age in Earth's history, and they're calling it the Meghalayan Age. The Meghalayan runs from 4,200 years ago to the present. A stalagmite which was found in the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya has provided chemical signatures as evidence. For those who do not know, a stalagmite is a type of a rock formation that forms on the floor of a cave due to the accumulation from ceiling drippings.

Approach: Basic geography concepts should be updated with recent developments

Related topics: Geological time scale and their significance, Holocene Epoch

Q56.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In a landmark ruling, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of “legal person or entity” to animals. Court has ruled that all animals should enjoy the same rights as human beings, saying “they have distinct personas with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

Approach: Such a question can be solved only if you follow daily current affairs.

Related topics: Judgment regarding river as a living entity

Q57.

Answer: C

Explanation:

There are a total of eleven Indian biosphere reserves that are included in the list of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere: Gulf of Mannar, Sunderban, Nanda Devi, Nokrek, Pachmarhi, Simlipal, Achanakmar-Amarkantak, Great Nicobar and Agasthyamala. Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve.

Approach: Do not confuse in biosphere reserve notified by India (TOTAL 18) and those which are included in the UNESCO list (TOTAL 11)

Related topics: Read about all 18 biospheres of India (state, flora and fauna, tiger reserves, bird sanctuary etc), Ramsar sites

Q58.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

The decision to include Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in WNBR was taken at the 30th Session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang, Indonesia.

Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1, 220 meters above sea-level. It includes a range of eco lines, varying from subtropical to the Arctic, as well as natural forests in different biomes, that support an immensely rich diversity of forest types and habitats.

Approach: such a question can be solved if you read in detail about such reserves, their location, their special feature, climate and any news related with it.

Related topics: Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO

Q59.

Ans: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect:

With a view to harnessing the potential of the bamboo crop, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), 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 subscheme.

The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of the bamboo sector by adopting an area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.

Approach: for any questions related to schemes/programmes, ministry, objective and funding, sub schemes becomes important.

Related topics: Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Indian Forest Act, 1927

Q60.

Answer: D

Explanation:

'Deep Ocean Mission' is launched by Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India which aims to explore the depths of the Ocean for the possibilities of deep-sea mining. Its focus will be on technologies for deep-sea mining, underwater vehicles, underwater robotics and ocean climate change advisory services, among others.

The program on Polymetallic nodules was initiated at CSIR-NIO with the collection of the first nodule sample from the Arabian Sea on board the first Research Vessel Gaveshani on 26 January 1981. India was the first country in the world to have been given the Pioneer Area for exploration of deep-sea mineral viz. Polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin in 1987.

Approach: Polymetallic nodules economical significance growing day by day and India has its unique position in the deep sea mining so it is essential to keep a track of the developments in this field.

Related topics: Oceanic resources, Polymetallic nodules, Oceanic ecological disturbance due to mining

Q61.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The neelakurinji blooms in the Anamalai hills near Munnar, a phenomenon that occurs once in 12 years.

Neelakurinji plant is a tropical plant species which is generally found in Asia and Australia. It belongs to the genus Strobilanthes which has around 450 species of which 146 are found in India and of them, about 43, in Kerala. Also the Government in 2006 had formed the Kurinjimala sanctuary for the protection of the plants and the ecosystem.

Approach: Such questions can be solved only if you follow Current Affairs regularly. Due to its unique feature it becomes important for the exam.

Related Topic: Kurinjimala sanctuary, tropical plant species, Anamalai hills etc

Q62.

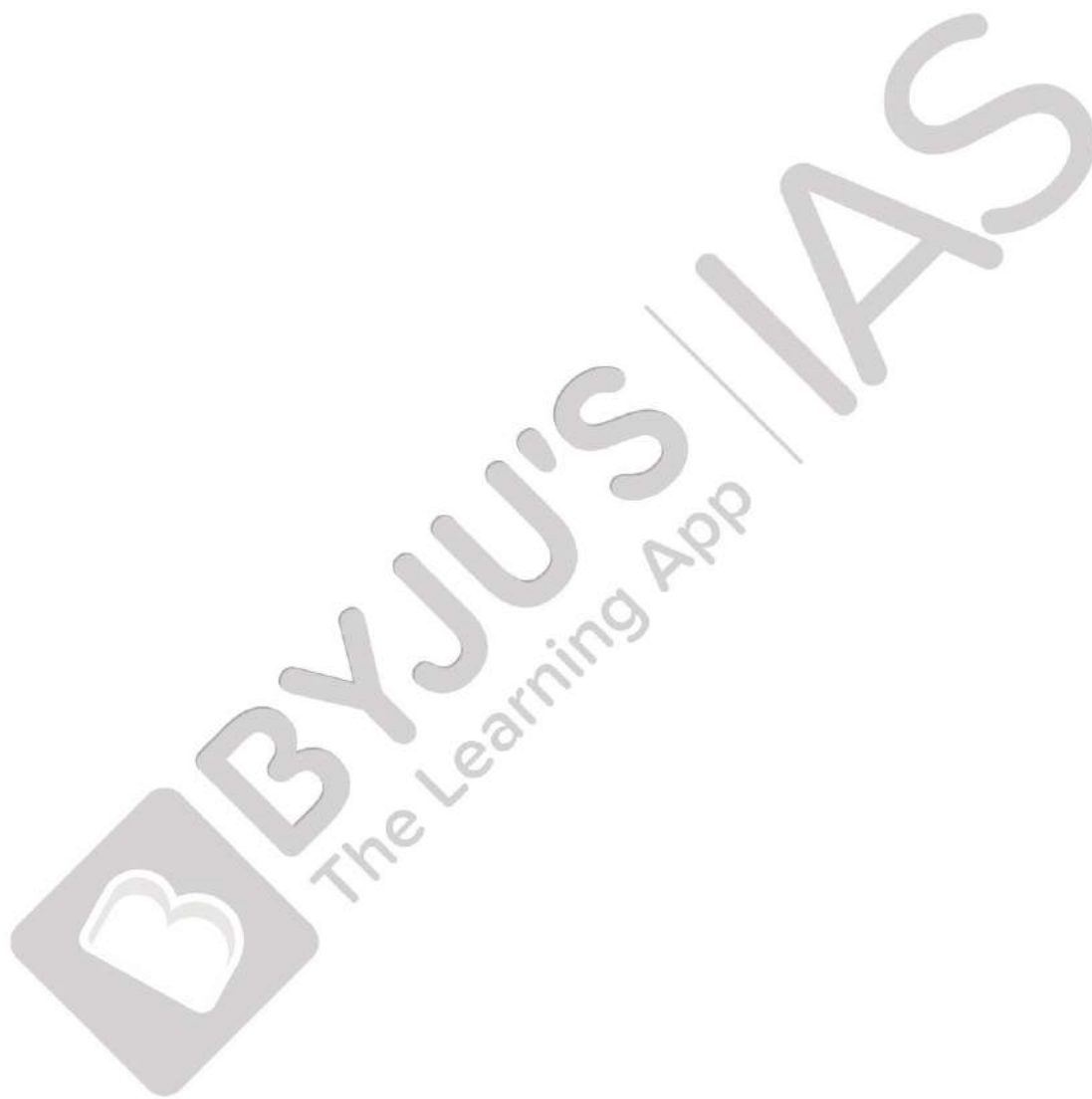
Answer: D

Explanation:

Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis. The virus can also cause severe disease in animals such as pigs, resulting in significant economic losses for farmers.

Although the Nipah virus has caused only a few known outbreaks in Asia, it infects a wide range of animals and causes severe disease and death in people, making it a public health concern.

Related Topics: Nipah outbreak in India and Kysannur Forest disease.





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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Q1. Which of the following agency regulates Drones in India?

- a) Ministry of Defence
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- d) Ministry of External Affairs

Q2. Consider the following statements about 'The India Science, Technology and Innovation Portal (ISTI)':

- 1. It has been developed by Vigyan Prasar, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- 2. It is a one stop window for information about developments in India on science, technology and innovation.
- 3. A major thrust of the portal is to reach out to students, researchers, scholars, scientists both from India and abroad, so that they can choose from the mine of fellowships, scholarships and funding and startup opportunities that India puts on their plate.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'GSLV Mk-III':

- 1. It is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
- 2. It is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- 3. The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.
- 2. It is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- 3. NPCI has launched Visa, a card payment scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) All of the above

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding 'Digital North East: Vision 2022':

- 1. It emphasises leveraging digital technologies to transform lives of people of the northeastern states and enhance the ease of living.
- 2. A major thrust has been provided to the BPO sector under the document.
- 3. It has been launched by NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q6. Recently Government has launched 'Innovation Cell', consider the following:

- 1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Information and Technology.
- 2. The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.

Choose the correct Answer using the code given below:

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Council' (MS STIAC):

- 1. The committee will advise the Prime Minister on all matters related to S&T, innovation and monitor the implementation of PM's vision on the same.
- 2. PM-STIAC will effectively supersede the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-Cabinet) and SAC-PM, which will now stand dissolved.

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

Q8 Consider the following regarding

1. 'IMPRINT IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology':

IMPRINT is a first-of-its-kind Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a (a) New Education Policy, and (b) Roadmap for Research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in selected domains needed by the country.

2. It is an initiative of The Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

Q9. Consider the following about 'Repurpose Used Cooking Oil':

- 1. It is an initiative of FSSAI.
 - 2. It is an ecosystem that will enable the collection and conversion of UCO to biodiesel.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q10. Recently Indian Government has given 'In-Principle' approval for Construction and Operation of Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory- India (LIGO) in India. In which state this Laboratory will be established?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

Q11. Identify the following:

- 1. It helps in determining the chemical composition of stars and gases far far away, and even calculate their temperature and density.

2. It is used to detect leaks.

3. It is very unreactive.

Choose the correct Answer:

- a) Helium
- b) Nitrogen
- c) Oxygen
- d) Neon

Q12. Consider the following about 'Thermal Battery':

- 1. It is based on the system of charging/discharging cycles that are driven by electricity.

2. The energy transfer in thermal batteries helps store heat when heat travels from one part of the battery setup to the other.

3. A thermal battery consists of two parts: a cool zone known as sink, and a hot source called source.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Q13. 'Wolbachia' recently seen in news is

a) Japan's new satellite launch to remove space debris

b) A tiny bacterium

c) New vaccine to treat chikungunya

d) An invasive alien species

Q14. Consider the following about 'New Influenza Research Programme':

1. It is a collaboration of India and European Union.

2. It aims at further advancing the next generation influenza vaccine.

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

Q15. Consider the following about 'Cryogenic Engine':

1. A cryogenic engine/ cryogenic stage is the first stage of space launch vehicles which makes use of Cryogenics.

2. Cryogenics is the study of the production and behaviour of materials at extremely low temperatures (below -150 degree Centigrade) to lift and place the heavier objects in space.

3. Cryogenic engine makes use of Solid Oxygen (LOX) and Solid Hydrogen (LH2) as propellants which liquefy at -183 deg C and -253 deg C respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q16. 'India's Academia Alliance Program' has been launched to

a) Provide a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.

b) Attract international professors to teach at Indian Universities

c) To call Person's of Indian origin to India for Research and Development

d) Provide smart solutions for improvement of India's Higher Education

Q17. Consider the following statements regarding '5G Technology':

- 1. Fifth generation focus on (Voice over IP)

VOIP-enabled devices that user will experience a high level of call volume and data transmission.

2. The main features in 5G mobile network is that users can simultaneously connect to multiple wireless technologies and can switch between them.

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

Q18. Consider the following pairs:

1. First Generation (1G): It contains Analog System and popularly known as cell phones.

2. Second Generation (2G): It uses Wide Band Wireless Network with which clarity is increased. The data is sent through a technology called Packet Switching.

3. Third Generation (3G): It uses digital signals for voice transmission and has speed of 64 kbps

4. Fourth Generation (4G): It offers a downloading speed of 100Mbps. LTE (Long Term Evolution) is considered as 4G technology.

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) All of the above
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 4 only

Q19. Which of the best describes 'Crew Escape System', recently seen in news:

- a) It is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew module along with the astronauts to a safe distance.
- b) It is an emergency escape measure designed by Indian Railways to quickly pull the passengers along with crew in case of a train accident.
- c) It is an emergency escape measure designed to help firefighters to pull the people along in case of a fire accident.
- d) None of the above

Q20. Consider the following statements about 'Directorate General of Civil Aviation':

- 1. Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body governing the safety aspects of civil aviation in India.
- 2. Registration of civil aircraft in India is done by DGCA.
- 3. Directorate General of Civil Aviation is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q21. 'Science Based Targets initiative', sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) It is an initiative to drive corporate climate actions globally
- b) It is an initiative to stop the illegal trade of endangered species globally.
- c) It is an initiative to promote science education in school children.
- d) None of the above

Q22. Consider the following statement about 'Exo-Planet'

1. Planets of our solar system are also called as exoplanets.

2. EPIC (K2-236b) is the first exoplanet discovered by the Indian Space Agency.

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

Q23. Which one of the following is the best description of 'Goldilocks zone'?

- a) It is those zones of the earth where Gold is found in ample amount.
- b) It is the new gold extraction technique
- c) It is a habitable zone around a star where the temperature is just correct- not too hot and not too cold - for liquid water to exist on a planet.
- d) It is an inhabitable zone around a star where the temperature is too high or too low for life to exist on a planet.

Q24. Which one of the following is the best description of 'RemoveDEBRIS'?

- a) It is an initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission to remove garbage from the urban area.
- b) It is an initiative of the Rural Development Ministry to remove garbage from rural area.
- c) It is a satellite research project intending to demonstrate various space debris removal technologies.
- d) None of the above

Q25. With reference to 'long-range artillery gun "Dhanush"', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is India's first indigenous and long-range

artillery gun system.

2. It has a strike range of 200 kilometers.
3. It is an upgraded version of Swedish Bofors gun procured by India in the mid-1980s.

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

Q26. Consider the following missile systems of India

1. Agni
2. Barak- 8
3. Trishul

Which of the above is /are examples of Surface to Air Missile system?

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

Q27. With reference to 'Lithium-ion batteries (LIB)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an example of non-rechargeable batteries with low energy density.
2. LIBs are highly sensitive to higher temperatures. Higher temperature leads to a much faster degradation rate than normal.
3. It is cheaper than the Nickel - Cadmium battery.

Which of the above statements is /are correct?

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

Q28. Consider the following pairs:

Navigation System : Country

1. GLONASS : Russia
2. Beidou : Israel
3. European Union: Galileo

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

Q29 'GROWTH-India', 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 an initiative to promote the green economy in India.
- c) It is an initiative to promote science

education in school children.

- d) It is an initiative to promote girl education in India.

Q30 'KATRIN Project', recently in the news, is related to:

- a) To detect and measure the neutrino's mass
- b) To study about gravitational waves.
- c) To study about the SuperNova Experiment.
- d) None of the above.

Q31. With reference to 'India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) Project', consider the following statements:

1. The INO project will be constructed at Bodi West hills of Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
2. The INO project faces many environmental hurdles due to its location near to Mathikettan Shola National Park.

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

Q32. With reference to 'Neutrino Particle', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is considered as the most abundant elementary particle in the universe.
2. Neutrino Particle has very little interaction with matter and they pass different matters easily.
3. Neutrinos are electrically neutral and Neutrinos are almost massless.

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

Q33. With reference to 'Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) system', consider the following statements:

1. It is a water desalination technique.
2. Sorbents are those materials which can collect molecules of another substance by the process of absorption

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

Q34. Consider the following pairs:

Spacecraft : Planet

1. Cassini-Huygens: Saturn
2. Insights : Mars
3. Juno : Jupiter

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

Q35. Consider the following statements about the Chandrayaan 2 Mission:

1. It is the first ever extraterrestrial soft landing mission carried by Indian Space Research Organisation.
2. Mining and extraction of Helium 3 from the lunar surface is part of the mission.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q36. 'NATRIp' often seen in the news is related to

- a. Automobile Industry
- b. Micro-Irrigation project
- c. Railway cleanliness
- d. Intellectual property depository

Q37. Consider the following statements about Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR):

1. LIDAR uses pulsed LASER in sensing and it is more accurate than RADAR technology.
2. Its senses objects at a longer distance than RADAR fails to sense.
3. It is relatively less expensive than RADAR based sensors.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q38. Consider the following statements about Neutrino:

1. It is a rare and elusive particle to get detected.
2. They are not affected by electromagnetic forces and it travels a very long distance across the universe.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q39. 'P Null' recently seen in the news is

related to

- a) Rare blood group
- b) Plastic degrading microbes
- c) Chinese space mission
- d) Cyber protection

Q40. 'Bhartiya Niredeshak Dravyas' often seen in the news is related to

- a) Petroleum Products
- b) Pharmaceuticals
- c) Gold and Jewelry
- d) Handicrafts

Q41. Consider the following statements about the Hubble Telescope:

1. It was a joint project of NASA and the European Space Agency.
2. It was the first ever space telescope to be repaired by astronauts in space.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q42. 'MeerKAT' often seen in the news is related to

- a. Radio Telescope
- b. 5G communication Technology
- c. Artificial Intelligence
- d. A space mission to Mercury

Q43. Consider the following statements about the Brahmos Missile:

1. It is a single stage supersonic cruise missile with a range of 290 Km.
2. It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.
3. It cannot be intercepted by any known weapon system in the world.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q44. 'GRACE-FO' of NASA seen in the news is related to

- a. Climatic study
- b. Future Space Colony
- c. Interstellar space mission
- d. Search for Extraterrestrial life

Q45. 'Oumuamua' that puzzled the scientific community is related to

- a. Protozoa
- b. Subatomic particle
- c. Extraterrestrial intelligence
- d. Comet

Q46. According to B.N. Srikrishna committee, which of the following forms the part of sensitive personal data of a person?

1. Financial Data
2. Biometric Data
3. Caste

Codes:

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

Q47. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the Quantum Leaf?

- a. It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- b. It is composed of completely biocompatible, earth-abundant, inexpensive elements.
- c. It exhibits lower solar to chemical energy conversion efficiencies compared to natural plants photosynthesis.
- d. It can be used as both as an energy source and carbon sink.

Q48. 'Dry Sorbent Injection', recently seen in the news, is related to

- a. Malaria vaccination
- b. Air Pollution
- c. Drug addiction
- d. Genetic manipulation.

Q49. 'PARAS', recently appeared in the news, is related to

- a. Supercomputer
- b. Telescope
- c. Space Mission
- d. e-Governance Portal

Q1.

Answer: C

Explanation

Drones are a technology platform which has wide-ranging applications from photography to agriculture, from infrastructure asset maintenance to insurance. Drones range in size from very small and those that can carry multiple kilograms of payload.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for civil use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) commonly known as drones. The regulation was developed after extensive consultations among various stakeholders, and will be effective from 1st December, 2018.

