

TARGET PRELIMS 2019

Question Bank (Vol II)

September 2018 till November 2018.

350+ Questions with Explanation, Approach, Related TopicsURLs.



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ECONOMY



Q1. The 'Aapoorti' mobile App recently launched by Indian Railways offers

- a) Online food delivery option for passengers
- b) e-tendering and e-auction related activities of Indian Railways
- c) E-ticketing option for passengers
- d) Online redressal of passenger's grievances

Q2. 'Agmark' a certification mark is issued by:

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) Directorate of Marketing and Inspection
- c) Food Corporation of India
- d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. When Central Bank decides to lower the value of its currency voluntarily, it is called Depreciation.

2. The same effect of lowering the value of currency but due to market forces and not by Central Bank is called Devaluation.

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. Consider the following about 'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana':

1. It has been launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India.

2. It has been launched for insured persons already covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q5. Which of the following best describes 'Capital Structure of a firm'?

- a) It shows how a firm finances its overall operations and growth by using different sources of funds.
- b) It shows how much money a company invested to buy assets.
- c) It shows how many exports a firm has done in a year
- d) None of the above

Q6. Recently Government has set up an empowered committee headed by cabinet secretary P.K. Sinha to

- a) Recommend the guidelines to be followed for bank mergers
- b) Deal with the problems of struggling power sector assets

c) Collect information about the effects of Demonetization

d) Prepare a framework on how to collect job creation data.

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'Securities and Exchange Board of India':

1. It is a statutory body.

2. The SEBI regulates the equities markets and not the commodities markets.

3. Mutual Funds in India are regulated by SEBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about 'Financial Inclusion Index':

1. It is released by NITI Aayog.

2. It is a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.

3. Access to financial services, Usage of financial services and Quality are the three measurement dimensions of the index.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following questions about 'Non-Banking Financial Company':

1. It is registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

2. They accept demand deposits, lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks.

3. NBFC does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q10. Consider the following about 'The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007':

1. This Act provides for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India.

2. This designates the National Payments Corporation of India as the authority for that purpose and for matters connected with payments system 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

Q11. Match the following 'committees' with their 'terms of reference':

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Nachiket Mor Committee | A. Committee on Digital Payments |
| 2. Watal Committee | B. Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households |
| 3. Narasimham Committee | C. Committee to review FRBM Act |
| 4. N.K. Singh Panel | D. Committee on Banking Sector reforms |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1-B 2-C 3-D 4-A
- b) 1-B 2-D 3-A 4-C
- c) 1-D 2-A 3-C 4-B
- d) 1-B 2-A 3-D 4-C

Q12. Consider the following about 'India Post Payments Bank':

- 1. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was setup under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India.
- 2. IPPB will provide the banking services to urban and rural areas.
- 3. It will offer a range of products— like ATM/Debit cards, credit cards etc.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q13. Consider the following about 'Balance of Current Account' of a country:

- 1. It includes investments and borrowing of a country.
- 2. Balance of Trade is a part of Balance of Current Account.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q14. Consider the following about 'Cabinet Committees':

- 1. They are constitutional bodies.

2. They only include the ministers in charge of subjects covered by them.

3. They facilitate in-depth examination of policy issues and effective coordination.

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund':

- 1. It will be set up with NABARD.
- 2. The project will be implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC) directly.
- 3. The project will focus on building an efficient milk procurement system.

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

Q16. Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index is released by

- a) United Nation Development Programme
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) The World Bank
- d) Institute of Economics and Peace

Q17. Consider the following statements about 'National Digital Communications Policy-2018':

- 1. It aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen.
- 2. It aims to provide 1 Mbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Mbps by 2022.
- 3. The objective is to train one million man power for building New Age Skill.

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

Q18. Consider the following statements about 'Goods and Services Tax Network':

- 1. GST Network (GSTN) is a non-Government, private limited company.
- 2. The Company has been set up primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to the Central and State Governments, tax payers and other stakeholders for implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Which of the above statements 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 'Real Estate Investment Trusts':

1. They are listed entities which pool in income from investors.
2. They invest in commercial properties to generate income.
3. REITs are regulated by the RBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q20. Which of the following would help to reduce Current Account Deficit of India?

1. Imposing import restrictions on non-essential goods.
2. Boosting exports of Textile industry by providing different incentives.
3. By encouraging public to import gold in large quantity.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q21. Consider the following statements about 'Heritage Irrigation Structure':

1. It is a process for recognition of the historical irrigation structures by UNESCO.
2. Recently Sadarmatt anicut and Pedda Cheruvu from Telangana got Heritage Irrigation Structure tag.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q22. Recently Government hiked the import duty on selected goods, what impact will it have on Indian Economy:

- a) Current account deficit will reduce and domestic demand will improve.
- b) Current account deficit will increase and domestic demand will decrease.
- c) It will have no impact on Current account deficit.
- d) Current account deficit will reduce but it won't have any impact on domestic demand.

Q23. Consider the following statements about the Ease of Doing Business Report:

1. It is a measure of business regulation and policies of various countries.

2. India ranked 77 in 2018 with outstanding performance in registering property and enforcement of contracts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q24. Consider the following statements about the National Housing Bank:

1. It is the wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It releases the RESIDEX that tracks the housing prices at both City and national levels.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q25. 'The Human Capital Index' is released by which of the following?