Instead of simply digitizing a paper-based process for registering and operating drones, India has formulated an all-digital process. The Digital Sky Platform is the first-of-its-kind national unmanned traffic management (UTM) platform that implements “no permission, no takeoff” (NPNT). Users will be required to do a one-time registration of their drones, pilots and owners. For every flight (exempted for the nano category), users will be required to ask for permission to fly on a mobile app and an automated process permits or denies the request instantly. To prevent unauthorized flights and to ensure public safety, any drone without a digital permit to fly will simply not be able to takeoff. The UTM operates as a traffic regulator in the drone airspace and coordinates closely with the defense and civilian air traffic controllers (ATCs) to ensure that drones remain on the approved flight paths.

Air space has been partitioned into Red Zone (flying not permitted), Yellow Zone (controlled airspace), and Green Zone (automatic permission).

Approach: The drone market in India is new and very quickly growing. Also it has many applications which possesses many benefits as well as challenges. This makes this topic a must read.

Related Topics: Applications of Drones

Q2.

Answer: D

Explanation

The India Science, Technology and Innovation Portal (ISTI)’

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Union Science Ministry’s communication wing , Vigyan Parisar, has launched the The India Science, Technology and Innovation Portal (ISTI) that can help individuals in areas of career prospects in mathematics and to know about other domains of research.

STATEMENT 2 is correct :The India Science, Technology and Innovation Portal (ISTI) is a one stop window for information about developments in India on science, technology and innovation.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: A major thrust of the portal is to reach out to students, researchers, scholars, scientists both from India and abroad, so that they can choose from the mine of fellowships, scholarships and funding and startup opportunities that India puts on their plate.

The portal is a veritable repository of India’s scientific research activities in every field.

It also hosts information about the organisations carrying out the research, those funding them, international collaborations, the scientists involved in the research, the states in which they are being carried out, their achievements & impacts.

It can help funding agencies & science administrators takes decisions about project funding, policy makers make science policy decisions & researchers study trends & trace policy movements.

The web-portal also acts as a platform which brings together scientists and researchers, so that

they can pool expertise and skills required for their research, translation, technology transfer & escalation. It reaches out to a wide range of audience through public engagement garnering their support in the celebration of science.

Approach: A new portal in the field of science and technology makes it a potential question from the exam's perspective

Q3.

Answer: D

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 and 3 are correct: GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: GSLV Mk III is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of GSLV Mk II.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Payload to GTO: 4,000 kg

GSLV Mk III will be capable of placing the 4 tonne class satellites of the GSAT series into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

Payload to LEO: 8,000 kg

The powerful cryogenic stage of GSLV Mk III enables it to place heavy payloads into Low Earth Orbits of 600 km altitude.

Cryogenic Upper Stage : C25

The C25 is powered by CE-20, India's largest cryogenic engine, designed and developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

Solid Rocket Boosters : S200

GSLV Mk III uses two S200 solid rocket boosters to provide the huge amount of thrust required for lift off. The S200 was developed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

Core Stage : L110 Liquid Stage

The L110 liquid stage is powered by two Vikas engines designed and developed at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

Approach: GSLV Mk III is a very important topic in science and technology. Recently on Independence Day speech Prime Minister announced that ISRO will be sending first manned space mission. This mission will use GSLV Mk III and that is why it becomes a potential question from the exam's perspective.

Related Topics: SRE 2007, Crew Escape System

Q4.

Answer: B

Explanation

NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA

- STATEMENT 2 is correct : National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Company is focused on bringing innovations in the retail payment systems through the use of technology for achieving greater efficiency in operations and widening the reach of payment systems and hence promotes financial inclusion Needless to mention, National Financial Switch (NFS) and Cheque Truncation

System (CTS) continues to be the flagship products of NPCI.

- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been termed as the revolutionary product in payment system and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) has also been launched in pilot mode. The other products include RuPay Credit Card, National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) and National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC). It has launched RuPay and not Visa.

Approach: This is one of the most important organizations in recent times due to government push for digital payments. A question has already been asked about it. This question is a modified version of the same question.

Context: Digital Payments to Be \$1tn Industry by 2023

Related Topics: Google Pay, QR code

Q5.

Answer: B

Explanation

DIGITAL NORTH EAST: VISION 2022

- Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad released a vision document for a digital northeast that aims to improve people's lives by capacity building of government staff and doubling BPO strength in the region.
- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It has been launched by The Ministry of Information and Technology.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It emphasises leveraging digital technologies to transform lives of people of the northeastern states and enhance the ease of living.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The number of seats planned for BPOs in the northeastern states will be doubled to 10,000 while the network of common service centres will be expanded to cover all villages.
- A cloud hub for the northeast will be set up in Guwahati and capacity building for 50,000 government staff will be taken up using digital technologies.
- State-wise roadmaps have been developed for implementing digital initiatives.
- High-speed broadband connectivity will be provided in all the uncovered villages in the northeastern region.

Approach: North East India has been the focus of development of Government in the recent past. The initiatives taken in this regard are very important.

Q6.

Answer: B

Explanation

INNOVATION CELL

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Innovation cell is Ministry of Human Resource Development's initiative and has been established at AICTE premises with a purpose to systematically foster a culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years fostered through Network of Innovation clubs in Higher Educational Institutions
- Major Programs

1. Network of Innovation Clubs (NIC)

NIC will prescribe basic framework for the structure, formation, structure and smooth running of ICs and will soon share list of different activities which ICs need to undertake for the entire academic year.

2. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

It will systematically rank education institutions and universities primarily on innovation related indicators. ARIIA considers all major indicators which are commonly used globally to rank most innovative education institutions/ universities in the world.

3. Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019

Smart India Hackathon 2019 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.

4. National Student Startup Policy (NSSP)

AICTE's Student Start up policy intends to guide AICTE approved institutions to promote student driven innovations and start-ups. The policy aims at identifying the innovative and entrepreneurial potential of students and transforming them into start-up entrepreneurs. This can be done by developing an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting strong inter-institutional partnerships among technical institutions, other ecosystem enablers, different stakeholders, programs, market and society.

Context: Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) launched by M/o HRD to foster a culture of innovation in Higher Education Institutions

Related Topics: Network of Innovation Clubs (NIC), Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019, National Student Startup Policy (NSSP).

Q7.

Answer: C

Explanation

PM STIAC

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The committee will advise the Prime Minister on all matters related to S&T, innovation and monitor the implementation of PM's vision on the same.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: PM-STIAC will effectively supersede the SAC-Cabinet and SAC-PM.
- The Narendra Modi Government has constituted a high power committee to advise it on policy matters related to science, technology and innovation.
- Named as PM-STIAC (Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Committee), the 21-member committee, including a dozen special invitees, will be chaired by K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government.
- According to an official notification, secretaries of all science & technology related ministries are part of the special invitees.
- It will facilitate the formulation and implementation of policies and decisions, provide action-oriented and future preparedness advise and assist in directing S&T to solve the socio economic problems in the country.

Q8

Answer: A

Explanation

IMPRINT- IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology

- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: Adopting engineering and technology as the vehicle to address societal needs and achieving national prosperity, Ministry of Human Resource Development has drafted a new and catalytic scheme called IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology or IMPRINT.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: IMPRINT is a first-of-its-kind Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a (a) New Education Policy, and (b) Roadmap for Research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in selected domains needed by the country. The ten domains represent the most important areas relevant to our country in order to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance.
- The first phase of IMPRINT is dedicated to creating a policy document defining the scope, strategy and mandate for pursuing engineering challenges in the country and not

developing a specific technological product or process.

- IMPRINT is a national programme, initially steered by the IITs and IISc, ultimately the entire engineering fraternity of the nation including IITs, NITs, national academies, governmental ministries and departments, research organizations, strategic sectors, policy agencies and industry must join hands and own the collective responsibility. It is now open to private institutions also.

Approach: It is one of the most important schemes in the field of S&T.

Context: 122 New Research Project proposals at a cost of Rs 112 Crore selected for funding under IMPRINT-2 : HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar .

Related Topics: Surya Jyoti, Biotech KISAN, National Initiative for Development and Harnessing 52 Innovations (NIDHI)

Q9.

Answer: C

Explanation

REPURPOSE USED COOKING OIL

- BOTH STATEMENTS ARE TRUE: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil), an initiative that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.
- Under this initiative, 64 companies at 101 locations have been identified to enable collection of used cooking oil.
- The regulator believes India has the potential to recover 220 crore litres of used cooking oil for the production of biodiesel by 2022 through a co-ordinated action.
- According to FSSAI regulations, the maximum permissible limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at 25 per cent, beyond which the cooking oil is unsafe for consumption.
- FSSAI is also working in partnership with Biodiesel Association of India and the food industry to ensure effective compliance of used cooking oil regulations

Related Topics: +F logo, Food fortification

Q10.

Answer: D

Explanation

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES : Gravitational waves are 'ripples' in the fabric of space-time caused by some of the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe. Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in 1916 in his general theory of relativity. Einstein's mathematics showed that massive accelerating objects (such as neutron stars or black holes orbiting each other) would disrupt space-time in such a way that 'waves' of distorted space would radiate from the source (like the movement of waves away from a stone thrown into a pond). Furthermore, these ripples would travel at the speed of light through the Universe, carrying with them information about their cataclysmic origins, as well as invaluable clues to the nature of gravity itself.

Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory- India (LIGO)

- LIGO-India is planned as a collaborative project between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the LIGO Laboratory in the USA, along with its international partners Australia, Germany and the UK.
- Hingoli district of Maharashtra has been selected as the primary site and the process of acquiring land for the project is in advanced stage.
- The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) project operates three gravitational-wave (GW) detectors. Two are at Hanford in the state of Washington, north-western USA, and one is at Livingston in Louisiana, south-eastern USA.
- The proposed LIGO-India project aims to move one Advanced LIGO detector from Hanford to India.
- LIGO-India project is envisaged as an international collaboration between the LIGO Laboratory and three lead institutions in the IndIGO consortium: Institute of Plasma

Q11.

Answer: A

Explanation

HELIUM : On Aug 18, in 1868, helium was discovered by astronomers studying the sun during a total solar eclipse. It is the only element to have been seen in the sun before it was to exit on earth.

- It helps in determining the chemical composition of stars and gases far away, and even calculate their temperature and density.
- It is used to detect leaks such as in car air-conditioning systems.
- Because it is very unreactive, helium is used to provide an inert protective atmosphere for making fibre optics and semiconductors, and for arc welding.

Approach: Recently there was a news “HELIUM turn 150”. So we should here focus on some basic properties and uses of some of gases. Also helium is important for future energy needs, even ‘Chandrayaan 2’ will search for helium on moon.

Related Topics: Basic knowledge of related gases like oxygen, hydrogen etc.

Q12.

Answer: C

Explanation

CONVENTIONAL BATTERY:

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Conventional battery (and not thermal battery) is based on the system of charging/discharging cycles that are driven by electricity. For example, the Lithium-ion battery, a staple of many electronic devices, consists of electric charges being transferred from electrodes. Energy is derived from this battery, when lithium atoms turn into lithium ions (Li^+), and get stored when this reaction reverses. Therefore, Li-ion batteries work on the basis of electrical energy.

THERMAL BATTERY

- Thermal batteries, use thermal energy to operate, i.e., the energy created by temperature differences.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Energy transfer in thermal batteries helps store heat when heat travels from one part of the battery setup to the other.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: For that to happen, a thermal battery consists of two parts: a cool zone known as sink, and a hot source called source. Both these sides consist of compounds known as phase-changing materials (PCMs), which can change their state of matter on the basis of a physical/chemical reaction.

BENEFITS OF THERMAL BATTERY

- Low carbon footprint
- Less expensive
- Its integration with power grids, can help meet industrial demand.
- This could help solve power issues in remote areas.
- It can offer support to public transport systems and telecom grids.
- E-vehicles can also get charging power from stations running on thermal batteries

Approach: New technologies are important from the exam’s perspective

Q13.

Answer: B

Explanation

Wolbachia is a genus of gram-negative bacteria that infects arthropod species, including a high proportion of insects, and also some nematodes.

Approach: Recently there was a news ‘Govt. relies on Wolbachia to control dengue (Hindu). In this

type of question either you know the answer or you don't know the answer. You can't guess this. So make sure to go through the newspaper carefully.

Q14.

Answer: C

Explanation

NEW INFLUENZA RESEARCH PROGRAMME

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a collaboration of India and European Union.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It aims at further advancing the next generation influenza vaccine with improved efficacy and safety, duration of immunity, and reactivity against an increased breadth of influenza strains.
- The programme will get fund of EUR 15 million under EU funding programme for research and innovation called 'Horizon 2020'

Approach: The news becomes important as it related to health and is an international collaboration

Q15.

Answer: A

Explanation

CRYOGENIC ENGINE

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: A cryogenic engine/ cryogenic stage is the last stage of space launch vehicles which makes use of Cryogenics.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Cryogenics is the study of the production and behaviour of materials at extremely low temperatures (below -150 degree Centigrade) to lift and place the heavier objects in space.
- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: Cryogenic engine makes use of Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) as propellants which liquefy at -183 deg C and -253 deg C respectively. Cryogenic stage is technically a much more complex system with respect to solid or liquid propellant (stored on earth) stages due to the usage of propellants at extremely low temperatures.
- A cryogenic engine provides more force with each kilogram of cryogenic propellant it uses compared to other propellants, such as solid and liquid propellant rocket engines and is more efficient.
- They are pumped in to turbo pump by individual booster pumps to ensure a high flow rate of propellants inside the combustion/thrust chamber.
- The major components of a cryogenic rocket engines are combustion/thrust chamber, igniter, fuel injector, fuel cryo pumps, oxidizer cryo pumps, gas turbine, cryo valves, regulators, the fuel tanks and a rocket engine nozzle.

Approach: This is a very important development in the field of S&T and is very crucial for the country. An important topic from the exam's perspective

Related Topics: PSLV AND GSLV

Q16.

Answer: A

Explanation

INDIA ACADEMIA ALLIANCE PROGRAM

- To fulfill the Government of India's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country, Startup India launched the Startup Academia Alliance programme, a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.
- The Startup Academia Alliance aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications in order to increase the efficacy of these technologies and to widen their impact.
- By creating a bridge between academia and industry, the Alliance strives to create lasting connections between the stakeholders of the startup ecosystem and implement the third

pillar on which the Startup India Action Plan is based - Industry Academia Partnerships and Incubation.

- The first phase of Startup Academia Alliance was kick started through partnering with Regional Centre for Biotechnology, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and TERI School of Advanced Studies.
- The applications for Startup Academia Alliance were hosted on the Startup India Hub, a one-stop destination for startups to apply for opportunities such as incubator and accelerator programmes as well as challenges organized by corporate stakeholders, with a user base of more than 2 lakh entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs from over 433 districts in India.

Approach: Start up India program is a flagship program of Government of India. Developments related to it is important.

Related Topics: Stand-Up India

Q17.

Answer: C

Explanation

5G TECHNOLOGY

- 5G Technology stands for 5th Generation Mobile technology.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Fifth generation focus on (Voice Over IP) VOIP-enabled devices that user will experience a high level of call volume and data transmission.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The main features in 5G mobile network is that users can simultaneously connect to multiple wireless technologies and can switch between them.
- Fifth generation network provide affordable broadband wireless connectivity (very high speed).
- In fifth generation researches are being made on the development of World Wide Wireless Web (WWW), Dynamic Ad-hoc Wireless Networks (DAWN) and Real Wireless World.
- This forthcoming mobile technology will support IPv6 and flat IP. Fifth generation technology will offer the services like Documentation, supporting electronic transactions (e-Payments, e-transactions) etc.

Context: Government is focusing on how to introduce 5g in India

Related Topics: 2G,3G AND 4G

Q18.

Answer: D

Explanation

FIRST GENERATION (1G)

1G emerged in the 1980s. It contains Analog System and popularly known as cell phones. It introduces mobile technologies such as Mobile Telephone System (MTS), Advanced Mobile Telephone System (AMTS), Improved Mobile Telephone Service (IMTS), and Push to Talk (PTT). It uses analog radio signal which have frequency 150 MHz, voice call modulation is done using a technique called Frequency-Division Multiple Access (FDMA). It has low capacity, unreliable handoff, poor voice links, and no security at all since voice calls were played back in radio towers, making these calls susceptible to unwanted eavesdropping by third parties.

SECOND GENERATION (2G)

2G emerged in the late 1980s. It uses digital signals for voice transmission and has the speed of 64 kbps. It provides facility of SMS (Short Message Service) and use the bandwidth of 30 to 200 KHz. Next to 2G, 2.5G system uses packet switched and circuit switched domain and provide data rate up to 144 kbps. E.g. GPRS, CDMA and EDGE.

THIRD GENERATION (3G)

It uses Wide Band Wireless Network with which clarity is increased. The data is sent through a technology called Packet Switching. Voice calls are interpreted through Circuit Switching. Along with verbal communication it includes data services, access to television/video, new services like

Global Roaming. It operates at a range of 2100MHz and has a bandwidth of 15-20MHz used for High-speed internet service, video chatting. 3G uses Wide Band Voice Channel.

FOURTH GENERATION (4G)

4G offers a downloading speed of 100Mbps. 4G provides same features as 3G and additional services like Multi-Media Newspapers, to watch T.V programs with more clarity and send Data much faster than previous generations. LTE (Long Term Evolution) is considered as 4G technology. 4G is being developed to accommodate the QoS and rate requirements set by forthcoming applications like wireless broadband access, Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), video chat, mobile TV, HDTV content, Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB), minimal services like voice and data, and other services that utilize bandwidth.

Q19.

Answer: A

Explanation

CREW ESCAPE SYSTEM

- ISRO carried out a major technology demonstration (July 05, 2018), the first in a series of tests to qualify a Crew Escape System, which is a critical technology relevant for human spaceflight. (GAGANYAAN)
- The Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew module along with the astronauts to a safe distance from the launch vehicle in the event of a launch abort.
- The first test (Pad Abort Test) demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad.

Approach: GAGANYAAN was announced by Prime Minister recently.

Related Topics: Mars Orbiter Mission

Q20

Answer: D

Explanation

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Directorate General of Civil Aviation is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Registration of civil aircraft in India is done by DGCA.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.
- It is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards.
- It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- The headquarters are located in New Delhi with regional offices in the various parts of India.

Context: Ministry of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has for the first time released a set of rules regulating the civil use of drones in India which will be effective from 1st December, 2018.

Q21

Answer: A

Explanation:

Science-Based Targets initiative is to drive corporate climate actions globally. The transition to a low-carbon economy also has the potential to revolutionize the world. However, the private sector needs to take the lead by bringing in innovations to cut emissions significantly. Science-Based Targets initiative has given companies a clear roadmap for how much they need to shrink their carbon footprint to realize the Paris Agreement goals.

Approach: There was news regarding Science-Based Targets initiative. It is also an innovative step

to promote green initiatives in the private sector. So we should learn about such an initiative.

Related Topics: Paris climate deal, United national development Programme and Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5).

Q22

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Planet outside our solar system is called exoplanets. Most of these are part of different star systems. There are some “rogue” exoplanets, which are not attached to any star system.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as EPIC(K2-236b) is the first exoplanet discovered by the Indian Space Agency. In an epic Indian discovery, a team from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, has spotted for the first time a distant planet six times bigger than Earth and revolving around a Sun-like star about 600 light years away. Both the planet and the star have been named EPIC.