- a) International Labour Organization
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) The World Bank

Q26. Consider the following statements about the G 20:

1. It is a premium international forum for political cooperation and decision making among members.
2. Though started in 1999, its first G20 Leaders Summit was held only in 2008.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q27. Consider the following statements about the Electoral Bonds:

1. All Political Parties registered with the Election Commission can receive the electoral bonds.
2. It is valid for only 15 days from the date of issue after which no credit will be given to political parties.

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 statements about the effects of Currency Swap Agreement on Indian economy:

1. It helps to maintain the safe levels in the

balance of payment for a short period of time.
2. Indian companies can easily access foreign capital due to the agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q29. Consider the following statements about the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme:

- 1. Issue price of the bond should be paid in cash and on maturity gold can be received.
- 2. Only resident Indians of above 18 years of age can invest in the scheme.

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. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization is attached to

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Prime Minister Office

Q31. Which of the following are the benefits of implementing fixed-term employment in India?

- a) Formalization of the contract employment
- b) Better compensation to contract workers
- c) Simplified recruitment for Corporates
- d) All the above

Q32. Which of the following statements are true about the National Council for Vocational Education and Training?

- 1. It directly regulates the vocational training institutes and establishes minimum standards for them.
- 2. It helps in greater private investment in the skills space of Indian economy.

Select the correct code given below:

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

Q33. Recently the Government has launched the GrAMs programme in order to

- a) Strengthen rural agricultural marketing
- b) Increase green cover to 33%
- c) Achieve universal rural sanitation
- d) Improve the Anganwadi centers

Q34. Consider the following statements about the electronic manufacturing sector in India:

- 1. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme

reimburses all excise duty paid on capital equipment.

- 2. The Government aims to reduce the import of electronic goods to zero by the year 2020.

Codes:

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

Q35. Fatal road accidents are increasing across the world, in this context, consider the following statements about Road safety in India:

- 1. The National Highways contribute to around 50% of fatal road accidents in India.
- 2. The drivers fault of driving at high speed leads to more than 60% of deaths on the road.

3. District Road Safety Committee chaired by District Magistrate undertakes road safety programmes in the district level.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q36. 'Bali Fintech Agenda', recently seen in the news was the initiative of

- a) The World Bank Group
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) Asian Development Bank
- d) Both a and b

Q37. Which of the following statements is not correct according to the agriculture census 2015-16?

- a) The number of operational holdings shown solid growth.
- b) Role of women in the management of agricultural land decreases.
- c) The size of operational holdings of agricultural land has shown a consistent reduction.
- d) Rajasthan has the highest operational area holdings

Q38. Consider the following statements about the Global Competitiveness Report:

- 1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
- 2. In 2018 index, India is found as the weakest performer in the Information and communication technology adoption.

Codes:

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

Q39. Consider the following statements about the World Tourism Organization:

1. It is an independent organization working towards the promotion of tourism.
2. The Tourism Emergency Response Network is managed by it for managing disasters.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q40. Consider the following statements about the Open Acreage Licensing Policy:

1. It is introduced under the provisions of New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP).
2. Under it, companies can select exploration blocks even without a formal bid from the government.

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. Which of the following statements is true about the Limited Liability Partnership?

- a) Individual Partners are jointly liable to the actions of other partners.
- b) The internal structure of it is regulated by statutory provisions.
- c) It requires lesser statutory compliance as compared to companies.
- d) It has less flexibility in functioning compared to companies.

Q42. Consider the following statements about the Direct Tax in India:

1. For the last few years, the quantum of returns filed has drastically increased.
2. In spite of the increase in returns the direct tax-GDP ratio is falling consistently.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q43. Which of the following industrial sectors are considered as core industries in India?

1. Automobiles Manufacturing
2. Cement
3. Refinery Products

Codes:

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

Q44. Consider the statements about Angel Tax :

1. It has to be paid by all companies which receive capital through angel funding.
2. It has reduced the confidence of the start-ups in India and reduced their number of incorporation 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

Q45. Which one of the following is correct regarding 'Anti-dumping duty'?

- a) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value
- b) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on domestic products that it believes are priced below fair market value
- c) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced above fair market value
- d) It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on domestic products that it believes are priced above fair market value

Q46. Consider the following statements about 'Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)':

1. It functions under The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
2. It provides comprehensive and swift trade defence mechanism 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

Q47. What is/are the possible impact of increasing Global crude oil prices on Indian Economy?

1. Current Account Deficit (CAD) of India will increase.
2. There will be higher risk of Inflationary pressure on Indian Economy.