Context: Discovery of the exoplanet by Indian Space agency arm Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

Related Topics: Goldilocks zone and Dwarf planet

Q23.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Goldilocks Zone refers to the habitable zone around a star where the temperature is just correct- not too hot and not too cold - for liquid water to exist on a planet. Looking for planets in the Goldilocks Zone is a way that allows scientists to hone in their search for Earth-like planets that could contain life.



Related Topics: Kuiper belt, dwarf planet, and exoplanet

Q24

Answer: C

Explanation:

Remove debris is a satellite research project intending to demonstrate various space debris removal technologies. So option (c) is correct. Other options are not correct. The satellite's platform was manufactured by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) and is a variant of the SSTL X50 series. Partners on the project include Airbus, ArianeGroup, Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology, Inria, Innovative Solutions In Space, Surrey Space Centre, and Stellenbosch University.

Rather than engaging in active debris removal (ADR) of real space debris, the Remove DEBRIS

mission plan is to test the efficacy of several ADR technologies on mock targets in low Earth orbit.

Context: Remove DEBRIS for using space technology for the removal of space debris.

Q25

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. As it is India's first indigenous and long-range artillery gun system. Dhanush, as an artillery system, has proved to be one of the best amongst its class. It is capable of targeting at long ranges incorporating autonomous laying features and having one of the most sophisticated suites of electronic and computing systems in the world.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it has a strike range of 38 kilometers and not 200 kilometers

STATEMENT 3 is correct. As Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm caliber artillery gun and is also called the "desi Bofors". It is an upgraded version of Swedish Bofors gun procured by India in the mid-1980s.

Approach: There was news regarding the successful testing of Dhanush. So we should learn about important features like range and types of Dhanush.

Related Topics: Agni, Prithvi

Q26

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Agni missile is a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by India, named after one of the five elements of nature. Agni missiles are long range, nuclear weapons capable surface to surface ballistic missile. The first missile of the series, Agni-I was developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program and tested in 1989. So Agni is not an example of a surface to air missile system.

Barak 8 also known as LR-SAM or as MR-SAM is an Indian-Israeli surface-to-air missile(SAM), designed to defend against any type of airborne threat including aircraft, helicopters, anti-ship missiles, and UAVs as well as ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and combat jets. Both maritime and land-based versions of the system exist

Trishul is a short-range surface-to-air missile developed in India. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation as a part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program. It can also be used as an anti-sea skimmer from a ship against low flying attacking missiles.

Related Topics: Integrated Guided Missile Development Program

Q27.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Lithium-ion batteries (LIB) is an example of rechargeable batteries with high energy density. Unlike the disposable lithium primary battery, a LIB uses intercalated lithium compound instead of metallic lithium as its electrode.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as LIBs are highly sensitive to higher temperatures. Higher temperature leads to a much faster degradation rate than normal. This is one of the limitations of Lithium-ion batteries (LIB).

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect as it is more expensive than Nickel - Cadmium battery.

Related Topics: LIB and Nickel - Cadmium battery. The advantages and limitations of Lithium-ion batteries (LIB).

Q28.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correctly matched as GLONASS is Russia's navigation system.

GLONASS is the Russian acronym for Global Navigation Satellite System, which provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around the globe, at accuracy reportedly at par with US Global Positioning System (GPS).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrectly matched as Beidou is China's navigation system. It is not a navigation system of Israel. China has indicated their plan to complete the entire second generation Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS or BeiDou-2, formerly known as COMPASS), by expanding current regional (Asia-Pacific) service into global coverage by 2020.

STATEMENT 3 is correctly matched as Galileo is European Union's navigation system. The European Union and European Space Agency agreed in March 2002 to introduce their own alternative to GPS, called the Galileo positioning system. Galileo became operational on 15 December 2016 (global Early Operational Capability (EOC)) At an estimated cost of €3 billion, the system of 30 MEO satellites was originally scheduled to be operational in 2010.

Related Topics: NAVIC

Q29

Answer: A

Explanation:

The GROWTH-India is India's first robotic telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh. It is designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe. It is part of a multi-country collaborative initiative known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to observe transient events in the universe. The primary research objective of the project is time-domain astronomy, which entails the study of explosive transients and variable sources in the universe.

Q30

Answer: A

Explanation:

Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino experiment or KATRIN

Neutrinos are sometimes called "ghost particles" because they're so difficult to detect. So, to detect them Katrin is designed It is a massive detector based in the town of Karlsruhe, Germany, that has been designed to measure a neutrino's mass with far greater precision than existing experiments. Some 200 people from 20 institutions in seven countries are part of the project

Neutrinos are probably the most fascinating species of elementary particles. The "ghost particle of the Universe" is a key to open issues in science on many scales, linking the microcosm of elementary particles to the largest structures in the Universe.

Neutrinos are the lightest particles in the Universe. Their tiny mass is a clear indication for physics beyond the standard model of elementary particle physics. On the largest scales, neutrinos act as "cosmic architects" and take part in shaping the visible structures in the Universe, as they influence the formation and the distribution of galaxies.

Q31

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. As The INO project will be constructed at Bodi West hills of Theni District of Tamil Nadu.

STATEMENT 2 is correct. As the project was within 5 km of the Mathikettan Shola National Park in Idukki

Approach: There is much research going on Neutrino particles. So we should learn all the projects

related to the neutrino particle.

Q32

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as photons are the most abundant elementary particle in the universe.

Neutrino is the second most abundant elementary particle in the universe. So statement 1 is wrong. A neutrino is a subatomic particle that is very similar to an electron but has no electrical charge and a very small mass, which might even be zero.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Neutrino Particle have very little interaction with matter and they pass different matters easily.

STATEMENT 3 is correct Neutrinos are electrically neutral and Neutrinos are almost massless. So

STATEMENT 3 is correct.

Q33.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is not water desalination technique. It is a pollution control system for the reduction of SO_x (SO₂, SO₃), HCl and heavy metals like mercury. DSI is the practice of injecting a dry alkaline mineral into a flue gas stream to reduce acid gas emission.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Sorbents are those materials which can collect molecules of another substance by the process of absorption. So statement 2 is correct sodium bicarbonate is sorbent materials

Approach: DSI and activated carbon injection (ACI) are two mature and low capital technologies for acid gas control and vapour-phase Hg reduction, respectively. Both Hg and acid gas control sorbents have proven effective in a variety of industrial plants (i.e. utility, biomass, cement, waste incinerators, etc.).

Q34

Answer: D

Explanation:

Option 1 is correctly matched as The Cassini-Huygens spacecraft, launched in 1997, was in orbit from 2004 to 2017.]On July 1, 2004, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft performed the SOI (Saturn Orbit Insertion) maneuver and entered into orbit around Saturn. Before the SOI, Cassini had already studied the system extensively. In June 2004, it had conducted a close flyby of Phoebe, sending back high-resolution images and data.

Option 2 is correctly matched as The Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) mission is a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars.

Option 3 is correctly matched as Juno's mission is to measure Jupiter's composition, gravity field, magnetic field, and polar magnetosphere. It will also search for clues about how the planet formed, including whether it has a rocky core, the amount of water present within the deep atmosphere, mass distribution, and it's deep winds.

Q35

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: Mining and extracting Helium-3 deposits is not planned Chandrayaan 2 mission. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the Moon is a totally indigenous mission comprising of an Orbiter, Lander and Rover. It is the first ever Indian mission to soft land on the surface of an extraterrestrial body.

The instruments on Rover will conduct an in-situ analysis of elements such as Na, Mg, Al, Si, etc; in the vicinity of the landing site. Mining and extracting Helium-3 deposits is not planned. It is incorrect.

Related Topics: Gaganyaan Mission

Q36

Answer: A

Explanation:

National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRiP) is a state of the art Testing, Validation and R&D infrastructure in the country. It is the collaboration of the Government of India, a number of State Governments and Indian Automotive Industry. Hence the option A is correct.

Related Topics: National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020, FAME policy

Q37

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It can be used for shorter distance only. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 3: LIDAR is expensive than RADAR. Hence the statement 3 is incorrect.

LIDAR is similar to RADAR but uses pulsed laser lights in the place of radio signals. It gives greater accuracy in remote sensing up to certain distances. It is affected by climatic and weather factors. The LIDAR is expensive than RADAR technology. It finds application in the self-driving cars.

Related Topics: Artificial Intelligence, Doppler Radar

Q38

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is the most abundantly available particle in the universe. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Neutrinos are subatomic particles present abundantly in the universe. They are electrically neutral and not affected by the electromagnetic forces. They are affected only by weak nuclear forces. These properties make it one of the elusive particles to get detected. It has negligible mass and they oscillate among different flavors of neutrino on their path of travel.

Most of the project around the world try to find the mass and the reason for oscillation in which India based Neutrino (INO) is a part.

Approach: INO is one of the basic physics research that India has started. Such developments can be asked in one form or the other.

Related Topics: Environmental issues of INO, NGT verdict on INO and Neutrino research all over the world

Q39

Answer: A

Explanation:

'P null' is a very rare blood group and anti-PP1Pk antibody in this blood has the potential to cause an acute intravascular hemolytic reaction to incompatible blood transfusion. This makes difficult to

access blood in case of emergencies.

Related Topics: ABO grouping, Rhesus (Rh) factor

Q40

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bhartiya Niredeshak Dravyas (BND™) is the indigenous petroleum certified reference materials (CRMs) developed by the National physical laboratory and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. This will ensure maintaining highest standard quality ecosystem for petroleum products used by all stakeholders including common man and also will save vital foreign exchange through import substitution for CRMs.

CRMs play a pivotal role in the calibration of laboratory testing equipment for quality assurance. At present, the traceability of these CRMs to SI unit is mostly achieved through foreign National Measurement Institutes.

Related Topics: Indian Standards for Gold.

Q41

Answer: C

Explanation:

Hubble Telescope is the first space-based optical telescope named after American astronomer Edwin P. Hubble Who confirmed that the universe is expanding which provided the foundation for the big-bang theory. It is built on cooperation between NASA and the European Space Agency.

It was found that there was an aberration in the lenses of the telescope which needed repair to increase the clarity of the images. It was serviced in space and was the first project of its kind.

Approach: Hubble Telescope is frequently appearing in the news for its new discoveries. Hence it can be asked in the exam.

Related Topics: James Webb Space Telescope

Q42

Answer: A

Explanation:

MeerKAT is a radio telescope consisting of 64 antennas now being tested and verified in the Northern Cape of South Africa. The telescope will be used for research into cosmic magnetism, galactic evolution, the large-scale structure of the cosmos, dark matter and the nature of transient radio sources. It will also serve as a technology demonstrator for South Africa's bid to host the Square Kilometer Array.

Context: Square Kilometer Array (SKA) is an international project of which India is a part. Hence make sure you are aware of the basic facts related to the SKA.

Related Topics: Square Kilometer Array (SKA)

Q43

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is double-stage cruise missile. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 2: It carries conventional warheads. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Brahmos developed by India and Russia is the double stage supersonic cruise missile with a range of 290 Km. It operates on the 'Fire and Forget Principle'. It carries a conventional warhead. At present, there is no weapon system that can intercept the Brahmos missile. It comes in many variants of land, air, sea and sub-sea launch.

Related Topics: Effect of MTCR on Brahmos.

Q44

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO) mission is a partnership between NASA and the German Research Centre for Geosciences. It will help to track Earth's water movement to monitor changes in underground water storage, the amount of water in large lakes and rivers, soil moisture, ice sheets and glaciers, and sea level caused by the addition of water to the ocean. It will provide a unique view of Earth's climate and have far-reaching benefits to society and the world's population.

Approach: Projects of NASA are important from the exam's perspective

Related Topics: Orbiting Carbon Observatory of NASA.

Q45

Answer: D

Explanation:

Oumuamua is the first interstellar object detected passing through the Solar System. First, it was thought as an asteroid as it is devoid of the tail which is common to a comet. But later the scientist confirmed it as a comet and the absence of tail was due to the size of grains found in the object.

Approach: Follow the developments of the space agencies like NASA, ESA, JAXA, and ISRO

Q46

Answer: D

Explanation:

Justice B.N. Srikrishna committee submitted its report on data protection law in India. It defined the following as sensitive personal data:

1. passwords;
2. financial data;
3. health data;
4. official identifier;
5. sex life;
6. sexual orientation;
7. biometric data;
8. genetic data;
9. transgender status;
10. intersex status;
11. caste or tribe;
12. Religious or political belief or affiliation;
13. any other category of data specified by the Authority under section 22.

Related Topics: General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union, Big data

Q47

Answer: C

Explanation:

OPTION C: It exhibits higher conversion efficiency than a natural leaf. Hence the option c is incorrect.

Artificial leaf or Quantum leaf is developed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Artificial photosynthesis is a very promising approach since it can directly help capture atmospheric carbon dioxide and convert to fuel or an industrial feedstock. In this manner, this process acts not just as an energy source but also as a carbon dioxide sink.

The quantum dot “leaf” reported by us offers unprecedented advantages:

1. It is composed of completely biocompatible, earth-abundant, inexpensive elements.
2. It exhibits very high solar to chemical energy conversion efficiencies
3. Light harvesting via these materials may be set up to extract the carbon dioxide already present within the earth’s atmosphere.

Related Topics: Solar Tree and Biomimicry

Q48

Answer: B

Explanation:

Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) is the practice of injecting a dry alkaline mineral into a flue gas stream to reduce acid gas emission. DSI offers advantages in comparison to traditional acid gas scrubber technology: lower capital cost, a wide range of favorable operation conditions, and much lesser time for completing installation and commissioning.

Thermal power plants in India are started to adopt this technology to reduce the hazards of their emissions.

Related Topics: Carbon sinks, Acid rain and Thermal power generation in India.

Q49

Answer: B

Explanation:

PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search (PARAS) spectrograph is the indigenously developed by Physical Research Laboratory. It is integrated with 1.2m Telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu that helped to discover a new planet called EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b of a size smaller than Saturn revolving around a sun-like star.

Approach: Important indigenous development, you can follow the current affairs magazine to be aware of it.

Related Topics: Saraswati supercluster

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Q1. 'Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)', recently seen in news relates to:

- a) USA
- b) European Union
- c) SAARC
- d) ASEAN

Q2. Recently India held first edition of their Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, consider the following:

- 1. It was held between India and USA.
- 2. The dialogue involved Indian Home and External Affairs Minister and their counterparts.
- 3. COMCASA was signed in the dialogue.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q3. With reference to 'BIMSTEC', consider the following:

- 1. It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- 2. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Indonesia.
- 3. Recently its 4th summit was held in Nepal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q4. Consider the following questions regarding the 'Indian Ocean Conference':

- 1. It is initiated by India Foundation along with its partners from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- 2. It is an annual effort to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, Thought Leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q5. Which among the following countries does not share its borders with Caspian Sea?

- a) Iran
- b) Russia
- c) Azerbaijan
- d) Uzbekistan

Q6. Which of the following country recently became the first country to adopt a 'feminist foreign policy'?

- a) India
- b) USA
- c) Sweden
- d) Norway

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'Invest India':

- 1. It is India's official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation.
- 2. It is a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, set up in 2010.

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

Q11. Which of the following is not a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member?

- 1. India
- 2. Australia
- 3. Russia
- 4. China
- 5. USA

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 3 and 5 only
- c) 4 and 5 only
- d) 2 only

Q12. With reference to 'Financial Action Task Force (FATF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. India is not a full member of FATF but it has partial membership status of this organization.
- 2. All permanent members of the Security Council except China are members of FATF.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q14. Which of the following country/countries is/are not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

- a) Iran
- b) Iraq
- c) Oman
- d) Both a and b

Q15. With reference to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. In January, 2019 Qatar left the membership of OPEC.
 2. Angola and Venezuela are the members of this organization from South America.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q16. Consider the following statement about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

1. The IAEA is not an autonomous organization and it is under the direct control of the United Nations.
 2. Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are preconditions for membership in the IAEA.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q17. A regional trade organization consists of four European countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) and operates in parallel with the European Union. It's all four member states participate in the European Single Market and is part of the Schengen Area. Which trade organization has these features?

- a) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- b) European Union Customs Union (EUCU)
- c) European Economic Community
- d) None

Q18. 'Hodeidah Operation' often seen in the news is related to:

- a) Yemen
- b) Oman
- c) Kuwait
- d) Syria

Q19. Consider the following pairs:

- | Port City | Country |
|-----------|---------|
| 1. Mocha | : Yemen |

2. Duqm : Yemen

3. Salalah : Oman

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

Q20. Consider the following pairs
Rebel Group: Country

1. Houthis : Oman

2. Hezbollah: Syria

3. Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front: Myanmar

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

Q21. A multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi. It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. It has started in 2016. It is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India. Which conference has these features?

- a) Raisina Dialogue
- b) Shangri-La Dialogue
- c) Wuhan Dialogue
- d) None of the above.

Q22. Exercise Pitch Black 2018 was hosted by

- a. South Africa
- b. Australia
- c. USA
- d. Israel

Q23. Consider the following statements about the World Customs Organisation:

1. It is a specialized UN body to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
 2. India is the permanent head of the Asia Pacific region of the Organisation.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q24. 'New Southern Policy' often seen in the news was adopted by

- a. USA
- b. Japan
- c. South Korea
- d. Russia

Q25. Consider the following statements about the African Development Bank:

1. It is a multilateral financing agency with all African countries as its members.
2. India is the only South Asian Nation member of the African Development 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

Q28. Consider the following about the Malabar Exercise:

1. It is a trilateral naval exercise between India, USA, and Japan.
2. The 2018 edition was held in the Bay of Bengal near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q30. 'Operation Nistar' recently seen in the news is related to

- a. A surgical strike on terror camps
- b. Indian Navy rescue mission
- c. Swachh Bharat Gramin
- d. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

Q31. Consider the following statements about the International Nitrogen Initiative:

1. It has been launched by the World Bank Group to monitor the nitrogen emission.
2. It aims to both optimize the benefits and reduce the negative impacts of Nitrogen in food and energy production.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q32. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization to promote cooperation in trade, politics, and culture.
2. The Anti-Terrorist structure of SCO is located in Beijing.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q33. With reference to '10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration' consider the following statements:

1. The theme of this summit was 'Stronger Partnership for brighter Future.'
2. The leaders agreed to the establishment of a BRICS women's forum and BRICS vaccine Centre.

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

Q34. Consider the following statements about 'SAARC Development Fund (SDF)'

1. It was created in 1996 as a first funding mechanism in SAARC by merging the SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and the SAARC Regional Fund.
2. It serves as the umbrella financial mechanism for all SAARC projects and programmes.

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

Q35. With reference to the 'UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)' consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1949 as an armed military observer in Jammu and Kashmir to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.
2. It assists the Military Adviser to the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), established in 1948 by the UN Security Council.

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

Q36. Recently 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD X) was held in New Delhi. Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, the economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and which of the following?