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 'Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)':

1. It cannot accept demand deposits.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) provisions of Scheduled Commercial bank does not apply to any NBFCs

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 'National Housing Bank (NHB)':

1. It is wholly owned by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which contributed the entire paid-up capital.
2. NHB has been established with an objective to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Q50. With reference to Central government Schemes, Consider the following statements about "Operation Greens"

1. It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) .
 2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.
 3. Its aim is integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q51. "Baba Kalyani committee" sometimes in news is related to:

- a) SEZ policy of India
- b) Health policy of India
- c) Existing APMC Market of India
- d) NPA Issue of India

Q52. With reference to Inland Waterways Project, Consider the following statements about "Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)"

1. It is for capacity augmentation of navigation on National Waterway-2 (NW-2).
2. It is being implemented with the technical assistance and investment support of the Asian Development Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q53. With reference to National Gas Grid, Consider the following statements about "Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project"

1. The project was launched to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of western region of the country and CNG gas for the vehicles.
2. It is being implemented by state-run gas utility GAIL.

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

Q54. Consider the following statements about "Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP)"

1. It works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA).
2. India has been a member of this Programme since 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

Q55. With reference to a Special Economic Zones of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A SEZ is a specified demarcated duty-free territory, which for the purpose of trade operations is deemed to be considered outside the customs territory of India.
2. While all exports of goods/ services and supplies of goods/ services made to a SEZ are chargeable to IGST, however, these supplies shall be treated as zero-rated supplies under GST.

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

Q56. Consider the following statements about "Bharat Stage emission standards" of India

1. India has skipped the Bharat Stage VI norms and will implement the Bharat Stage VII nationwide from 2020.
2. The standards and the timeline for its implementation are set by the Central

Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change.

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

Q57. Consider the following statements about “Bali Fintech Agenda”

- 1. It was jointly launched by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- 2. These are policy recommendations for better harnessing the benefits and opportunities of rapid advances in financial 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

Q58. Consider the following statements about “Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)”

- 1. It is a joint venture of five National Public Sector Enterprises.
- 2. It was formed under India's Ministry of Power to facilitate energy efficiency projects.

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

Q59. Consider the following statements about “Global Hunger Index 2018”

- 1. The Global Hunger Index 2018 report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).
- 2. The Index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 100 being the best score (no hunger) and 0 being the worst.

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 about “Global Wage Report 2018-19”

- 1. It is published by the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- 2. According to the report, India and Pakistan had the highest gap of 34.5 per cent and 34 percent respectively between what men and women earn.

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

Q61. Consider the following statements about “Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR) 2018”

- 1. It was released by the UN Environment Programme.
- 2. It evaluates the capacities and performance of the nations around the world to measure sustainability of economy and wellbeing of their people.

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

ECONOMY

Ans 1) (b)

Explanation

AAPOORTI MOBILE APP

This App provides information and data related to e-tendering and e-auction related activities of Indian Railways.

For e-tendering activities, users can see details related to tenders published, tenders closed, purchase orders placed.

For activities related to e-auction of scrap sale, users can see upcoming auctions, auction schedules, sale conditions, details of material available for e-auction, auctioning units.

User manuals of IREPS are also made available on the App.

The App also provides for rating of the app and taking feedback from users which shall help us continuously improve the app.

Approach: All these initiatives are important. UPSC always ask questions from these areas. So it is better for us to know all the new initiatives of the Government.

And 2) (b)

Explanation:

AGMARK

It is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, ensuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare.

The AGMARK is legally enforced in India by the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 (and amended in 1986).

The present AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for 205 different commodities spanning a variety of Pulses, Cereals, Essential Oils, Vegetable Oils, Fruits & Vegetables, and semi-processed products like Vermicelli.

The term Agmark was coined by joining the words 'Ag' to mean agriculture and 'mark' for a certification mark. This term was introduced originally in the bill presented in the parliament of India for the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act.

Approach: A very important topic in Agriculture section. Already a question has been asked in 2017. Recently it was in the news as Ministry of Agriculture launched an online platform for processing applications related to quality certification mark 'Agmark' for agricultural products.

Related Topic: PM Fasal Bima Yojana

Ans 3) (d)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is wrong: When the exchange rate of a country's currency is fixed, the central bank may choose to lower its value by decision. This is called DEVALUATION. The result is a new rate that is fixed by the central bank with respect to a foreign reference currency.

STATEMENT 2 is wrong: The same effect of lowering of the value of currency but by market forces and not by the policies of the central bank is called DEPRECIATION.

Revaluation: When central bank increases the value of currency voluntarily.

Appreciation: When the value of domestic currency increases with reference to other currency due to market forces.

Approach: This is the basic concept of economy. One should be very well aware of the concept. Recently there was a news regarding Argentina, whose economy is facing many challenges. This question has been framed from that news.

Related Topics: Flexible Exchange Rate System and Fixed Exchange Rate System

Ans 4) (b)

Explanation

ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJANA

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It has been launched by Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Ministry of Labour & Employment, and Government of India.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It has been launched for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to the Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.

The cash benefit given to the unemployed persons searching for new employment will be 25 percent of his average earnings of 90 days.

Around 3.2 crore Insured Persons (IPs) will benefit from newly launched scheme of ESIC 'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna'.

Approach: Schemes are always important especially the new ones.

Related Topics: Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan

Ans 5) (a)**Explanation**

CAPITAL STRUCTURE: The capital structure is how a firm finances its overall operations and growth by using different sources of funds. It is how a firm uses debt and equity in different proportions to finance its operations. Debt comes in the form of bond issues or long-term notes payable, while equity is classified as common stock, preferred stock or retained earnings. Short-term debt such as working capital requirements is also considered to be part of the capital structure.