- a) European Union
- b) ASEAN

- c) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- d) African Union

Q37. Consider the following statements about 'Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)'

1. It was previously known as the Bangkok Agreement.
2. It is an initiative of ESCAP and it aims at promoting intra-regional trade through exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.
3. Both India and Pakistan are members of APTA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q38. The term 'General Data Protection Regulation' often seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) European Union
- b) ASEAN
- c) BRICS
- d) SAARC

Q39. The New Southern Policy is an important roadmap of a nation to spread the footprint of its economy in Southeast Asia and South Asia. It envisions to boost cooperation with ASEAN countries and strengthen strategic and economic cooperation with India. Which of the following nation is being referred to in the above statements?

- a) South Korea
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) USA

Q40. The Equator passes through which among the following countries of Africa?

1. Gabon
2. Kenya
3. Somalia
4. South Sudan
5. Nigeria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q41. With reference to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018, consider the following

statements:

1. It has been developed jointly by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
2. India has been steadily improving its GII ranking in the last decade.

3. India is the most innovative country in its region of central and southern Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q43. With reference to 'Mission Satyanishtha' consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
2. It aims to help understand the policies on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.

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

Q44. Consider the following statements about 'United Nations e-government index 2018'

1. United Nation releases this Survey every two years.
2. Denmark is the world leader in E-Government index and India is among the top ten countries.

3. It includes the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) which is a composite index based on three indices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q1.

Answer: A

Explanation

COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.

Q2

Answer: C

Explanation

2+2 DIALOGUE

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: India hosted the inaugural 2+2 Dialogue with the United States in New Delhi.
- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The dialogue involved Indian Defence and External Affairs Minister and their counterparts.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: COMCASA was signed in the dialogue.
Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
 1. COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.
 2. COMCASA is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA).
 3. It comes into force immediately, and is valid for a period of 10 years.
 4. COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. Currently, these platforms use commercially available communication systems.
 5. This will also enable greater communications interoperability between the militaries of India and the US. Data acquired through such systems cannot be disclosed or transferred to any person or entity without India's consent.

Related Topics: General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

Q3

Answer: B

Explanation

BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Recently its 4th summit was held in Nepal.
- This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- The regional group constitutes a bridge between South and South East Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries.
- The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.

Related Topics: SAARC, ASEAN, SCO

Q4

Answer: C

Explanation

'INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE'

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Indian Ocean Conference initiated by India Foundation along with its partners from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is an annual effort to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, Thought Leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region.
- Two successful editions of the Conference have been hosted so far in 2016 and 2017 in Singapore and Sri Lanka respectively. Both the Conferences were supported by the Ministry of External Affairs of India and had participation from over 35 countries with a global media coverage.
- The third edition of the Conference was hosted by India Foundation in association with the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies on 27-28 August 2018 in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The theme for the year is "Building Regional Architectures".

Related Topics: Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Q5

Answer: D

Explanation

Context: Recently, five Caspian Sea States – Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan - signed a breakthrough agreement on Caspian Sea's legal status.

Related Topics: SCO

Q6.

Answer: D

Explanation

The Asia Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development. It is hosted by the Government of Malaysia and the secretariat is located in Kuala Lumpur.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Recently India has been elected for the post of President of AIBD for the first time
- The AIBD is mandated to achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are founding organisations of the Institute and they are non-voting members of the General Conference. The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) is a founding organisation of the Institute and is a non-voting member of the General Conference.

Approach: Recently India has been elected for the post of President of AIBD for the first time. Since it is a big development from India's point of view, the topic becomes important for prelims in International Relations field.

Related Topics: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organisation (UNESCO).

Q7.

Answer: C

Explanation

FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

Equality between women and men is a fundamental aim of Swedish foreign policy. Ensuring that women and girls can enjoy their fundamental human rights is both an obligation within the framework of our international commitments, and a prerequisite for reaching Sweden's broader foreign policy goals on peace, and security and sustainable development.

- Sweden released a handbook of its "feminist foreign policy" today for rights groups and foreign governments, showcasing lessons from the Scandinavian nation's flagship approach to promoting women's rights globally.
- Sweden began its feminist foreign policy "in response to the discrimination and systematic subordination that still mark the daily lives of countless women and girls around the world", the handbook said.
- It added that while gender equality was "an object in itself," it was "essential" in achieving more general government objectives, like peace, security and sustainable development.

Q8.

Answer: D

Explanation

8888 UPRISING: pro-democracy movement of Myanmar.

- It was a people's movement that challenged the then ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party's grip on political, economic and social affairs which led the country into extreme poverty.
- The objective was two-fold: to push for the transfer of power from the military to a civilian leadership and a change in the political system from an authoritarian regime to multi-party democracy.

Context: August 8, 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of the people's uprising in Myanmar.

Q9.

Answer: C

Explanation

INVEST INDIA

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is India's official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, set up in 2010. It is set up as a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- It provides sector specific and state specific information to a foreign investor, assists in expediting regulatory approvals, and offers hand-holding services.

Context: Invest India and Business France have signed a MoU to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France.

Q10

Answer: A

Explanation

PEACE MISSION 2018

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is a joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of all nations for greater cultural understanding, sharing experiences and strengthening mutual trust and cooperation.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The scope of the exercise includes professional interaction,

mutual understanding of drills and procedures, establishment of joint command and control structures and elimination of terrorist threats in urban counter terrorist scenario.

- STATEMENT 3 is correct: This is the first time India and Pakistan participated in the exercise.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of SCO nations to train in counter terrorism operations in urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.

Approach: It is a joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held at Russia. It is extremely important as it was the first time India and Pakistan military participated in it.

Q11

Answer: B

Explanation

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- It is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and six Free Trade Agreement(FTA) partners of the ASEAN like Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.
- RCEP was set up in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.
- The scope of RCEP includes include trade in goods, competition, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property and investments, and dispute settling mechanisms.
- The ASEAN will be in total control of the RCEP set up.

Approach: A lot of negotiations are going on with regard to RCEP between the ASEAN and their FTA members. So from International relations point of view it is important.

Related Topics: All the issues related to RCEP.

Q12.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as India became a full member in 2010. It does not have partial membership status for this organization. Saudi Arabia and Israel are —observer countries (partial membership). The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as all permanent members of the Security Council including China are members of FATF.

Approach: There was some news regarding FATF which highlights the issue of money laundering and terror financing. So we should about function and member of FATF.

Related Topic: Read about the issue of money laundering, terror financing and related organization.

Q13.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, after the initials in Spanish) are Colombia's largest rebel group. They were founded in 1964 as the armed wing of the Communist Party and follow a Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Their main founders were small farmers and land workers who had banded together to fight against the staggering levels of inequality in Colombia at the time.

While the FARC has some urban groups, they have always been an overwhelmingly rural guerrilla organization.

Approach: There was news regarding Columbian peace process between president —Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leadership (communist rebels), which ended the 50-year civil war.

URL

Q14

Answer: D

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. Iran and Iraq are not a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Established in 1981, the GCC promotes economic, security, cultural and social cooperation between the six states and holds a summit every year to discuss cooperation and regional affairs.

Due to their geographic proximity, similar political systems, and common sociocultural stances, the immediate goal was for these countries to protect themselves from threats after the Iran-Iraq War.



Related Topic: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO. Map of West Asia

Q15.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: As in January, 2019 Qatar left the membership of OPEC. Qatar's exit from OPEC should be seen through the lens of its long-term economic vision and its divergence from the oil cartel's business trajectory to capacity and global presence in the natural gas sector.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect : Ecuador and Venezuela are members of OPEC from South America. Angola is also a member of OPEC but it is from Africa and not South America. So STATEMENT 2 is also incorrect.

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).

Context: Qatar left the membership of OPEC.

Related Topics: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO.

Q16

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as IAEA is an autonomous organization and it is not under direct control of the United Nations. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are preconditions for membership in the IAEA. Many NON-NPT countries are also member of IAEA.

Context: Iran has notified IAEA of its nuclear enrichment plans.

Related Topics: Structure, functions and member states of the IAEA Nuclear supply group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and Australian Group.

Q17.

Answer: A

Explanation:

European Union Customs Union (EUCU) consist of more than 4 European countries. So it cannot be the correct option.

The European Economic Community's initial aim was to bring about economic integration, including a common market and customs union, among its six founding members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. So it cannot be the correct option.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental Organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members. It's all four member states participate in the European Single Market and is part of the Schengen Area. So European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the correct option.

Related Topic: European custom Union and Schengen Area.

Q18.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Hodeidah Operation is intentionally calibrated to help UN Special to persuade the Houthis to facilitate the peaceful and unconditional handover of Hodeidah to the legitimate Yemeni government. The operation at Hodeidah is ongoing and its main target is to fight terrorism.

Yemen government forces — backed by the Arab coalition started this operation on the rebel-held port city of Al Hodeidah.

Related topics: Houthi rebels

Q19

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Mocha port city is in Yemen. So correctly matched. Mocha is a port city on the Red Sea coast of Yemen. Until Aden and Hodeidah eclipsed it in the 19th century, Mocha was the principal port for Yemen's capital Sana'a.

Duqm port city is in Oman. So it is correctly matched. Situated on the southeastern seaboard of

the Sultanate of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean beyond, Port of Duqm is fast becoming an important reality of the Middle East region's rapidly transforming maritime landscape. With its deep draft, lengthy quay walls, and expansive basin, Port of Duqm has the trappings of a world-class, multipurpose commercial gateway. And as the principal anchor of a huge Special Economic Zone envisioned at Duqm, it also has the potential to develop into one of the Middle East's largest ports over the long term

Salalah port is in Oman. So it is correctly matched.

Approach:

Related Topic: Port of Aden, Strait Hormuz

Q20.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Houthi rebels are functioning in Yemen. So it is not correctly matched. Officially known as Ansar Allah (Partisans of God), the Houthi rebels began as a theological movement that preached tolerance and peace in the early 1990s.

Hezbollah rebels are functioning in Syria. So, it is correctly matched.

Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front rebels are functioning in Myanmar. So it is correctly matched.

Q21

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi. Since its inception in 2016, the conference has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

The conference is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving a variety of global policymakers including heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials. In addition, The Dialogue also welcomes major private sector executives, as well as members of the media and academia. It is designed on the lines of Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

So it is the correct option.

The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) is a "Track One" inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) which is attended by defense ministers, permanent heads of ministries and military chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states. The forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held since 2002. So it is not the correct option.

Wuhan Dialogue is an informal dialogue between India and China.

Related Topics: Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) and Wuhan dialogue.

Q22.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial Multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Hence the option B is correct.

Indian Air Force had earlier participated in the exercise as observers and it was for the first time that IAF participated with air assets in the Exercise Pitch Black in 2018.

The objectives for the exercise were to foster a closer relationship between the participating friendly forces and to promote interoperability through an exchange of knowledge and experience.

Approach: The military-related questions frequently appear in the prelims. Hence keep a note of the defense exercises in which India participates.

Related Topics: Red Flag and Blue Flag Exercises.

Q23

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is an independent intergovernmental body. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

STATEMENT 2: India is elected for a term of two years. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The World Customs Organization (WCO), established as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body with a mission to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.

It represents 183 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.

India has been elected as the head of the WCO Asia Pacific for two years from 2018 to 2020.

Q24

Answer: C

Explanation:

New Southern Policy is the foreign policy adopted by South Korea. The policy is steered by South Korean President Moon Jae. It aims to develop close ties with ASEAN and South Asian Countries.

Related Topics: India's look east policy.

Q25

Answer: C

Explanation:

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group is a regional multilateral development finance institution established to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries that are the institution's Regional Member Countries. The AfDB comprises three entities: the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).

Among the Non-regional members, India is the only country from the South Asian region.

Related Topics: India Africa Forum Summit.

Q26.

Answer: B

Explanation:

CUTLASS EXPRESS is a military exercise to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress interoperability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean. From India INS Triakand, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy had participated in the event.

Approach: Military related question frequently appears in the prelims. Hence keep a note on the defense exercises in which India participates.

Q27

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: OIC has 57 members and IMCTC has only 41. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the formation of an Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition in 2015 to form a unified pan-Islamic front against terrorism. It aims to intensify efforts in fighting terrorism through joint work according to their capabilities, based on the desire of each member country to participate in operations or programs within the IMCTC framework as per its policies and procedures, and without compromising the sovereignty of the Coalition member countries. It consists of 41 member countries and countries like Iran is not part of the coalition.

Related Topics: Organization of Islamic Countries, Gulf Cooperation Council

Q28.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: The 2018 edition was conducted in the Pacific Ocean near Guam. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan, and India was conducted on June 7, 2018, at Guam in the Pacific Ocean and will continue till June 16, 2018. The Malabar exercise usually features both ashore and at-sea training.

Context: It is seen as one of the important efforts to prevent the aggressive actions of China in the Indian Ocean region.

Related Topics: Milan 2018 and Quad group.

29

Answer: B

Explanation:

Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act is legislation of the USA targeting Russia, Iran, and North Korea. It puts sanctions on individuals and business entities who have transactions with those sanctioned. India has received a waiver from the act in case of Chabahar port in Iran.

Related Topics: How India is affected by CAATSA.

Q30.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Operation Nistar was a swift Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operation by Indian navy to help the 38 stranded off the Socotra Island due to the cyclonic storm Mekunu. INS Sunayna which was near the Gulf of Aden carried out the mission.

Related Topics: Operation Samudra Maitri

Q31

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is formed by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program and Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) is an international program formed under the sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP). It aims to optimize nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production and minimize nitrogen's negative effects on human health and the environment resulting from food and energy production.

Context: Recently INI elected its chairperson who is an Indian.

Related Topics: Impact of Nitrogen on Indian agriculture.

Q32.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is based in Tashkent. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation for strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

The organization has two permanent bodies — the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.

At present, it comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Related Topics: Afghanistan Peace deal and India-Central Asia Policy.

Q33.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect

The 10th BRICS Summit will convene in South Africa. The theme for the 10th BRICS Summit is, 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'.

BRICS endorsed an initiative of enhancing BRICS cooperation in health through the establishment of a BRICS vaccine Centre, which will promote research and development in the medical field. The bloc recognized the potential inherent in the tourism sector and in BRICS countries then endorsed the development of a BRICS Tourism Track within BRICS. The leaders also agreed to woman empowerment –the establishment of a BRICS women's forum.

Q34

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: SDF which was established by the heads of the eight SAARC Member States in April 2010 with the aim to:

- promote the welfare of the people of the SAARC region,
- improve their quality of life, and
- Accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

In 1996, the first funding mechanism was created in SAARC, 'South Asian Development Fund (SADF)', merging the SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and the SAARC Regional Fund.

A primary reason for establishing SDF was that the existing South Asian Development Fund (SADF) was found to be inadequate. The Thirteenth SAARC Summit (Dhaka, 12-13 November 2005) finally decided to reconstitute the SADF into SDF to serve as the "umbrella financial mechanism" for all SAARC projects and programmes.

Q35.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In 1948, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was established, deploying unarmed military observers to mediate the dispute between the two countries.

In 1949, UNCIP was absorbed into the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) which supervises the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Although India and Pakistan agreed on the "Line of Control" established in 1972, the UN has maintained UNMOGIP's presence of unarmed military observers to supervise and report on the border.

Context: The UNCIP appears in the news when there is an escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan.

Related topics: Geneva Convention

Q36.**Answer: B****Explanation:**

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister (EAM) hosted the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD X) in New Delhi from 19-20 July 2018.

Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, the economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN. The theme of DD X is "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation". This is the first major event to be organized after the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, that was held in New Delhi in January 2018.

Related topics: Read about India -ASEAN relation, locate all members of ASEAN on map

Q37**Answer: B****Explanation:**

- The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named the Bangkok Agreement, signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP.
- It is a preferential tariff arrangement that aims at promoting intra-regional trade through exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.
- APTA has five members namely Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka. ESCAP functions as the secretariat for the Agreement.

Related Topic: Free trade agreement (FTA)

Q38**Answer: A****Explanation:**

The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area. It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas.

Related topics: India-EU relations, Brexit, the importance of General Data Protection Regulation etc

Q39.**Answer: A****Explanation:**

The New Southern Policy is an important roadmap of the South Korea government to spread the footprint of the South Korean economy in Southeast Asia and South Asia. It was first articulated in Moon's Berlin Doctrine speech which envisions to boost cooperation with ASEAN countries and strengthen strategic and economic cooperation with India, a South Asian giant.

Approach: Policies of any country which affects Indian interest becomes important

Related topics: India-South Korea relation, the location of South Korea, ASEAN, south china sea etc

Q40.

Answer: B

Explanation:



Approach: In recent time India-Africa relations is taking a new shape so keep a close watch of all the developments.

Q41

Ans: B

Explanation

Statement 2 is incorrect

India has been steadily improving its GII ranking in the last four years after a precipitous drop in 2014 and 2015 so steadily improving since last decade is wrong.

The GII is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.

GII ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators. It is now in its 11th edition and has become a major input for policymakers on innovation around the world.

In 2018 India although ranked at 57, is a top performer in the lower middle-income group, where it is ranked at fifth position. India is the most innovative country in its region of central and southern Asia.

Approach: There are several indices released by different bodies like WTO, World Bank, IMF etc study their reports with respect to India and its surroundings.

Q42

Answer: A

Explanation:

Israel's parliament recently adopted a law defining the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people, provoking fears it could lead to blatant discrimination against Arab citizens.

Related topics: Locate the countries around the Red Sea, Mediterranean sea on the map, study about the Israel-Palestine conflict, Other geographical features of the region

Q43.**Answer: B****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect

Mission Satyanishtha was launched recently by the Ministry of Railways.

The objectives of the Mission are:

- To train every employee to understand the need and value of ethics in Personal and Public life.
- To deal with ethical dilemmas in life and Public Governance.
- To help understand the policies of Indian Railways on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.
- To develop inner governance by tapping inner resources.

Q44**Answer: B****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect

- Denmark is at the top position in the E-Government index while India is at 96th rank.
- But On the e-participation index, India ranks 15th and has emerged as sub-region leader.
- The UN releases this Survey every two years.
- 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies' is the theme for 2018.

United Nations e-government index includes the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) and it is a composite index based on three indices:

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Index (TII)
- Human Capital Index (HCI)
- Online Service Index (OSI)



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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES



Q1. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect regarding 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana':

1. The scheme will cover expenses for primary health care.
2. The scheme will be cashless & paperless at public hospitals and empanelled private hospitals.
3. The benefit only includes pre-hospitalization expenses and not post-hospitalization expenses.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q2. Recently Ministry of AYUSH launched a new scheme for promoting Pharmacovigilance of AYUSH drugs, consider the following:

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. Prime objective of the scheme is to develop the culture of documenting adverse effects and undertake safety monitoring of AYUSH drugs.
3. The scheme intends to facilitate the establishment of three-tier network of National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPvCC), Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centres (IPvCCs) and Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres (PPvCC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'National Skill Development Corporation':

1. It is a not-for-profit public limited company.
2. NSDC was set up by The Ministry of Finance as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
3. NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q4. Consider the following about 'E-Government Development Index':

1. It presents the state of E-Government Development of the United Nations Member States.

2. The EGDI is a composite measure of three important dimensions of e-government, namely: provision of online services, telecommunication connectivity and human capacity.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q5. Consider the following about 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971':

1. It an Act of the Parliament of India which prohibits the desecration of or insult to the country's national symbols, including the National Flag, the constitution, the National Anthem and map of India including contempt of Indian constitution.

2. Wearing India Flag as a portion of costume, uniform or accessory of any description which is worn below the waist of any person is an insult to National flag under the 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

Q6. Consider the following statement about Pariwartan Scheme:

1. Under the scheme, there is a focus on increasing health insurance penetration in rural areas.

2. This scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about Van Dhan Scheme:

1. This scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2 This scheme seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

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

Q8. With reference to 'Poshan Abhiyan/National Nutrition Mission', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The goals of the National Nutrition Mission are to achieve improvements in the nutritional status of Children from 6-14 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
3. Its main objective is to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q9. Consider the following statement about Seva Bhoj Yojna:

1. It is a programme of the Ministry of Culture.
2. The scheme envisages lessening the burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide food without any cost.

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

Q10. Consider the following pairs:

Schemes / Programmes: Implementing Ministry

1. HRIDAY : Ministry of Tourism
2. PRASAD : Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
3. Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

Q11. A scheme was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare. Under this is provision for conditional cash transfer for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth. Which Scheme has these features?

- a) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

(PMMVY)

- b) National Nutrition Mission
- c) Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
- d) None of the above

Q12. Which one of the following is correct regarding 'Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY)', that was in the news recently?

- a) It is a solar power scheme and it enables farmers to generate electricity through a solar panel
- b) It is for improving soil fertility by the use of solar energy.
- c) It is for making biofertilizer through agriculture waste.
- d) None of the above

Q13. Consider the following about the Study in India:

1. It aims to build world-class educational institutions to reduce student emigration from India.
2. It will be managed by Educational Consultants of India Limited.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q14. Consider the following about the Higher Education Funding Agency:

1. It is established as a joint venture between the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Canara Bank.
2. It provides loans to a wide range of Organisation from IIT to school education projects.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q15. Consider the following about the Saubhagya Scheme:

1. It is a universal electrification programme which covers both rural and urban unelectrified households.
2. It provides free electricity supply to the beneficiary selected on the basis of socioeconomic and caste census 2011

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q16. The first freight village of India is being developed at

- a. Haldia
- b. Ennore
- c. Varanasi
- d. Prayagraj

Q17. The Composite Water Management Index is released by

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of water resources and Ganga Rejuvenation
- c. Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- d. The Energy and Resource Institute

Q18. Consider the following about the Seva Bhoj Yojana:

- 1. It builds the required infrastructure at religious and charitable institutions to provide free food to the public and devotees.
- 2. It is 100% funded by the Union Ministry of Culture.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q19. Consider the following statements about the Khadi and Village Industries Corporation:

- 1. It is a statutory body tasked with the objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit.
- 2. It functions under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises..

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

Q20. 'Khan Prahari', recently in the news is related to

- a. Rural Development Officer
- b. Illegal Mining
- c. Education to Minority students
- d. Afforestation

Q1.

Answer: D

Explanation

PM JAN AROGYA YOJANA

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: PM-JAY will cover medical and hospitalization expenses for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The scheme will be cashless & paperless at public hospitals and empanelled private hospitals. The beneficiaries will not be required to pay any charges for hospitalization expenses.
- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: The benefit also includes pre and post-hospitalization expenses.

Under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat, a Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to reduce the financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospital episodes and ensure their access to quality health services was conceived. PM-JAY seeks to accelerate India's progress towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal - 3 (SDG3).

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) will provide financial protection (Swasthya Suraksha) to 10.74 crore poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational categories of urban workers' families as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data (approx. 50 crore beneficiaries). It will offer a benefit cover of Rs. 500,000 per family per year (on a family floater basis).
- PM-JAY has defined 1,350 medical packages covering surgery, medical and day care treatments including medicines, diagnostics and transport.
- The scheme is an entitlement based, the beneficiary is decided on the basis of family being figured in SECC database.

Approach: Recently there was an article in Indian Express about PMJAY : 'PMJAY becomes 1st healthcare scheme with privacy policy'. The scheme was already very important and this particular news made this scheme even more important. There are high chances of this scheme being asked by UPSC this year.

NEWS : With the Srikrishna Committee report and the impending Supreme Court judgment on Aadhaar having brought the issue of data privacy to the forefront, the ambitious Rs 5 lakh health protection programme has become the first health programme in the country to have its own data privacy policy.

The National Health Agency, the implementing authority of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), has also put in place 100 controls including authentication, authorisation, passwords, firewalls and data encryption to protect the data of the estimated 50 crore beneficiaries. The programme will be rolled out from September 25. The policy incorporates several principles of the Justice B N Srikrishna panel report on data privacy including curbs on the collection and purposes for which personal data can be used.

Related Topics: All other new schemes and initiatives in Health Sector.

Q2.

Answer: D

Explanation

New Scheme for Promoting Pharmacovigilance of AYUSH Drugs

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Ministry of AYUSH has introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Prime objective of the scheme is to develop the culture of documenting adverse effects and undertake safety monitoring of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and surveillance of misleading advertisements appearing in the

print and electronic media.

- STATEMENT 3 is correct: The scheme intends to facilitate the establishment of three-tier network of National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPvCC), Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centres (IPvCCs) and Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres (PPvCC). All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, has been designated as National Pharmacovigilance Centre for coordinating various activities of the initiative.
- In the initial phase of implementation, five (05) National Institutes of AYUSH are designated as the Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centres and forty two (42) institutions of AYUSH having clinical facilities as Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres to take up the work of reporting, documentation, analysis, causality assessment of the adverse reactions and events associated with the consumption of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy drugs.
- In the initial phase of implementation, five (05) National Institutes of AYUSH are designated as the Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centres and forty two (42) institutions of AYUSH having clinical facilities as Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres to take up the work of reporting, documentation, analysis, causality assessment of the adverse reactions and events associated with the consumption of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy drugs.

Approach: This is the other initiative in the field of Health sector. Make sure you are able to remember all these basic features and objectives of the scheme.

Related Topics: All other new schemes and initiatives in Health Sector.

Q3.

Answer: D

Explanation

NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013).
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: NSDC was set up by The Ministry of Finance as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. The Government of India through Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) holds 49% of the share capital of NSDC, while the private sector has the balance 51% of the share capital.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. Its mandate is also to enable support system which focuses on quality assurance, information systems and train the trainer academies either directly or through partnerships.
- NSDC acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies and organizations that provide skill training. It also develops appropriate models to enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives.

Approach: Recently there was a news 'Skill India supports Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana by training One lakh Arogya Mitras'. This particular news article makes us think beyond and focus on all related organisations of the news.

Q4.

Answer: C

Explanation

E-GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The E-Government Development Index presents the state of E-Government Development of the United Nations Member States.
- Along with an assessment of the website development patterns in a country, the E-Government Development index incorporates the access characteristics, such as the infrastructure and educational levels, to reflect how a country is using information technologies to promote access and inclusion of its people.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The EGDI is a composite measure of three important dimensions

of e-government, namely: provision of online services, telecommunication connectivity and human capacity. The EGDI is not designed to capture e-government development in an absolute sense; rather, it aims to give a performance rating of national governments relative to one another.

- This survey is conducted every 2 years by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Secretariat with the assistance of International Telecommunication Union and Institute for Statistics of UNESCO. United Nations.

Q5.

Answer: C

Explanation

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The act states : Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, difiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or [otherwise shows disrespect to or brings] into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: as a portion of costume, uniform or accessory of any description which is worn below the waist of any person; or
- The disrespect to the Indian National Flag means and includes—
 - (a) A gross affront or indignity offered to the Indian National Flag; or
 - (b) Dipping the Indian National Flag in salute to any person or thing; or
 - (c) Flying the Indian National Flag at half-mast except on occasions on which the Indian National Flag is flown at half-mast on public buildings in accordance with the instructions issued by the Government; or
 - (d) Using the Indian National Flag as a drapery in any form whatsoever except in State funerals or armed forces or other para-military forces funerals; or
 - (e) Using the Indian National Flag,—
 - (i) by embroidering or printing it on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, undergarments or any dress material; or
 - (ii) by putting any kind of inscription upon the Indian National Flag; or
 - (f) Putting any kind of inscription upon the Indian National Flag; or
 - (g) using the Indian National Flag as a receptacle for receiving, delivering or carrying anything except flower petals before the Indian National Flag is unfurled as part of celebrations on special occasions including the Republic Day or the Independence day; or
 - (h) Using the Indian National Flag as covering for a statute or a monument or a speaker's desk or a speaker's platform; or
 - (i) Allowing the Indian National Flag to touch the ground or the floor or trail in water intentionally; or
 - (j) draping the Indian National Flag over the hood, top and sides or back or on a vehicle, train, boat or an aircraft or any other similar object; or
 - (k) Using the Indian National Flag as a covering for a building; or
 - (l) Intentionally displaying the Indian National Flag with the "saffron" down.]

Approach: This was in the news around Independence Day and after a nation-wide appeal to the people about the harmful effects of plastic, the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flags made of plastic and asked the states and the union territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code.

Related Topics: Flag code of India

Q6.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Under 'Pariwartan' scheme government plans to warehouse stressed power projects to protect their value. Power Asset Revival through Warehousing and Rehabilitation (Pariwartan) scheme looks to warehouse around 25,000 MW stressed projects under an asset management company in a bid to protect their value and prevent them from distress sale.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Pariwartan Scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Power.

REC Limited (REC) (Formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a public Infrastructure Finance Company in India's power sector. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited has the scheme to revitalize the stress assets of Power Sector.

Approach: Read about the important schemes of different ministry. Regarding Schemes, our focus should be functions of scheme and the implementation ministry.

Related Topics: Read about different schemes of Power ministry like UDAY scheme, SAMADHAN Scheme and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

Q7.

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. The scheme will be implemented through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level. At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivotal role in scheme implementation at the grassroots level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Van Dhan Scheme seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

Approach: Read about the important schemes of different ministry. Regarding Schemes, our focus should be the function of scheme and implementation ministry.

Related Topics: Read about different schemes of tribal ministry like Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana; Read about function OF TRIFED and TRIBE INDIA.

Q8

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh-Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS), Department Food & Public Distribution, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as goals of Poshan Abhiyan/National Nutrition Mission is to improve the nutritional status of children in the age group of 0-6 years and not in the age group of 0-14 years.

STATEMENT 3 is correct as Its main objective is to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies. NNM targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

Q9

Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Seva Bhoj Yojna is a programme of the Ministry of Culture.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as The scheme envisages to reimburse the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) so as to lessen the financial burden of such as Religious/Charitable Institutions who provide Food/Prasad/Langar (Community Kitchen)/Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to

Public/Devotees.

Approach: Read about the important schemes of different ministry. Regarding Schemes, our focus should be the function of scheme and implementation ministry.

Related Topics: Read about different schemes of the Ministry of Culture.

Q10

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is not correctly matched as HRIDAY(Heritage city development and Augmentation yojana) is under the MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT. The scheme aims to preserve and revitalize the soul of the heritage city to reflect the city's unique character by encouraging aesthetically appealing, accessible, informative & secured environment.

STATEMENT 2 is not correctly matched as Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Tourism.

Twelve cities namely Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Gaya(Bihar), Dwaraka(Gujarat), Amritsar(Punjab), Ajmer(Rajasthan), Kanchipuram(Tamil Nadu), Vellankani(Tamil Nadu), Puri(Odisha), Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh), Mathura(Uttar Pradesh), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand) and Kamakhya (Assam) are under PRASAD scheme.

STATEMENT 3 correctly matched as KRISHI KALYAN ABHIYAN is under the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

Approach: Read about the important schemes of different ministry. Regarding Schemes, our focus should be the function of scheme and implementation ministry

Q11.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme, there is provision for partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare. Under this scheme there is provision for conditional cash transfer for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.

The objectives of the scheme are: (i) providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child; and (ii) the cash incentives provided would lead to improved health seeking behaviour amongst Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).

The goals of the National Nutrition Mission are to achieve improvements in the nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women, and Lactating Mothers. So option (b) is wrong.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) is for improving the institutional delivery. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) was launched in the year 2011 to assure cashless institutional delivery to pregnant women, including free transport and diet. It was not directly launched with objectives to compensate for wage loss.

Q12.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enables farmers to generate electricity for captive consumption and sell the surplus power to the grid and earn extra income. Through the scheme, the Gujarat government is expected to get 175 MW of power per year. The farmers will utilize the electricity generated by this scheme for their farms and the surplus power can be sold to the companies, whose profits will be kept by the farmers.

Q13.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Its objective is to attract foreign students to India. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The study in India is a unique initiative of the Government of India will help facilitate the student fraternity from all across the globe to come and experience the best of academic learning from the top institutions in India which would help accommodate the growing quality educational needs of students across the world. It is incorrect.

Under the umbrella of Study in India, about 150 select educational institutes from public, private and deemed universities are offering an array of options including courses ranging from engineering, management, commerce, photonics to yoga, Ayurveda, athletics and languages.

The initiative is helmed by EdCIL (Educational Consultants of India), a Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. It is correct.

Approach: India is taking many efforts to increase the ranking of the Indian institutes in the global ranking. The study in India scheme is also part of the effort. Hence be aware of these developments.

Related Topics: Institute of eminence and the parameters used in the ranking of educational institutions.

Q14.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Higher Education Financing Agency is a joint venture of MHRD Government of India and Canara Bank for financing creation of capital assets in premier educational institutions in India.

It is registered as a Not-for-profit entity under the Companies Act 2013 with equity participation of 91% by MHRD and 9% by Canara Bank.

It aims to develop India's top-ranked institutions like IIT's, IIIT's, NIT's, IISCs, AIIMS into Globally top ranking institutions through improvement in their academic and infrastructure quality. It has also expanded its scope to cover school education, educational institutes under the Ministry of health.

Approach: It is one of the important initiatives to empower educational institutions in India. Hence follow the current affairs to be aware of these developments.

Related Topics: Higher Education Commission of India.

Q15.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It provides free connection not supply. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The objective of the 'Saubhagya' is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country. The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) will remain the nodal agency for the operationalization of the scheme throughout the country.

It only provides free connections but not the free supply of electricity, which needs to be paid by the beneficiary.

Approach: It is a major initiative to achieve 100% electrification in India. Hence be aware of the

provisions of the scheme.

Related Topics: Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

Q16.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Inland Waterways Authority of India proposes to develop a “freight village” in Varanasi. The objective of the project is to support economic development in the hinterland of the multimodal terminal at Varanasi and reduce logistics cost in the Eastern Transport Corridor and its influence zone.

Approach: It is related to the development of the inland transport system in India. Keep a note on these developments.

Related Topics: National Waterways and Coastal Economic Zones.

Q17.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) to enable effective water management in Indian states was developed by NITI Aayog. The Index will measure both the overall progress made by states in water management and the incremental improvement in performance across time. It comprises nine themes with 28 different indicators covering groundwater and surface water restoration, major and medium irrigation, watershed development, participatory irrigation management, on-farm water use, rural and urban water supply, and policy and governance.

Approach: NITI Aayog releases a number of reports and Index which helps to monitor the efforts of the state in various developmental activities.

Related Topics: Day Zero and other indexes of NITI Aayog.

Q18.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a tax rebate scheme. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Seva Bhoj Yojna proposes to reimburse Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on the purchase of specific raw food items by Charitable Religious Institutions for distributing free food to the public as Financial Assistance by the Government of India.

It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Approach: Needs regular follow of government schemes for getting the question correct. Do not make a wild guess in these kinds of questions.

Q19.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament. In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The objective of the KVIC are as follows:

1. The social objective of providing employment.
2. The economic objective of producing saleable articles.
3. The wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit.

It comes under the administrative control of Union Ministry of Micro, small and medium

enterprises

Approach:

Make a list of the statutory body with their objective, make a regular revision of the list.

Related Topics:

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

Q20

Answer: B

Explanation:

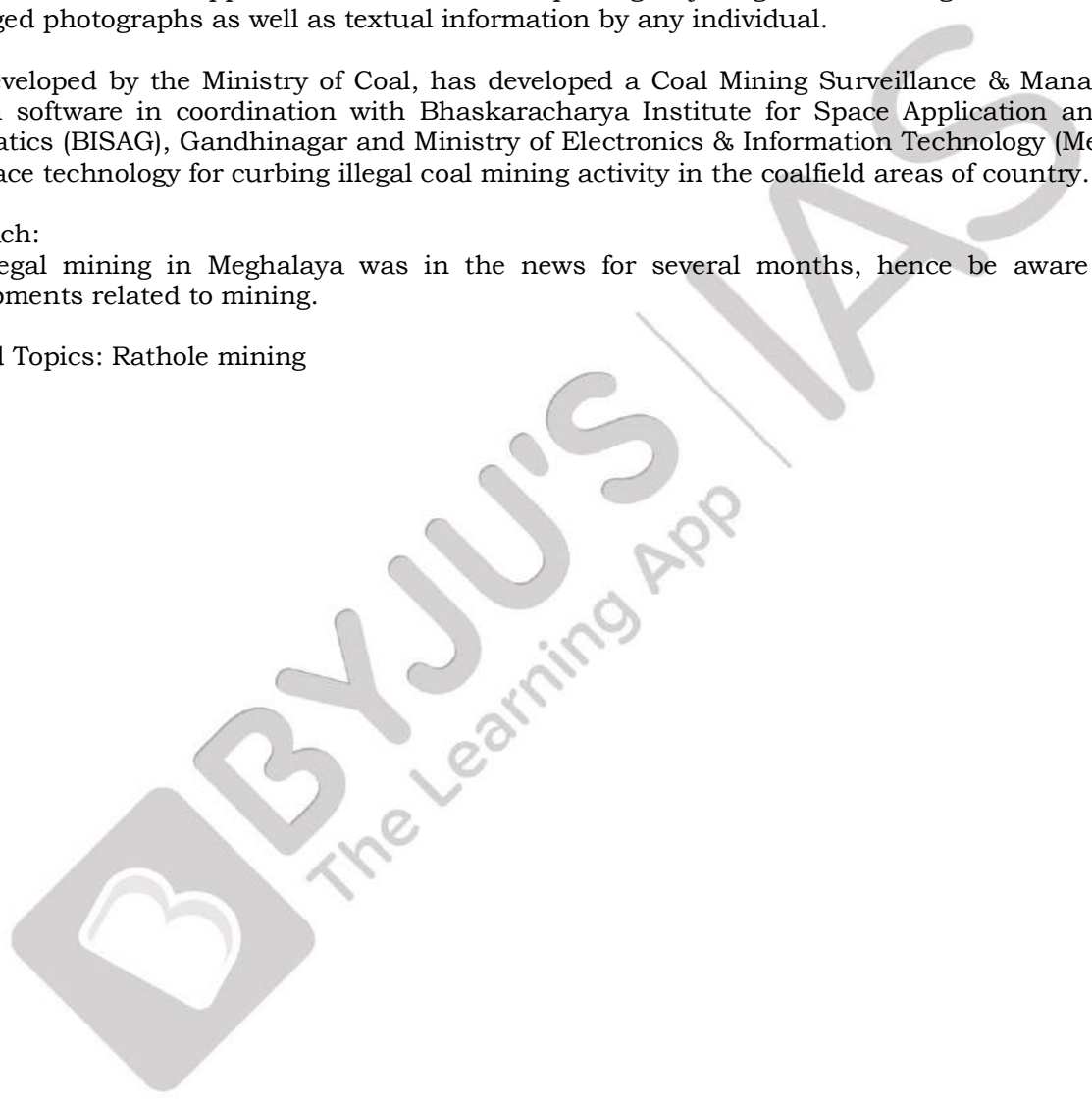
Khan-Prahari Mobile Applications is a tool for reporting any illegal coal mining incident through geotagged photographs as well as textual information by any individual.