A firm with a relatively high proportion of debt financing its operations compared to the size of its equity is generally considered riskier than one that is financed primarily through equity.

At the same time, since the use of leverage helps to multiply the size of overall gains, the use of debt can help the owners of a firm earn a higher return on the investment.

Approach: In economics type of question is frequently asked where they will ask you about a term recently seen in the news. Be very clear of the terms you come across in the news related to economics.

Ans 6) (b)**Explanation**

The Government has set up an empowered committee headed by cabinet secretary P.K. Sinha to deal with problems of struggling power assets.

This High Level Empowered Committee, headed by Cabinet Secretary, has representatives from Ministries, including Railways, Finance, Power and Coal, and from lenders having major exposure to the power sector.

The Committee will look into the various issues to resolve them and maximise the efficiency of investment. This includes changes required to be made in the fuel allocation policy, regulatory framework, mechanisms to facilitate the sale of power and ensure timely payments.

Approach: The committees are always important. In the last few years a dedicated effort has been made to resolve NPA crisis in Power sector. So we should be aware of every committee or effort made in the power sector.

Related Topics: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India

Ans 7) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It was established in 1988 and given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: In 2015, the FMC merged with SEBI in the aftermath of Rs 65,000 million National Spot Exchange (NSEL) payment crisis. The SEBI currently regulates both equities and commodities markets.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: Mutual funds raise money from the public and invest them in the stock market securities, bonds etc. SEBI regulates them.

Approach: SEBI is always in the news due to many reasons and is a very important regulatory body for Securities market in India. One should be aware of the basic functions of SEBI. Recently SEBI cut down expense ratio of Mutual Funds

Related Topics: Reserve Bank of India

Ans 8) (c)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is released by Ministry of Finance.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: The index will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.

The single composite index gives a snapshot of the level of financial inclusion that would guide Macro Policy perspective.

It enables fulfilment of G20 Financial Inclusion Indicators requirements. It will also facilitate researchers to study the impact of financial inclusion and other macroeconomic variables.

Approach: Indices are always asked in the exam. Indices released by the Government are extremely important. Recently Financial Inclusion Index was released.

Related Topics: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index.

Ans 9) (a)

Explanation

NON BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANY

STATEMENT 1 is correct: A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks; however there are a few differences as given below:

- i. NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;
- ii. NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
- iii. deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in the case of banks.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: NBFC does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property. A non-banking institution which is a company and has principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in instalments by way of contributions or in any other manner is also a non-banking financial company (Residuary Non-banking Company).

Approach: Recently Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), an NBFC, defaulted on their loan repayment. This makes this concept of NBFC very important.

Related Topic: Mutual Funds, Chit funds etc.

Ans 10) (a)**Explanation**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 provides for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The Reserve Bank of India shall be the designated authority for the regulation and supervision of payment systems under this Act.

The Reserve Bank may, for the purposes of exercising the powers and performing the functions and discharging the duties conferred on it by or under this Act, by regulation, constitute a committee of its Central Board to be known as the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems.

Approach: Recently, Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Subhash Chandra Garg submitted draft Payment and Settlement System Bill, 2018, which seeks to setup independent Payments Regulatory Board (PRB). In this context this topic becomes very important for us to cover.

Related Topics: National Payments Corporation of India

Ans 11) (d)**Explanation**

Nachiket Mor Committee: The “Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households” was set up by the RBI in Sep 2013 under the chairmanship of Nachiket Mor, an RBI board member. Watal Committee: The Vision of the Committee was to set a roadmap for digital payments to grow substantially. It was set up in 2016.

Narasimham Committee: The committee was set up twice, first in 1991 and the second in 1998, many banking sector reforms were conducted based on the recommendations of this committee.

N.K. Singh Panel: The government had set up a high-level panel chaired by former revenue and expenditure secretary and Member of Parliament NK Singh to review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act and examine the need to have flexible fiscal deficit targets instead of fixed ones.

Approach: These are very important committees which are always in the news. In economy you should be well aware of these committees and their recommendations.

Related Topics: Recommendations of all four committees.

Ans 12) (b)**Explanation**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was setup under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. IPPB was launched as a pilot project on 30 January 2017 in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh).

STATEMENT 2 is correct: IPPB will provide banking services to urban and rural areas, but its primary focus would be on rural segment.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It will offer a range of products—savings and current accounts, money transfer, direct benefit transfer, bill and utility payments, enterprise and merchant payments. These products, and services, will be offered across multiple channels (counter services, micro-ATM, mobile banking app, SMS and IVR). But it will not offer Credit cards.

It will also provide access to third-party financial services such as insurance, mutual funds, pension, credit products and forex.

It will not offer any ATM debit card. Instead, it will provide its customers a QR Code-based biometric card. The card will have the customer's account number embedded and the customer does not have to remember his/her account number to access the account.

IPPB has also partnered with different financial organisations to provide loans, investments and insurance products.

Approach: Payments bank are important from financial inclusion point of view. Already question has been asked from this topic. So it is important for us to be updated about all the new additions

to the topic.