It is developed by the Ministry of Coal, has developed a Coal Mining Surveillance & Management System software in coordination with Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), to use space technology for curbing illegal coal mining activity in the coalfield areas of country.

Approach:

The Illegal mining in Meghalaya was in the news for several months, hence be aware of the developments related to mining.

Related Topics: Rathole mining



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MISCELLANEOUS



Q1. With reference to the 'Maitree Exercise', which of the following statements is/are true?

1. It is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Bhutan Army.
2. The exercise seeks to enhance the skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario.

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

Q3. Consider the following questions about 'Exercise Pitch Black':

1. Pitch Black is a biennial multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by The Royal Australian Air Force.
2. Indian Air Force participated for the first time with air assets in the exercise.

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

Q4. Consider the following questions about 'Anti-tank Guided Missile HELINA':

1. It is indigenously developed by DRDO.
2. It is the helicopter launched version of NAG.
3. It has a range of 70-80km.

Select the correct Answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q5. Consider the following statement about 'National Security Guard'

1. It is an Indian Special Forces unit under the Ministry of Defence.
2. The National Security Guard (NSG) was set up in 2001 after Indian Parliament attack as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

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

Q6. Consider the following statement about 'Defence Research and Development

Organisation (DRDO)'

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It works for enhancing self-reliance in Defence Systems and production of world class weapon systems

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about Draft Defence Production Policy (DProP) 2018:

1. It proposes to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap in niche technology areas to 100% under the automatic route.
2. It also hopes to transform India into a global leader in cyberspace and AI (artificial intelligence) technologies.

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about "grey" lists and "black" lists of Financial Action Task Force:

1. Blacklisted countries are those that took weak measures to combat money laundering and terror

Financing

2. Grey Lists countries are those that are unwilling to fight money laundering and terrorist

Financing

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

Q9. Consider the following statements about the Global Peace Index (GPI):

1. The GPI is a report produced by the World Peace Forum.
2. GPI measure global peace using three broad indicators like the level of societal safety and security, the extent of the ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarization

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

Q10. 'Vidyalakshmi Portal' has been launched for

- a) To provide students with single window electronic platform for scholarships and educational loans.
- b) To provide easy loans to farmers
- c) To provide easy loans to MSME
- d) To provide easy loan to unemployed

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Global Liveability Index':

- 1. It is released by Economist Intelligence Unit.
- 2. It ranks 140 cities worldwide based on 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories of Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education and Infrastructure.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q12. Which of the following best describes 'Move Hack' launched by NITI Aayog

- a) A hackathon to prevent government sites from being hacked.
- b) A hackathon to crowd source solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
- c) A hackathon to help India improve its average train speed.
- d) A hackathon to provide smart solutions to help India move from developing Country to developed country status.

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the 'FASTag':

- 1. it's a reloadable tag that automatically deducts and allows a vehicle to pass through a toll gate without stopping.
- 2. It uses radio frequency identification technology.
- 3. It has been launched by The National Highway Authority of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q14. 'BRU Tribe' belongs to which of the following state:

- a) Himachal Pradesh

- b) Sikkim
- c) Mizoram
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Swachh Survekshan 2019':

- 1. It aims to increase the coverage of the ranking exercise to all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- 2. The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification.
- 3. It is conducted by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q16. Consider the following pairs about Open Defecation Free status:

- 1. ODF : not a single person is found defecating in the open.
- 2. ODF+ : at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well-maintained.
- 3. ODF++ : faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated, with no discharging and/or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q17. With reference to 'Cholanaikkan Tribe', consider the following:

- 1. They are an ethnic group in the state of Tamil nadu.
- 2. They call themselves as Malanaikan or sholanaikan.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q18. Consider the following about 'Ease of

Living Index’:

1. It is based on a comprehensive report which assesses the quality of life in cities on the four broad parameters of governance, social, economic and infrastructure.

2. It is released by NITI Aayog.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q19. ‘The Rajiv Gauba Panel’ recently seen in news relates to:

- a) Data protection
- b) Mob Lynching
- c) FDI
- d) Disinvestment

Q20. ‘DISHA dashboard’, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) Monitor governance by geography in real time.
- b) Promote science education in school children.
- c) Promote girl education in India.
- d) None of the above.

Q21. Consider the following statement about the Global Gender Gap Report:

1. It is published by “World Health Organisation”

2. The Report is based on gender gap between women and men in five key areas: health, education, economy and politics and sports.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 Nor 2

Q22. Consider the following statements about ‘The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World’ report

1. It is an annual flagship report of the World Bank to measure poverty in developing countries.

2. The report assesses the trends for six nutrition indicators: anemia in women of reproductive age, stunting, wasting, and overweight, obesity and levels of exclusive breastfeeding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 Nor 2

Q23. ‘ReUnite App’, sometimes seen in the news, is related to:

- a) To trace missing and abandoned children in India
- b) To protect the overseas citizen of India.
- c) To promote the girl’s education in rural areas.
- d) None of the above

Q24. ‘Women Wizards Rule Tech Programme is related to:

- a) To increase the number of women at senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) Industry.
- b) To improve the science education in school children.
- c) To increase the enrollment of women in higher education and research.
- d) None of the above.

Q25. Consider the following about the Global Slavery Index:

1. Released by the United Nations Human Rights Council, it measures the scale of modern slavery.

2. In 2018 report, India is ranked 53 rd country with nearly eight million people living in modern slavery.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q26. ‘Pardhi community’ lives in the regions of

- a. Maharashtra
- b. West Bengal
- c. Bihar
- d. Tamilnadu

Q27. ‘Happiness Curriculum’ recently seen in the news has been introduced by which among the following states?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Kerala
- c. Delhi
- d. Tamilnadu

Q28. ‘Aanayoottu’ festival is celebrated in which state?

- a) Tamil nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhra pradesh

Q29. Match the following Philosophical Views:

1. Advaita A. supreme reality according to this philosophy is Brahman, and matter and soul are his qualities.

2. Dvaita B. It means dualism.

3. Vishishtadvaita C. non-dualism or belief in one reality. Being the Brahman is the ultimate reality

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

a) 1-A 2-B 3-C

b) 3-A 2-B 1-C

c) 2-A 3-B 1-C

d) 2-A 1-B 3-C

Q30. Consider the following statements about 'Akka Mahadevi':

1. She was one of the early female poets of the Kannada language.

2. She belonged to Lingayat sect of Hinduism in the 12th century.

3. Mantrogopya and the Yogangatrividhi are the two short stories written by her.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Q31. Consider the following statements about 'Ambubachi Mela':

1. The festival is held in the state of West Bengal.

2. The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya.

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

Q32. Aranmula Boat Race is held in which state?

a) Tamil nadu

b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Kerala

d) Karnataka

Q33. Consider the following statements about 'Badshahi Ashoorkhana':

1. It was built by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad.

2. Badshahi Ashoorkhana is a standing symbol of martyrdom as well as of religious significance.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q34. Consider the following regarding 'Basava':

1. Basavanna was a great Tamil poet.

2. He was a shiva devotee and a social reformer.

3. He introduced the Vachana style of writing. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 2 only

d) All of the above

Q35. Bagwal Festival is celebrated in which state?

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Jammu and Kashmir

c) Uttarakhand

d) Meghalaya

Q36. Identify the following festival:

1. It is the most popular festival of Jaintia tribe.

2. It is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest.

3. The non-Christian 'Pnar' people who believe either in the traditional faith of 'Niamtre' or Hinduism observe this festival.

Select the correct option:

a) Hornbill Festival

b) Losar

c) Ambubachi Mela

d) Behdienkhlam festival

Q37. To which of the following state 'Bengei Nacha or frog dance' a traditional ritual to appease the rain gods belongs?

a) Rajasthan

b) West Bengal

c) Odisha

d) Assam

Q38. Consider the following statements about 'Bonalu Festival':

1. It is an annual festival celebrated in the twin Cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana state.

2. It is a Hindu Festival where Goddess Mahakali is worshiped.

3. The festival is considered as a form of thanksgiving to the Goddess after the fulfillment of vows.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q39. "Burrakatha festival" recently seen in news belongs to which state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q40. Which of the following statements about 'Champakulam Moolam Boat Race' is correct:
1. It is the oldest Snake Boat Race in the Tamil Nadu.

2. The Pampa River plays host to this race held annually in Champakkulam, a village in Alappuzha district.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q41. 'E-aksharayan', recently in the news is related to

- a) An application to convert scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format.
- b) An application to monitor the Non-performing assets (NPA) of banks.
- c) An application to monitor drop out rate in primary schools.
- d) An application to promote girl education in India.

Q42. With reference to the 'Architectural style of Medieval India', consider the following statements about Deccan Sultanate architectural style

1. It was a regional variant of Indo-Saracenic architectural style.

2. Gol Gumbaz, the second largest dome in the world, is an example of Deccan Sultanate style of Architecture.

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

Q43. A folk painting practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal and is characterized by complex geometrical patterns. These paintings are known for representing ritual content for particular occasions, including festivals, religious

rituals, etc. Kohbar Ghar (nuptial chamber on Wedding) painting are important features of this folk Painting.

Which one of the following folk paintings have these features?

- a) Gond Painting
- b) Madhubani Painting
- c) Warli Painting
- d) Patachitra.

Q44. A rock-cut architecture is present in the state of Maharashtra and it is a marvelous example of Rashtrakuta architecture. It also resembles the Chalukya temples at Pattadakal. It is also an example of one of the largest Indian rock-cut ancient Hindu temples.

Which one of the following rock-cut temples have these features?

- a) Kailasha Temple at Ellora
- b) Bhaja Caves
- c) Kanheri Cave
- d) Elephanta Cave

Q45. With reference to the cave architecture of ancient India, consider the following statements about Ellora and Ajanta Caves:

1. Ellora is primarily a Buddhist cave and Ajanta is a combination of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain caves.

2. Ajanta is primarily a system of caves mostly famous for the paintings, but Ellora is a collection of caves mostly famous for the massive sculptures depicting gods and goddesses of the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain faiths

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

Q46. With reference to Koodiyattam, consider the following statements:

1. Koodiyattam is a traditional performing art form in the state of Tamilnadu, India.

2. It is officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

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

Q47. Consider the following statements about 'Lohagarh Fort':

1. It is situated in the state of Haryana.
 2. It was constructed by Hindu ruler, Maharaja Suraj Mal
- 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

Q48. Consider the following statements about International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018: The conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Culture.

The conclave is organized annually in different parts of the country.

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

Q49. Consider the following statements about Jama Masjid Gulbarga:

1. It is located in the state of Maharashtra.
2. It was built by Mohammed Shah I to commemorate Gulbarga as the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate.

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

Q50. With reference to '15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint Kabir', consider the following statements:

1. Bijak' is a composition of the teachings of Kabir.

2. He was a Shagun Bhakti Saint.

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

Q51. Consider the following about 'Behdienkhlam':

1. It is an important festival of Pnars in the northeastern state of Meghalaya.

2. The main theme of the festival is the fertility rituals which accompany many tantric practices.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q52. A Bhakti Saint had once told that the Hindus and Muslims are the different pots made from the same clay. He himself was a disciple of a follower of Saint Ramanuja. Who is the saint mentioned in the above lines?

- a) Guru Nanak
- b) Namadeva
- c) Kabir
- d) Ramananda

Q53. Which of the following is the correct description of Project Maluti that appeared in the news recently?

- a. Restoration of Temple architecture
- b. Universal vaccination
- c. River rejuvenation
- d. Electrification of Tribal hamlets

Q54. Consider the following statements about the Pathani Saris:

1. It was introduced in India during the 15th century by the Mughal Rulers.

2. The artwork of Pathani is made on pure silk cloth with Peacock being the popular motifs.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q55. 'Neermahal' a royal palace is located at

- a. Tripura
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Tamilnadu
- d. Gujarat

Q56. President of India provides the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to which of the following languages?

1. Sanskrit
2. Classical Tamil
3. Classical Malayalam
4. Pali

Codes:

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

Q57. Consider the following statements about the Theyyam:

1. It is a famous ritual art form that originated in the southern part of Kerala.

2. There is no stages or curtains used during the performance of Theyyam.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q58. Consider the following pairs:

Theatre form	State
1. Bhavai	Gujarat
2. Nautanki	Andhra Pradesh
3. Therukoothu	Tamilnadu

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q59. 'Putul Nautch', a cultural traditional art of India is practiced in

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Bihar
- c. West Bengal
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Q60. Consider the following statements about puppetry in India:

- 1. The earliest reference to the art of puppetry in India is found in Natyashastra.
- 2. The art of puppetry in India had originated five centuries before the birth of Christ.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q61. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the cultural traditions of Kerala:

- a) Krishnattam based on Lord Krishna came into existence in the 12th century.
- b) Mudiayattu is performed only at Kali temples of Kerala.
- c) Koodiyattam is the form of Sanskrit theatre and oldest in Kerala.
- d) None of the above

Q62. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Agriculture related	State festival
1. Behdienkhlam	West Bengal
2. Nabanna	Meghalaya
3. Vishu	Kerala
4. Pongal	Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q63. Consider the following statements about the National Kalidas Award:

- 1. It is presented for outstanding achievements in dance, music, theatre and plastic arts.

- 2. It is provided 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

Q64. Consider the following statements about the Logistics Performance Index:

- 1. It is a biennial survey led by World Bank Group to help reform the Logistics sector of world countries.

- 2. India is ranked 44th in 2018 report which is below all members of the BRICS group.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q1.

Answer: B

Explanation

MAITREE EXERCISE

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Exercise Maitree is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army.
- It is a platoon level exercise which comprises of infantry component.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The exercise emphasizes to hone the tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario under UN mandate.
- Due emphasis is laid on increasing interoperability between forces from both countries which is crucial for success of any joint operation.

Approach: Military exercises are important from exam point of view.

Related Topics: Prepare all other major military exercises of India with other nations.

Q2.

Answer: D

Explanation

BARAK-8 MISSILE

- STATEMENT 1 is correct and STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) and Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) are jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India and M/s Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI), Israel.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: MR-SAM detects incoming enemy aircraft while they are well over 100 km away and destroys them at range upto 70 km.
- LR-SAM is the Ship Launch Version and Project MR-SAM is the Land Launch Version of Barak-08 Missile system.
- LR-SAM has got long range engagement capability to penetrate in deep water/land to intercept all types of aerial targets.

Approach: When preparing the defense topic, one should pay attention to the missile programme of India. Recently this was in the news. So it is important to cover this.

Related Topics: AKASH, NAG, AGNI etc.

Q3.

Answer: C

Explanation

EXERCISE PITCH BLACK

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Pitch Black is a biennial multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by The Royal Australian Air Force.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Indian Air Force participated for the first time with air assets in the exercise.
- Objective: to foster closer relationship between the participating friendly forces and to promote interoperability through exchange of knowledge and experience.

Q4.

Answer: B

Explanation

Anti-tank Guided Missile HELINA

- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Helicopter-Launched NAG (HELINA) missile is the helicopter launched version of the NAG Missile.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO for

Indian Army under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). It works on "fire and forget" principle.

- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It has a range of 7-8 km.
- The Missile is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) along with integrated avionics.

Q5

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is an Indian special forces unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs and not under the Ministry of Defence. However, it is not categorized under the uniform nomenclature of Central Armed Police Forces. It has a special forces mandate, and its core operational capability is provided by the Special Action Group (SAG) which is drawn from the Indian Army.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, "for combating terrorist activities with a view to protecting states against internal disturbances. It was not established after Indian Parliament attack as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

Context: deployment of NSG in J & K for counter-terror operations. NSG: nodal ministry and functions.

Related Topics: Read about different central armed forces.

Q6.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as DRDO is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

It was formed in 1958 by the merger of Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it works for enhancing self-reliance in Defence Systems and production of world class weapon systems.

Context: More financial power was given to DRDO by Central Govt. So prepare the structure and function of DRDO.

Q7.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Draft Defence Production Policy (DProP) 2018 proposes to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap in niche technology areas to 74% under the automatic route. Under a niche technology route, FDI was not raised to 100 %. India hopes to achieve a turnover of Rs1.7 trillion in defense goods and services by 2025. It has a goal of becoming an arms exporter to the tune of Rs35,000 crore in defense goods and services by 2025.

STATEMENT 2 is correct It also hopes to transform India into a global leader in cyberspace and AI (artificial intelligence) technologies.

Q8

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Blacklisted countries are those that are unwilling to fight money laundering and Terrorist Financing. Those who took weak measures are in the grey list and not in the blacklist.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Grey Lists countries are those that took weak measures to combat money laundering and terror.

Information: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

Context: Pakistan was enlisted in the Grey list of FATF.

Related Topics: FATF, Money Laundering and Terror Financing.

Q9

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as GPI is a report produced by the Australia based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and developed in consultation with an international panel of peace experts from peace institutes and think tanks with data collected and collated by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as GPI measure global peace using three broad indicators like the level of societal safety and security, extent of the ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarization. India's rank has marginally improved in “global peacefulness”, at a time when there is an overall decline of global peace owing to an escalation of violence in West Asia and North Africa.

Approach: Learn the different indices and the the organization releasing these reports. E.g. : Reports released by the World Bank ,IMF and World Economic Forum.

Q10

Answer: A

Explanation

VIDYALAKSHMI PORTAL

- Vidya Lakshmi is a first of its kind portal for students seeking Education Loan.
- This portal has been developed under the guidance of Department of Financial Services, (Ministry of Finance), Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and Indian Banks Association (IBA).
- The portal has been developed and maintained by NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited.
- Students can view, apply and track the education loan applications to banks anytime, anywhere by accessing the portal. The portal also provides linkages to National Scholarship Portal.

Q11

Answer: C

Explanation

‘GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX’

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Economist Intelligence Unit's liveability rating quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in 140 cities worldwide.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Each city is assigned a score for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories of Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education and Infrastructure.

THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (The EIU) is the world leader in global business intelligence.
- We help businesses, the financial sector and governments to understand how the world is

changing and how that creates opportunities to be seized and risks to be managed.