Related Topics: Features of Payments Banks

Ans 13) (b)

Explanation

BALANCE OF CURRENT ACCOUNT: The current account records a nation's transactions with the rest of the world – specifically its net trade in goods and services, its net earnings on cross-border investments, and its net transfer payments – over a defined period of time, such as a year or a quarter.

A country's current account balance may be positive (a surplus) or negative (a deficit); in either case the capital account balance will register an equal and opposite amount.

A positive current account balance indicates that the nation is a net lender to the rest of the world, while a negative current account balance indicates that it is a net borrower. A current account surplus increases a nation's net foreign assets by the amount of the surplus, while a current account deficit decreases it by the amount of the deficit.

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Balance of Current Account includes balance of trade (export and import of goods), balances of services and remittances. Investments and borrowings are part of capital account.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Balance of Trade is a part of Balance of Current Account.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

It is an overall statement of a country's economic transactions with the rest of the world in a year. It includes all receipts and payments.

Approach: Recently government announced some steps to contain widening current account deficit. In this context it is important for us to link this news with our static syllabus. This is a basic concept of economy.

Related Topics: Convertibility of Rupee

Ans 14) (a)

Explanation

CABINET COMMITTEES

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: They are an organizational device to reduce the enormous workload of the Cabinet. They also facilitate in-depth examination of policy issues and effective coordination. They are based on the principle of division of labour and effective delegation.

They are of two types—standing and ad hoc.

Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.

They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.

They not only sort out issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet, but also take decisions. However, the Cabinet can review their decisions.

Approach: We hear cabinet committee word a lot of time in the news. Recently also cabinet committee on Economic Affairs approved Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund. So we should know about the basics of these committees.

Related Topics: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund

Ans 15) (d)

Explanation

Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund” (DIDF) with an outlay of Rs 10,881 crore during the period from 2017-18 to 2028-29.

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund will be set up as a corpus of Rs 8004 crore with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The project will focus on building an efficient milk procurement system by setting up of chilling infrastructure & installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment, creation/modernization/expansion of processing infrastructure and manufacturing facilities for Value Added Products for the Milk Unions/ Milk Producer Companies.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: The project will be implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC) directly through the End Borrowers such as Milk Unions, State Dairy Federations, Multi-state Milk Cooperatives, Milk Producer Companies and NDDB subsidiaries meeting the eligibility criteria under the project. An Implementation and Monitoring Cell (IMC) located at NDDB, Anand, will manage the implementation and monitoring of day-to-day project activities. The end borrowers will get the loan @ 6.5% per annum. The period of repayment will be 10 years with initial two years moratorium. The respective State Government will be the guarantor of loan repayment. Also for the project sanctioned if the end user is not able to contribute its share; State Government will contribute the same.

Approach: Usually questions are asked in UPSC whenever a fund is created by the government. So keep track of it.

Related Topics: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

Ans 16) (a)

Explanation

Multidimensional Poverty Index

The 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) identifies multiple deprivations at the household and individual level in health, education and standard of living. It uses micro data from household surveys, and—unlike the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index—all the indicators needed to construct the measure must come from the same survey.

The MPI reflects both the incidence of multidimensional deprivation (a headcount of those in multidimensional poverty) and its intensity (the average deprivation score experienced by poor people).

The MPI offers a valuable complement to income-based poverty measures.

Related Topics: Human Development Index

Ans 17) (c)

Explanation

Key features of National Digital Communications Policy-2018

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: Train one million manpower for building New Age Skill.

Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas.

Attract investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector.

Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.

Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.

Facilitate India's effective participation in the global digital economy.

Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

Another target of the policy is to establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals. In this way, it will enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

Context: The new telecom policy has been formulated, in place of the existing National Telecom Policy-2012.

And 18) (c)

Explanation

Goods and Services Tax Network

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is a Section 8 (under new companies Act, not for profit companies are governed under section 8), non-Government, private limited company.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Company has been set up primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to the Central and State Governments, tax payers and other stakeholders for implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The Government of India holds 24.5% equity in GSTN and all States of the Indian Union, including NCT of Delhi and Puducherry, and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC), together hold another 24.5%. Balance 51% equity is with non-Government financial institutions.

The Authorised Capital of the company is Rs. 10,00,00,000 (Rupees ten crore only).

Approach: Recently there was news about GST network that The Union Cabinet has approved increasing of Government ownership in Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN). Also GST has been in the news everyday so instead of asking a direct question, a question can be asked like this.

Related Topics: learn more about GST structure.

Ans 19) (a)

Explanation

Real Estate Investment Trust

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Like mutual funds, REITs pool in money from investors and issue units in exchange.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Most of the money so collected is invested in commercial properties which are completed and generate income.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: They are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India)

The REIT will have to first get registered and raise funds through an initial public offer (IPO).

Real estate investment trusts ("REITs") allow individuals to invest in large-scale, income-producing real estate. A REIT is a company that owns and typically operates income-producing real estate or related assets. These may include office buildings, shopping malls, apartments, hotels, resorts, self-storage facilities, warehouses, and mortgages or loans. Unlike other real estate companies, a REIT does not develop real estate properties to resell them. Instead, a REIT buys and develops properties primarily to operate them as part of its own investment portfolio.

Approach: This is a new type of investment and this is what makes it important for exams. Recently there was news related to it also.

Related Topics: Mutual Funds

Ans 20) (a)

Explanation

Current Account Deficit: The current account measures the flow of goods, services and investments into and out of the country. We run into a deficit if the value of the goods and services we import exceeds the value of those we export. The current account includes net income, including interest and dividends, and transfers, like foreign aid.

STATEMENT 1 is correct: By imposing restrictions on the import of non-essential goods would help us to reduce the deficit as the exports remain the same. Hence the difference between exports and imports would narrow down.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Again by the same logic, if imports remain the same and we promote exports then also the difference between the two would narrow down and hence Current account deficit would reduce.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: Gold is a non-essential commodity. Increasing its import would increase the current account deficit instead of reducing it.

Approach: Recently the government took steps to reduce the Current account deficit. So we should be aware of the things which would either reduce or increase the current account deficit. Link this question with your economy Balance of Payments concept.

Related Topics: External Commercial Borrowings

Ans 21) (b)

Explanation

Heritage Irrigation Structure

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is a process for recognition of the historical irrigation structures by International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID).

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Recently Sadarmatt anicut and Pedda Cheruvu from Telangana got Heritage Irrigation Structure tag.

Objectives:

Tracing the history of and understanding the evolution of irrigation in the civilizations across the world. To learn the philosophy and wisdom on sustainable irrigation from these structures.

To protect/preserve these historical irrigation structures

Criteria: The structure shall be more than 100 years old. Dams (operational largely for irrigation)

Water storage structures such as tanks, Canal system

Approach: A purely current affairs based Question. If you have read about it then only you will be able to answer this question.

Related Topics: Know more about these two irrigation structures.

Ans 22) (a)

Explanation:

With the hike in import duty, imports will become costlier and hence people would prefer to buy goods domestically. Hence it will increase the domestic demand of those goods.

Also when people will demand the goods domestically it will lead to less imports and hence less current account deficit.

Approach: This question checks your basic concept. If you are able to connect the news with the static syllabus then this question is easy to solve.

Related Topics: Balance of Payments

Ans 23) (a)

Explanation:

Ease of Doing Business report is released by the World Bank Group. India has performed well and reached the 77th Position by climbing 23 positions. The latest reforms were in the Doing Business areas of starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Getting Credit, Paying Taxes, Trading Across Borders. On the measure of absolute progress towards best practice, India has significantly improved its Doing Business score to 67.23, from 60.76 in 2017 report. This is the second consecutive year that India has been recognized as a top improver. India is the only South Asian country to achieve this distinction two years in a row, and only nine other countries have accomplished this since 2011. But India's performance is dragged by the low score in the property registration and contract enforcement.

Context: Major leapfrog in the rank of India in Ease of Doing Business Report.

Related Topics: Distance to Frontier method.

Ans 24) (c)**Explanation:**

The National Housing Bank (NHB), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was set up under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. It has been established with an objective to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and to provide financial and other support incidental to such institutions.

NHB RESIDEX, India's first official housing price index, was an initiative of the National Housing Bank (NHB) undertaken at the behest of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is designed to track changes in housing prices at the neighbourhood, city, and national levels. Price changes will be measured over time and across cities and various locations within cities.

Context: National Housing Bank raise the refinance limit for Housing Finance Companies.

Related Topics: Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation and Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited.

Ans 25) (d)**Explanation:**

Human Capital Index is part of the World Development Report, released by the World Bank. It is a programme of measurement and research to inform policy action, and a programme of support for country strategies to accelerate investment in human capital.

The HCI has been constructed for 157 countries. It claims to seek to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. The HCI index values are contended to convey the productivity of the next generation of workers, compared to a benchmark of complete standard education and full health.

Context: World Bank released the Human Capital Index as a part of WDR.

Related Topics: Human Development Index

Ans 26) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: G 20 is the forum for economic cooperation. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: The first G20 leader's summit held in 2008 after the economic crisis. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for its members' international economic cooperation and decision-making. Its membership comprises 19 countries plus the European Union.

The G20 started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held, and the group played a key role in responding to the global financial crisis. Its decisive and coordinated actions boosted consumer and business confidence and supported the first stages of economic recovery.

Context: India emphasis on the coordinated effort to protect the emerging market economies.

Related Topic: G7 and G77

Ans 27) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Registered parties with 1% in the general election can receive it. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is valid only up to 15 days from the date of issue. Hence the statement 2 is correct.

Electoral Bonds are political funding instrument issued at authorized branches of State Bank of India. Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than one percent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds. The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorized Banks. It may be noted that Electoral Bonds shall be valid for 15 days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period. The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

Context: Issuance of the electoral bond.

Related Topics: RTI and Political Parties.

Ans 28) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It acts as readily available foreign currency credit. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It increases the confidence in the Indian economy and companies. Hence statement 2 is correct.

India has signed the currency swap agreement with Japan of worth \$ 75 billion in exchange for the domestic currency. It helps in maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments for meeting short-term deficiency in foreign exchange. Indian companies would improve in tapping foreign capital as there would be greater confidence in the stability of the country's exchange rate. Availability of such swap line to tide over difficulties arising out of Balance of Payment (BOP) would deter speculative attacks on the domestic currency and greatly enhance the RBI's ability to manage exchange rate volatility.