Approach: Questions are frequently asked on either International Organization or any index.

Q12.

Answer: B

Explanation

MOVE HACK

- NITI Aayog has launched Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
- Move Hack is focused on 10 themes and structured over three legs: online, followed by Singapore leg, and the finals in New Delhi.
- MoveHack aims to bring about innovative, dynamic and scalable solutions to problems pertaining to mobility.
- The hackathon has two-pronged campaign approach: (a) “Just Code It”: aimed at solutions through innovations in technology / product / software and data analysis, and (b) “Just Solve It”: innovative business ideas or sustainable solutions to transform mobility infrastructure through technology.
- Move Hack is open to individuals from all nationalities, making it a truly global hackathon.

Approach: New initiatives like these especially from Government Department are very important from exam point of view.

Related Topics: National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, Methanol Economy

Q13.

Answer: D

Explanation

FASTag

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It's a reloadable tag that automatically deducts and allows a vehicle to pass through a toll gate without stopping.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It uses radio frequency identification technology to make cashless transaction through a prepaid account linked to it.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: It has been launched by The National Highway Authority of India.
- It is fixed to the windscreen of a vehicle and an RFID antenna in the canopy of the toll

Q14.

Answer: C

Explanation

BRU TRIBE

They are also known as Reang tribe.

They are spread across the North-east India.

Approach: The tribe was in the news recently for many reasons. This makes this tribe important for us. Go through the issues relating to the tribe.

Related Topics: Other tribes in India and their respective location.

Q15.

Answer: D

Explanation

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2019

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It aims to increase the coverage of the ranking exercise to all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open

defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

- STATEMENT 3 is correct: It is conducted by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities.
- The MoHUA will conduct intensive interactions through Swachh Survekshan-2019 regional workshops to familiarize ULBs with the survey methodology, survey process and indicators, and also clarifying their expectations from the survey.
- The data to be collected for ranking of the cities shall be segregated into 4 main areas:
 1. Collection of data from online MIS portal of MoHUA for Service Level Progress.
 2. Collection of data from Direct Observation
 3. Collection of data from Citizen Feedback
 4. Certifications for Garbage Free Cities and Open Defecation Free Cities

Approach: These types of surveys are always important. UPSC frequently asks questions based on such surveys.

Q16

Answer: D

Explanation

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), urban areas of 18 states, and a total of 3,223 cities have become Open Defecation Free, and 2,712 cities among them have been certified as ODF through an independent third party. With urban India poised to become ODF before the end of the Mission period, it is now time to consolidate our ODF achievements to make it sustainable, and address the issue of holistic sanitation, by addressing the entire sanitation value chain.

The SBM ODF Plus and SBM ODF Plus Plus protocols that are planned to be launched are geared towards this objective. While the SBM ODF Plus protocol focuses on sustaining community/ public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance, the SBM ODF Plus Plus will focus on achieving sanitation sustainability by addressing complete sanitation value chain, including safe containment, processing and disposal of fecal sludge and septage.

The ODF+ and ++ protocol and toolkit to be launched will detail out the necessary conditions to be achieved by cities for declaring themselves as ODF+ and ODF++, alongwith the detailed steps required for third party certifications.

Approach: Swachh Bharat Mission is the focus of the government. Any new initiative under this scheme is important or subtraction to the SBM gets really important.

Related Topics: Swachh Manch Web Portal.

Q17.

Answer: B

Explanation

CHOLANAICKAN TRIBE

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: They are an ethnic group in the state of Kerala especially Silent Valley National Park.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: They call themselves as Malanaikan or sholanaikan. 'Chola' or 'Shola' means deep evergreen forest and 'naikan' means king.
- They speak Cholanaikan language, which belongs to the Dravidian family.

Approach: Kerala's reclusive Chola Naikar Tribe is leaving the forests for the plains after devastating floods of Kerala. Tribes and their location are important especially when they are in the news.

Q18.

Answer: A

Explanation

'Ease of Living Index'

- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The Ease of Living Index released by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is based on a comprehensive report which assesses the quality of life in cities on the four broad parameters of governance, social, economic and infrastructure.
- The study took into consideration 78 indicators in 15 categories. All cities were evaluated out of 100. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given the highest weightage of 45, while institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.

Here are a few highlights from the data analysis:

1. Among the 111 cities considered, Navi Mumbai, Tirupati and Karim Nagar had the best institutional sub-index.
2. In terms of social indicators, Tirupati and Tiruchirapalli scored the highest.
3. Chandigarh, Ajmer and Kota did best on the economic sub-index.
4. Greater Mumbai, Pune and Thane topped in terms of infrastructure and other physical parameters.
5. In mega-cities (Population over 4 million) Chennai came second after Mumbai, while New Delhi was the worst mega-city.
6. Andhra Pradesh had 75% (three out of four cities considered for the survey) of its cities among the top 25 ranks.
7. Maharashtra had 66% of its cities in the top 25 (eight out of 12) while four out of seven (57%) cities in Madhya Pradesh were among the top crop.

Approach: All these indices are always important. One should always focus on the agency which releases the index and also some basic features of that index.

Related Topics: Ease of Doing Business, Swachh Survekshan

Q19.

Answer: B

Explanation

Rajiv Gauba Panel

- A panel headed by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, which deliberated on measures to check incidents of lynching, submitted its report to a Group of Ministers headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The panel deliberated on such incidents and is learnt to have come to the conclusion that social media platforms also needed to act in a "time bound" manner.
- A senior government official said social media platforms — Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Twitter — would be made accountable for not blocking such malicious posts/videos when brought to their notice and "FIR could be lodged against their country heads" for non-compliance of government orders and they could be prosecuted under law.

Approach: Committees set up by Government for various issues are important for us.

Related Topics: Bibek Debroy Committee, Shetkar committee, Anupama Verma committee.

Q20.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Ministry of Rural Development launched the DISHA dashboard, a nifty tool that will make it easier to monitor governance by geography in real time. The application is available to all members of Parliament and State Assemblies as well district officials, allows the user to track the progress of multiple and diverse schemes in a certain district, block, or even a gram panchayat. Currently, 18 schemes are covered; the ultimate plan is to integrate all 42 Central schemes — representing a total outlay of ₹3 lakh crore — which are already monitored by DISHA or District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees. The dashboard has three filters: time, scheme and

geography.

Approach: Regarding apps or dashboard, our focus should be to know the function of apps or dashboard and implementation ministry

Q21.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Global Gender Gap Report is published by the World Economic Forum. The 2017 report covers 144 major and emerging economies. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality. It is not published by "World Health Organisation".

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect The report's Gender Gap Index ranks countries according to calculated gender gap between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy, and politics to gauge the state of gender equality in a country. It does not include sports as criteria for calculating.

Q22.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is wrong as The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the report assesses the trends for six nutrition indicators: anemia in women of reproductive age, stunting, wasting, overweight, obesity and levels of exclusive breastfeeding.

Context: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' Report. Prepare a list of the name of the organization and indices on the basis of which report was prepared.

Related Topics: Functions of FSSAI.

Q23.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile application — ReUnite — to trace missing and abandoned children in India. The app is multiuser where parents and citizens can upload pictures of children, and provide detailed description like name, birthmark, address, report to the police station, search and identify missing kids. Non-government organization Bachpan Bachao Andolan and Capgemini developed this app.

Q24.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In an effort to increase the number of women in senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) industry, Nasscom unveiled its 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme for women techies.

The initiative will aid women techies in core technologies like IT-Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), Business Process Management (BPM), product and research and development (R&D) sectors by equipping them with the skills required for an edge in their career.

Q25.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is released by Walk Free Foundation. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The Walk Free Foundation's Global Slavery Index has developed world-leading research to provide a measurement of the size and scale of modern slavery. The Index is developed with the help of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

India is ranked as 53 rd out of 167 countries in 2018 with 7.98 million people are living in modern slavery in India. It converts to six-person for every thousand people suffers from modern slavery. The Netherlands has the least number and North Korea has the highest number of modern slavery.

Approach: Important Indices and reports are important from the exam's perspective

Related Topics: Colonial Slave Trade and Global Hunger Index.

Q26.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Pardhi is a descendant of Rajputs and now classified as a tribe in India. The tribe is found mostly in Maharashtra and parts of Madhya Pradesh, however, small numbers can be found in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. They were termed as a criminal tribe by the British Colonial Government. Now they are fighting to remove the stigma of the criminal tag.

Related Topic: Criminal tribes of India, tribal protests

Q27.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Delhi government with an aim to train the young minds to make them happy, confident and content human beings and for developing their personality has launched a new initiative that introduces the 'Happiness curriculum' in schools.

The new curriculum is based on human-centric education which includes meditation, value education, and mental exercises. The entire curriculum will be purely activity-based and no formal examinations will be conducted on it. However, a periodic assessment of children's progress will be made using a happiness index.

Approach:

Be aware of the progressive initiatives in the education sector. Stick to your current affairs sources.

Related Topics:

State Governments with happiness department in India. First country in the world to have a Ministry of Happiness

Q28.

Answer: B

Explanation

AANAYOOTTU

- Aanayoottu at the Vadakkumnathan Temple in Thrissur district is a ritualistic feeding ceremony (locally known as Aanayoottu) that takes place inside the premises of the famous temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- On the festival day, the elephants are brought inside the premises of the Vadakkumnathan Temple for the special feast.
- Here, the elephants are lined-up in a single row and facing them would be thousands of people ready with offerings in their hands to feed the elephants. Sugarcane, rice, ghee,

coconut, jaggery and Ayurvedic medicines are the major ingredients of the special feed for the elephants.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Q29.

Answer: B

Explanation

ADVAITA

- The philosophical views of Shankaracharya are known as 'Advaita Vedanta'.
- The meaning of Advaita is non-dualism or belief in one reality.
- Being the Brahman is the ultimate reality according to it Brahman is true; the world is false.
- He believes that the Brahman is existent, static, the ultimate knowledge and the supreme truth.
- He also believes that there is no difference between the self and Brahman.
- The knowledge of Brahman is the essence of all things and the ultimate existence.

VISHISHTADVAITA

By: Ramanujacharya

- Vishishtadvaita altered monism.
- The supreme reality according to this philosophy is Brahman, and matter and soul are his qualities.
- Ramanujacharya, the chief exponent of Vishishtadvaita philosophy contends that the Prasthanatrayi (The three courses), i.e. are:
 1. The Upanishads
 2. The Brahma Sutras
 3. The Bhagavad Gita

DVAITA

By: Madhavacharya

- The meaning of dvaita is dualism.
- It stands in opposition to monism and non-dualism of Shankaracharya.
- Madhavacharya believed that the World is not an illusion / Maya but a reality full of variances.

Approach: An important topic from art and culture area.

Q30.

Answer: D

Explanation

AKKA MAHADEVI

- Akka Mahadevi born in Udutadi, near Shivamogga in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: She was one of the early female poets of the Kannada language.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: She belonged to Lingayat sect of Hinduism in the 12th century.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Her extant Vachana poems (a form of spontaneous mystical poems), and the two short writings called Mantrogopya and the Yogangatrividhi are considered her most notable contribution to Kannada literature
- She composed relatively fewer poems than other saints of the movement. Yet the term Akka ("elder Sister"), which is an honorific given to her by great Lingayat saints such as Basavanna, Siddharama and Allamaprabhu is an indication of her contribution to the spiritual discussions held at the "Anubhava Mantapa"
- She is in hindsight seen as an inspirational woman for Kannada literature and the history of Karnataka. She is known to have considered the god Shiva ('Chenna Mallikarjuna') as her husband, (traditionally understood as the 'madhura bhava' or 'madhurya' form of devotion).

Approach: Poets and other famous personalities are important from culture section. Basic contribution in their respective fields is important from exam's perspective.

Q31.

Answer: B

Explanation

AMBUBACHI MELA

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The festival is held in the state of Assam.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya.
- The famed Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilachal Hills gets its doors closed during the festival after routine rituals and prayers are offered to the deity.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Related Topics: Losar, Tusu Parob, Kali Puja, Bihu, Ambubachi Festival, Majuli Festival

Q32.

Answer: C

Explanation

ARANMULA BOAT RACE

- The Aranmula Uthrittathi Vallamkali or Aranmula Boat Race is the most ancient and revered boat races of Kerala.
- Held on the day of the Uthrittathi asterism in the Malayalam month of Chingam (corresponding to 15 August and 20 September), it is well known for its grandeur and unique history.
- Aranmula is a heritage village lies in the banks of the river Pampa at the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.
- Legend says that a devout Brahmin promised to provide all the requirements for the Thiruvona Sadya (feast held on the Thiruvonam asterism). These were to be delivered to Aranmula Sree Parthasarathy Temple in a boat called the Thiruvona Thoni. The boat was attacked by enemy factions during its voyage. However, snake boats from the surrounding area came to its rescue and it is from here that the grand tradition of the special snake boat race in the area was born. The snake boat race in itself is an offering to Lord Krishna of Sree Parthasarathy Temple.
- The snake boats used for this race are called Palliyodams. The credit for the design is given to Lord Krishna himself, the chief deity at the Aranmula Sree Parthasarathy Temple. He is said to have appeared on these shores on a raft made of six bamboos, giving the village its name – Aranmula or Six Bamboos.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Q33.

Answer: C

Explanation

BADSHAHI ASHOORKHANA

- The crescent moon of Muharram marks the beginning of New Year in Hijri calendar followed by Muslims. In Hyderabad, which was founded at the beginning of the Islamic millennium of 1/1/1000 which would be October 19 1591, Muharram is the time to remember the Battle of Karbala where 72 people held off the might of the Umayyad Caliph Yezid before being slaughtered.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad, identified himself as a Shia and turned Muharram into a state symbol of piety and mourning. Though Charminar and the Charkaman archways are well known as having been built to by Muhammad Quli, a much more stunning example of the king's contribution to the city is the Ashoorkhana called Badshahi Ashoorkhana near Madina area of the city.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Ashoora or tenth day of Muharram is when the key battle of Karbala took place. People wearing black robes, vegetarianism, fasting and recitation of marsiahs (elegies) show a slice of faith in precincts around Purani Haveli, Hussaini Alam and Dabeerpura during the month. But when it was built, the Badshahi Ashoorkhana was

the hub of mourning for the Shia community.

Context: Telangana government and Aga Khan Trust are working to restore the monument

Related Topics: Golconda Fort, Charminar, Qutub Shahi Tombs

Q34

Answer: B

Explanation

BASAVA

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect AND 2 is correct: Basavanna was a famous Kannada poet , a shiva devotee and a great social reformer.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: He introduced the Vachana style of writing which introduced a social revolution.
- The imagery in Vachanas belongs to the daily life of the ordinary man.
- Dignity of labour and equality of all members of the society was the cardinal points of the Basaveswara movement.

Approach: The poets and social reformers are very important. And Basava was in the news recently for many reasons so it is an important topic for us.

Q35

Answer: C

Explanation

BAGWAL FESTIVAL

- It is celebrated in Barahi temple in Devidhura in Champawat district of Uttarakhand.
- The myth goes that once upon a time, Devidhura was infested with demons. Four clans of Devidhura—the Waliks, Lamgariyas, Chamyals and Gaherwals, locally known as 'khams'—prayed to goddess Barahi to save their lives. The goddess agreed, but in turn demanded that a human sacrifice be made to her every year. So the clans would offer one of their members to the goddess in rotation.
- One year, it so happened that a kham had to sacrifice its last young man to Barahi. His helpless grandmother prayed to the goddess for mercy. The goddess had a turn of heart and declared that as an alternative, members of the four tribes would hurl stones at one another till the blood spilt was equal to that from a human sacrifice. This would take place on the day of Rakhi. Thus began the violent tradition called Bagwal that continues to this day. The clans claim that the ritual brings them prosperity and saves them from ill health and natural calamities.
- Earlier, when the ritual was played out without shields, thousands would be injured. Then a couple of centuries ago, the temple soldiers built themselves elaborate shields of bamboo and ringal grass. It's hardly enough, of course, and hundreds of people are still injured each year.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Q36.

Answer: D

Explanation:

BEHDIENKHLAM FESTIVAL

- Most popular festival of the Jaintia tribe, Behdienkhlam is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest.
- Although Behdienkhlam is celebrated all over the Jaintia hills, the main spectacle happens in the town of Jowai, about 64 km away from Shillong.
- The non-Christian 'Pnar' people who believe either in the traditional faith of 'Niamtre' or Hinduism observe this festival.
- The festival begins with sacrificing pig to 'Knia Pyrthat' (Thunder) followed by the 'Wasan' (Priest) ringing the brass bell along the main road of the town to the point where the forest begins. Rounded, polished and tall trunks of tree are felled in the sacred forest and are left

in the woods for couple of days. The trunks are then brought to the town with great fanfare, dancing and singing. On the fourth day, the youth of the town led by the priest visit each and every home, climb to the roof and beat it with a bamboo stick to chase away any evil spirits. The people also display their artistic skills by erecting 'rots' (tall bamboo structures decorated with colour paper and tinsel). The rots are then carried to the 'Aitnar site', where women and men gather. The rots arrive and the polished, rounded logs are thrown into the river. The dancing men rush and try to balance themselves on the rolling and slippery logs. At the end, 'Dad-Lawakor', a type of football is played with a wooden ball.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Related Topics : Other festivals of North-East India like hornbill, losar etc.

Q37.

Answer: C

Explanation

BENGEI NACHA

- It is a tradition in ODISHA to appease the rain gods.
- As per tradition, two big frogs are snared and then bathed with turmeric water and smeared with vermilion. They are then tied to a long pole with a piece of new cloth and carried around the village to the beat of traditional drums and cymbals. The carriers of the frogs danced to the drumbeats, making the frogs jiggle inside the cloth bundles.
- Throughout the journey, the womenfolk pours turmeric and red water on the frogs. "It looks as if the festival of Holi visited the village along with 'bengei nacha'".
- The procession culminates at the Kali temple in Masiakhali, where a special puja is performed. Later the frogs are released in the nearby fields.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news. This particular festival was in the news recently.

Q38.

Answer: D

Explanation

BONALU FESTIVAL

- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Bonalu is a Hindu Festival where Goddess Mahakali is worshiped.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is an annual festival celebrated in the twin Cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana state, India.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: The festival is considered as a form of thanksgiving to the Goddess after the fulfillment of vows.
- Bonalu is celebrated usually during Ashada Masam that falls in July/August.
- Special poojas are performed for goddess Yellamma during the first and last day of the festival.
- Bonam literally means Meal in Telugu, which is an offering to the Mother Goddess.
- Women folk in household prepare rice that is cooked along with Milk, Jaggery in a New Earthen or Brass Pot, which is adorned with Neem Leaves, Turmeric and Vermilion.
- Women carry these pots on their heads and make an offering of Bonam, including Bangles and Saree to the Mother Goddess at Temples.
- Bonalu involves worship of Kali in her various forms such Mysamma, Pochamma, Yellamma, Dokkalamma, Pedamma, Poleramma, Ankalamma, Maremma, Nookalamma etc.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news. Some basic knowledge of big festival of each state will do the trick. This particular festival was in the news recently.