Context: Signing of currency swap agreement between Japan and India.

Related Topic: Swap agreements with the UAE and SAARC.

Ans 29) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: On maturity, the bond is redeemed in cash. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Minor can also invest with a guardian. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India. The application on behalf of the minor has to be made by his/her guardian.

Context: Issue of Gold Bonds on behalf of Government of India by RBI.

Related Topic: Gold Monetisation Scheme

Ans 30) (a)

Explanation:

Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is a Government Organization created To regulate and monitor the manufacture, import, export, transport, possession, sale, and use of explosives, petroleum products, and compressed gases as envisaged under the Explosives Act 1884 and Petroleum Act 1934. It functions as an attached office of the Department for the promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Context: Introduction of green crackers by CSIR.

Related Topics: Green Crackers

Ans 31) (d)

Explanation:

Fixed Term Employment offers a clear scope for flexibility in hiring practices for firms, whereby they can match the number of workers with the actual requirement. Companies can cut costs during lean seasons by employing workers on fixed-term contracts. Some of the important features of the fixed term employment are

1. Fixed-term workers must receive benefits such as the minimum wage, provident fund contributions, and other statutory benefits and allowances.
2. These are required to be at par with permanent employees and paid on a proportional (pro-rata) basis, depending on the length of employment.

Previously this concept in India is allowed in the apparel sector of India is now expanded to the other industrial sectors. It will be a win-win situation for both the employer and the employee.

Context: Fixed Term Employment extended to many sectors in addition to the apparel sector.

Related Topics: Unemployment rate in India.

Ans 32) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It indirectly regulates the institutes. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It ensures greater participation of private players in skill space. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The National Council for Vocational Training and the National Skill Development Agency is merged into the National Council for Vocational Education and Training. It will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities. The functions of the council are

1. Recognition and regulation of awarding bodies, assessment bodies and skill related information providers;
2. Approval of qualifications developed by awarding bodies and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs);
3. Indirect regulation of vocational training institutes through awarding bodies and assessment agencies;
4. Research and information dissemination;
5. Grievance redressal.

It will lead to improvement in quality and market relevance of skill development programs lending credibility to vocational education and training encouraging greater private investment and employer participation in the skills space.

Context: Merger of NCVT and NSDA to form NCVET.

Related Topics: Skill India Mission.

Ans 33) (a)

Explanation:

Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) programme is for the development and upgradation of existing 22,000 rural haats physical infrastructure will be strengthened using MGNREGA and other Government Schemes and would be electronically linked to e-NAM and exempted from regulations of APMCs. This would provide farmers facility to make a direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

It will help in doubling the farmer's income by 2022.

Context: Announced in last year's budget.

Related Topics: Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee and e-NAM.

Ans 34) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: M-SIPS reimburse all excise duties paid in capital equipment. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Target Net Zero Import aims to zero electronic goods import by 2020. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Government plans to reduce electronic import to zero by the year 2020 through its Target Net Zero Import goals. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M SIPs) provides a subsidy of 25% of capital expenditure and 20% in Special Economic Zones and all excise/CVD paid on capital equipment is reimbursed. Electronic Manufacturing Clusters Scheme which provides 50% of the cost for development of infrastructure and common facilities in Greenfield clusters and 75% of the cost for Brownfield clusters.

Context: Release of draft National Electronic Policy.

Related Topics: Pillars of Digital India.

Ans 35) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: National Highways contribute to 35% of fatal accidents. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Driving at high speeds leads to 61% of deaths on roads. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3: District Road Safety Committee is headed by Member of Parliament. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

The National Highways constitute about 2 percent of the total road network of India, but they accounted for 29.6 percent of total road accidents and 34.5 percent of the total number of persons killed. The State Highways accounted for 25.3 percent of total accidents and 27.9 percent of the total number of persons killed in road accident in 2016.

The drivers' fault is the single most important factor responsible for road accidents (84 percent), killings (80.3 percent) and injuries (83.9) on all roads in the country during 2016. Within drivers' fault category, exceeding lawful speed accounted for the highest share of 66.5 percent in accidents and 61.0 percent of accident-related deaths.

The District Road Safety Committee is headed by Member of Parliament of the district which undertakes the road safety measures in the district.

Context: India is behind the Brasilia target of 2020.

Related Topic: Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety.

Ans 36) (d)

Explanation:

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group had launched the Bali Fintech Agenda, a set of 12 policy elements aimed at helping member countries to harness the benefits and opportunities of rapid advances in financial technology that are transforming the provision of banking services, while at the same time managing the inherent risks.

The Agenda proposes a framework of high-level issues that countries should consider in their own domestic policy discussions and aims to guide staff from the two institutions in their own work and dialogue with national authorities.

Context: Introduction of Bali FinTech Agenda.

Related Topics: Fintech environment in India.

Ans 37) (b)

Explanation:

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has released the Agriculture Census 2015-16 that finds the status of agriculture in India under various heads.