Related Topics: Bathukamma, Sankranth, Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara.

Q39.

Answer: C

Explanation

BURRAKATHA

Burra Katha, also spelled Burrakatha, is an oral storytelling technique in the Katha tradition, performed in villages of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The troupe consists of one main performer and two co-performers. It is a narrative entertainment that consists of prayers, solo drama, dance, songs, poems and jokes. The topic will be either a Hindu mythological story (Jangam Katha) or a contemporary social issue.

Q40.

Answer: B

Explanation

CHAMPAKULAM MOOLAM BOAT RACE

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Boat races are synonymous with Kerala's identity and Champakkulam is a name that resonates loudly across God's Own Country. It is the oldest Snake Boat Race in the State and kicks off the boat race season annually.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Pampa River plays host to this race held in Champakkulam, a village in Alappuzha district. Held normally in June or July, the crowds it draws are enormous. Massive boats splitting the waters apart as ancient boat songs are hummed make for an exhilarating experience. This is the event that kicks off the boat racing frenzy which takes over the State for the next few months. (STATEMENT 1 is incorrect AND STATEMENT 2 is correct)

Q41.

Answer: A

Explanation:

E-Aksharayan is desktop software for converting scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format in Unicode encoding. It supports major Indian languages- Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese. These are the different ways for Conserving and Promoting the Indian Languages. Barrier-free communication is critical for the country and the goal is to have real-time translation capability in each of the Indic languages.

Approach: There was news regarding 'E-aksharayan'. Such initiatives are important for the promotion and conservation of Indian languages.

Q42.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Deccan Sultanate architectural style was regional variant form of Indo-Islamic architecture, heavily influenced by the styles of the Delhi Sultanate and later Mughal architecture. It was not a regional variant of Indo-Saracenic Architectural style. Indo-Saracenic was a revival architectural style mostly used by British architects in India in the later 19th century, especially in public and government buildings in the British Raj, and the palaces of rulers of the princely states.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Gol Gumbaz, second largest dome in the world, is an example of Deccan Sultanate style of Architecture. Deccan sultanates have constructed many grand and impregnable forts. Bidar and Golconda forts are a classic example of military planning of Deccan sultanates. Apart from forts, they have constructed many tombs, mosques, and madrasas. Gol Gumbaz (tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah), was the second largest dome in the world.

Approach: This is from the static part of the syllabus. Such topics need comprehensive preparation.

Related Topic: Read about differences and similarities between Indo-Saracenic Architectural style and Indo-Islamic architecture.

Q43.

Answer: B

Explanation:

OPTION (a) is incorrect as Gond Painting is practiced in central Indian state like Madhya Pradesh.

OPTION (b) is correct as Madhubani art (or Mithila painting) is practiced in the Mithila region of the Indian subcontinent. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, etc. Using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterized by eye-catching geometrical patterns. There is ritual content for particular occasions, such as a birth or marriage, and festivals, such as Holi, Surya Shasti, Kali Puja, Upanayana, Durga Puja.

OPTION (c) is incorrect as Warli Painting is practiced in Maharashtra and Gujarat state.

OPTION (d) is wrong as patachitra story-scroll tradition is practiced in the state of West Bengal.

Approach: This is from the static part of the syllabus. Such topics need comprehensive preparation.

Related Topic: Gond, Madhubani, Warli Painting, patachitra

Q44.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option(a) is correct as The Kailasha temple is one of the largest Indian rock-cut ancient Hindu temples located in the Ellora Caves, Maharashtra, India. A megalith carved out of one single rock, it is considered one of the most remarkable cave temples in India because of its size, architecture and sculptural treatment.

Kailasa temple (Cave 16) is one of the 34 cave temples and monasteries are known collectively as the Ellora Caves. Its construction is generally attributed to the eighth-century Rashtrakuta king Krishna I (r. c. 756 – 773). The temple architecture shows traces of Pallava and Chalukya styles.

The world famous Kailashnath temple is a marvelous example of Rashtrakuta architecture. The Kailashnath temple at Ellora, near Aurangabad in Maharashtra, was built by Krishna I (757-783 A.D.) of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. It is a rock-cut temple and has four parts- the body of the temple, the entrance gate, the Nandi shrine and a group of five shrines surrounding the courtyard. The Kailasa temples resemble the Chalukya temples at Pattadakal but it is far more refined in its design than the temples at Pattadakal.

Related Topic : Ajanta And Ellora Caves.

Q45.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Ajanta is primarily a Buddhist cave and Ellora is a combination of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain caves.

STATEMENT 2 is correct Ajanta is primarily a system of caves mostly famous for the paintings, but Ellora is a collection of caves mostly famous for the massive sculptures depicting gods and goddesses of the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain faiths.

The Ajanta Caves are 30 (approximately) rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India.] The caves include paintings and rock-cut sculptures described as among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art, particularly expressive paintings that present emotion through gesture, pose and form.

According to UNESCO, these are masterpieces of Buddhist religious art that influenced the Indian art that followed. The caves were built in two phases, the first phase starting around the 2nd century BCE, while the second phase was built around 400–650 CE, according to older accounts, or in a brief period of 460–480 CE according to later scholarship. The site is a protected monument in the care of the Archaeological Survey of India, and since 1983, the Ajanta Caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ellora is located in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, India, is one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple cave complexes in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments, and artwork, dating from the 600-1000 CE period. Cave 16, in particular, features the largest single monolithic rock excavation in the world, the Kailasa temple, a chariot shaped monument dedicated to Shiva. The Kailasha temple excavation also features sculptures depicting the gods, goddesses and mythologies found in Vaishnavism, Shaktism as well as relief panels summarizing the two major Hindu Epics.

Related Topic: Differences between Ajanta and Ellora Caves.

Q46

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Koodiyattam is a traditional performing art form in the state of Kerala and not Tamilnadu. It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, a Tamil/Malayalam performing art which is as old as Sangam era.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Koodiyattam is officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Approach: This is from the static part of the syllabus. Usually UNESCO related issues are important from exam's perspective.

Related Topic: Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Manipuri, Kuchipudi and Odissi

Q47.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Lohagarh Fort is situated at Bharatpur in Rajasthan, India and not in the state of Haryana.

STATEMENT 2 as Lohagarh Fort was constructed by Hindu rulers, Maharaja Suraj Mal. He used all his power and wealth to a good cause and built numerous forts and palaces across his kingdom, one of them being the Lohagarh Fort (Iron fort), which was one of the strongest ever built in Indian history.

Q48

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism and not by the Ministry of Culture. International Buddhist Conclave 2018 will have a religious / spiritual dimension, an academic theme and a diplomatic and business component. Ministry of Tourism has invited senior leaders of various Buddhist sects, scholars, public leaders, journalists and international and domestic tour operators to increase footfalls to the Buddhist circuit in the country from other parts of the world, and participants from countries having significant Buddhist population including the ASEAN region and Japan.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the Ministry of Tourism organized this event biannually. It is not organized annually. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has been organizing the International Buddhist Conclave biennially. The earlier International Buddhist Conclaves were organized in New Delhi and Bodhgaya (February 2004), Nalanda and Bodhgaya (February 2010), Varanasi and Bodhgaya (September 2012), Bodhgaya and Varanasi (September 2014) and in Sarnath/Varanasi and Bodhgaya (October 2016).

Approach: International Buddhist Conclave (IBC) was in news recently. Keep a close watch on the developments related to this event.

Q49

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Jama Masjid Gulbarga is located in the state of Karnataka.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it was built by Mohammed Shah I to commemorate Gulbarga as the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate. The Jama Masjid Gulbarga does not have minarets. Built inside the Gulbarga Fort is a unique mosque with a huge dome and smaller ones as embellishments

Q50.**Answer: A****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Bijak' is a composition of the teachings of Kabir.

Compositions of Kabir are Bijak, Kabir Parachai, Sakhi Granth, and Kabir Granthawali.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Kabir was a Nirgun Bhakti Saint. So STATEMENT 2 is incorrect.

Q51.**Answer: A****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2: It is the festival to pray to overcome the destructive forces of nature. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Behdienkhlam Festival is the most celebrated religious festival among the Pnars or Jaintias community. It is popular at Jowai the District headquarters of Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

This festival is held after the sowing season is over so as to overcome any destructive forces of nature including diseases by invoking God for a good harvest.

Approach: Culture-related questions need extensive reading and some of these topics appear sometimes in news.

Related Topics: Ambubachi Mela and Cherry Blossom festival.

Q52.**Answer: C****Explanation:**

Kabir was a famous disciple of Ramananda. He emphasized the essential oneness of all religions by describing Hindus and Muslims 'as pots of the same clay'. To him Rama and Allah, temple and mosque were the same. He regarded devotion to god as an effective means of salvation and urged that to achieve this one must have a pure heart, free from cruelty, dishonesty, hypocrisy, and insincerity. He is regarded as the greatest of the mystic saints and his followers are called Kabirpanthis.

Context: Recently 500th death anniversary of Kabir was observed.

Related Topics: Sufism

Q53**Answer: A****Explanation:**

The project maluti involves conservation of 62 temples among 108 temples which were in a dilapidated condition in the state of Jharkhand. It is carried out by Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development, an NGO with cooperation with government agencies.

Approach: Keep yourself abreast with the important cultural and architecture rejuvenation projects carried out in India. These projects become important from the exam's perspective.

Related Topics: Restoration of cultural elements by India in foreign countries.

Q54.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is present in India for more than 2000 years and incorrect.

Paithani weaving technique, popular for its unique art and tradition is the carrier of a legacy for over 2000 years. Born in Paithan, the splendid capital of Satvahana Dynasty in 200 BC on the banks of divine Godavari River, Paithani grew under the patronage of the Satvahana dynasty of kings. Later it progressed throughout the Deccan region. Paithani uses the ancient technique of tapestry where multiple threads of different along with gold and silver threads are woven together to form a fascinating piece of silk. In the distant past, Romans imported this golden woven fabric in exchange for gold of equal weight. The art of Paithani survived under successive rulers. In fact, it flourished under Aurangzeb, who not only brought it back to its glory but also incorporated many novelties in appearance. The well-known floral motifs and AmarVell are contributions from the Mughal era.

Peacock is one of the famous motifs in Pathani saris.

Q55.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Neermahal literally means Water palace. The palace is located in the middle of the Rudrasagar Lake built by Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya. Every year the Neermahal water festival will be conducted in the lake. A big attraction of the Neermahal water festival is boat race in Rudrasagar Lake.

Approach: Make a list of the important festivals of North East India and do a regular revision of the list.

Q56

Answer: C

Explanation:

ENTRY 2: Tamil is not part of the award. Hence it is incorrect.

The Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinction is conferred on persons once a year by the President of India in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, and Classical Malayalam. The award was introduced in the year 2002, is given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years.

Approach: Make a list of important awards from the various fields in India. An indirect question can be asked from this portion.

Q57.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It originated from the northern part of Kerala and hence incorrect.

Theyyam is one of the famous ritual art forms of Kerala that originated from the northern part of Kerala. It encompasses dance, mime, and music. It exalts the beliefs of the ancient tribal who gave a lot of importance to the worship of heroes and the spirits of their ancestors. The ceremonial dance is accompanied by the chorus of such musical instruments as Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal, and Veekkuchenda. There are over 400 separate Theyyams, each with their own music, style, and choreography. The most prominent among these are Raktha Chamundi, Kari Chamundi, Muchilottu Bhagavathi, Wayanadu Kulaven, Gulikan, and Pottan.

There is no stage or curtain or other such arrangements for the performance. The devotees would

be standing or some of them would be sitting on a sacred tree in front of the shrine which is an open theatre.

Approach: Sabarimala has appeared in the news for the tradition followed at temple. Keep yourself abreast with the cultural traditions of Sabarimala. A question might be asked from this section.

Q58.

Answer: B

Explanation:

ENTRY 2: Nautanki belongs to Uttar Pradesh. Hence it is incorrect.

Bhavai is the traditional theatre form of Gujarat. The centers of this form are Kutch and Kathiawar.

Nautanki is usually associated with Uttar Pradesh. The most popular centers of this traditional theatre form are Kanpur, Lucknow, and Haathras.

Therukoothu, the most popular form of the folk drama of Tamil Nadu, literally means street play. It is mostly performed at the time of annual temple festivals of Mariamman (Rain goddess) to achieve rich harvest. At the core of the extensive repertoire of Therukoothu, there is a cycle of eight plays based on the life of Draupadi.

Q59.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Putul Nautch is the traditional rod puppet of West Bengal. The puppets are carved from wood and follow the various artistic styles of a particular region of Bengal. The Bengal rod-puppets, which survive are about 3 to 4 feet in height and are costumed like the actors of Jatra, a traditional theatre form prevalent in the State. These puppets have mostly three joints. The heads, supported by the main rod, is joined at the neck and both hands attached to rods are joined at the shoulders and the technique of manipulation is interesting and highly theatrical.

Q60.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Earliest reference was present in Silappadikaram and hence incorrect.

The earliest reference to the art of puppetry is found in Tamil classic 'Silappadikaram' written around the 1st or 2nd century B.C. Natyashastra, the masterly treatise on dramaturgy was written sometime during the 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD., does not refer to the art of puppetry but the producer-cum-director of the human theatre has been termed as 'Sutradhar' meaning the holder of strings. The word might have found its place in theatre-terminology long before Natyashastra was written but it must come from marionette theatre. Puppetry, therefore, must have originated in India more than 500 years before Christ.

Almost all types of puppets are found in India. Puppetry throughout the ages has held an important place in traditional entertainment.

Q61.

Answer: A

Explanation:

OPTION A: It came into existence in the 17th century. Hence it is incorrect.

Krishnattam is the folk theatre of Kerala, came into existence in the middle of the 17th century A.D. under the patronage of King Manavada of Calicut. The episodes are based on the theme of Lord Krishna from his birth, childhood pranks and various deeds depicting the victory of good over evil.

Mudiyettu is the traditional folk theatre form of Kerala is celebrated in the month of Vrischikam. It

is usually performed only in the Kali temples of Kerala, as an oblation to the Goddess.

Koodiyaattam is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala, is based on Sanskrit theatre traditions. Emphasis on hand gestures and eye movements makes this dance and theatre form unique.

Approach: The cultural traditions of India are important from the exam's perspective. A tradition that was in news recently can be asked in the preliminary exam. You can refer to websites like cctindia.gov.in.

Q62.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Only PAIR 3 and 4 are correctly matched

Onam and Vishu are agricultural festivals celebrated by Malayali people in Kerala and elsewhere in the world

Nabanna is celebrated in Bengal region which comprises West Bengal, India, and Bangladesh

Pongal celebrated by the Tamil people in Tamil Nadu, India and other places

Behdienkhlam is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest by Jaintia tribe of Meghalaya

Q63.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It is provided by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The National Kalidas Samman is a prestigious arts award presented annually by the government of Madhya Pradesh in India. The award is named after Kalidasa, a renowned Classical Sanskrit writer of ancient India. The Kalidas Samman was first awarded in 1980. It was initially conferred in alternate years in the fields of Classical Music, Classical Dance, Theatre and Plastic Arts. From 1986-87 onwards, the awards were presented in all four fields every year.

Approach: Culture current affairs question. Awards and honors are important from the exam perspective.

Q64.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: Brazil and Russia are ranked below India. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The Logistics Performance Index is an interactive benchmarking tool created 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. The LPI 2018 allows for comparisons across 160 countries. It is released by the World Bank Group.

In the 2018 report, India is ranked 44th with China 26, South Africa 33, Brazil 56 and Russian Federation 75.

Approach: Prepare a chart of important index and reports.

Related Topics: Ease of Doing Business, World Development Report, Ease of Living Index, Global Economic Prospect (GEP) report

2017 RESULTS

5 Ranks in Top 10

34 Ranks in Top 100

236 Ranks in Final List



RANK 3
Sachin
Gupta



RANK 6
Koya sree
Harsha



RANK 8
Anubhav
Singh



RANK 9
Saumya
Sharma



RANK 10
Abhishek
Surana



RANK 11
Siddharth
Jain



RANK 12
Ashima
Mittal



RANK 19
Abhijeet
Sinha

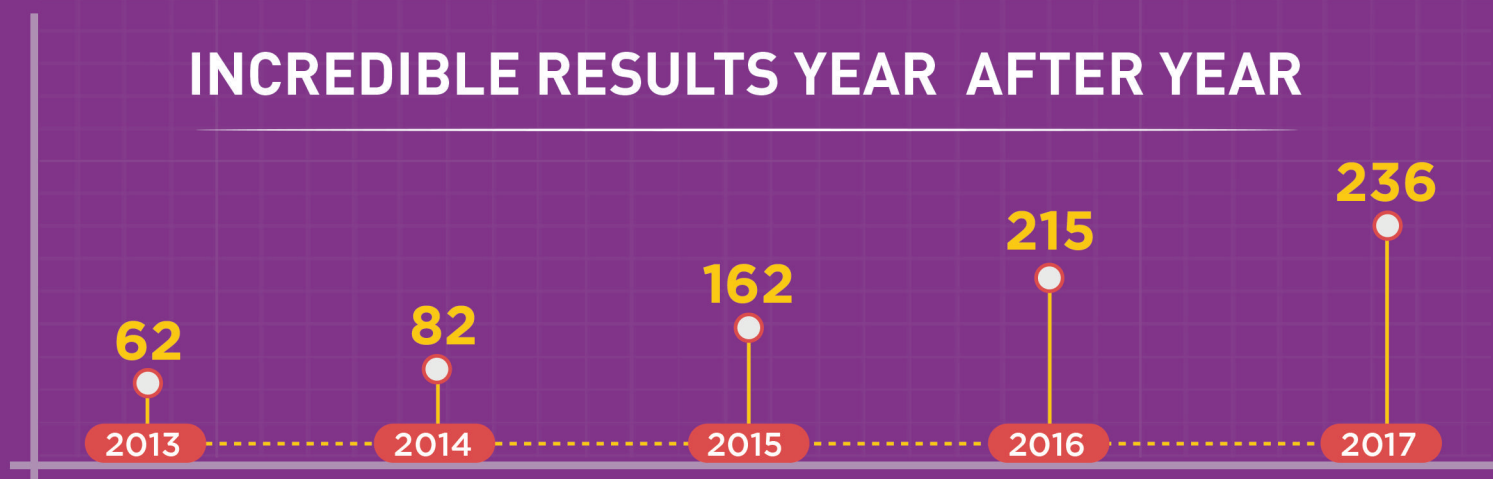


RANK 21
Varjeet
Walia



RANK 29
Keerthi
Vasan V

INCREDIBLE RESULTS YEAR AFTER YEAR



*The above results indicate the number of students who made it to the final list

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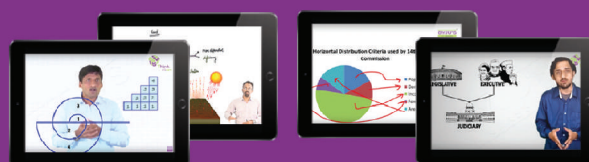
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