The total number of operational holdings in the country has increased from 138 million in 2010-11 to 146 million 2015-16 i.e. an increase of 5.33%.

The percentage share of female operational holders has increased from 12.79% in 2010-11 to 13.87% in 2015-16 with the corresponding figures of 10.36% and 11.57% in the operated area. This shows that more and more females are participating in the management and operation of agricultural lands.

The data for 2015-16 Agriculture Census reveals that in a total of 146 million operational holdings in the country, the highest number of operational holders belonged to Uttar Pradesh (23.82 million) followed by Bihar (16.41 million), Maharashtra (14.71 million), Madhya Pradesh (10.00 million), Karnataka (8.68 million), Andhra Pradesh (8.52 million), Tamil Nadu (7.94 million), Rajasthan (7.65 million), West Bengal (7.24 million). As regards operated area, out of a total of 157.14 million ha, the highest operated area was contributed by Rajasthan (20.87 million ha), followed by Maharashtra (19.88 million ha), Uttar Pradesh (17.45 million ha), Madhya Pradesh (15.67 million ha), Karnataka (11.72 million ha) etc.

Context: Release of the Agriculture census.

Related Topics: World Programme for the Census of Agriculture.

Ans 38) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is released by the World Economic Forum. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: India ranked at 117th in ICT adoption. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Global Competitiveness Report is a yearly report published by the World Economic Forum. The report assesses the ability of countries to provide high levels of prosperity to their citizens. This, in turn, depends on how productively a country uses available resources. Therefore, the Global Competitiveness Index measures the set of institutions, policies, and factors that set the sustainable current and medium-term levels of economic prosperity.

In 2018 report India, which ranks 58th, up five places from 2017 with a score of 62.0, it registers the largest gain of any country in the G20.

But India is among the weakest performers, with a score of 28.0 (117th), despite its vibrant IT sector.

Context: India ranked 58th in Global Competitiveness Index.

Related Topic: Ease of Doing Business Report.

Ans 39) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a specialized agency of the United Nations. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Tourism Emergency Response Network is hosted and managed by the UNWTO. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

UNWTO will host and manage the Tourism Emergency Response Network (TERN) to manage crisis situations.

Context: India's potential to become the second cheapest tourist destination.

Related Topic: World Tourism report.

Ans 40) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is introduced under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It allows selection of the exploration blocks even before the formal bid from the government. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Open Acreage Licensing Policy part of the new fiscal regime in the exploration sector called HELP or Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy. It gives an option to a company looking for exploring hydrocarbons to select the exploration blocks on its own, without waiting for the formal bid round from the Government. Companies intending to explore hydrocarbons like oil and gas, coal bed methane, gas hydrate etc., may apply to the Government seeking exploration of any new block. The Government takes the decision on the allocation of blocks to the companies.

Context: Signing of the first round of bid under OALP.

Related Topics: Difference between the HELP and NELP.

Ans 41) (c)

Explanation:

Limited Liability Partnership is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership. It is a separate legal entity, is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP.

Under this structure, the liability of the partners is limited to his agreed contribution. Further, no partner is liable on account of the independent or unauthorized actions of other partners, thus allowing individual partners to be shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful acts or misconduct.

A basic difference between an LLP and a joint stock company lies in that the internal governance structure of a company is regulated by statute (i.e. Companies Act, 1956) whereas for an LLP it would be by a contractual agreement between partners. The management-ownership divide inherent in a company is not there in a limited liability partnership. LLP will have more flexibility as compared to a company. LLP will have lesser compliance requirements as compared to a company.

Context: Incorporation of LLP through an online application.

Related Topic: Reserve Unique Name for companies.

Ans 42) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: The tax returns increased by 80%. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The ratio has increased by around 6%. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Central Board for Direct Taxes has released statistics about the direct tax collection in India. The major findings through the statistics are

1. There is a constant growth in the direct tax-GDP ratio over the last three years and the ratio of 5.98% in FY 2017-18 is the best DT-GDP ratio in the last 10 years.
2. There is a growth of more than 80% in the number of returns filed in the last four financial years from 3.79 crores in FY 2013-14 (base year) to 6.85 crores in FY 2017-18.
3. The number of persons filing the returns of income has also increased by about 65% during this period from 3.31 crore in FY 2013-14 to 5.44 crore in FY 2017-18.

Context: Release of Direct Tax statistics by the CBDT.

Related Topics: Impact of GST on indirect tax collection.

Ans 43) (c)

Explanation:

The industrial sector which supplies the raw materials to other industrial sectors is known as core industries. There are eight such industrial sectors classified as core industries in India. They are Coal, Crude Oil, Cement, Electricity, Fertilizers, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, and Steel industries. The growth of these industries provides a good picture of the health of the economy due to its major interlinkages.

It also forms 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production, which is a major indicator of economic growth.

Context: Monthly summary of the core industry performance.

Related Topics: Champions of Services Industry and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Ans 44) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is to be paid when the investment value of the share is above the market price. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It has reduced the number of company incorporation in India. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Angel tax is a term used to refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by unlisted companies via the issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold and not all entities. The excess realization is treated as income and taxed accordingly. The tax was introduced in 2012 to arrest laundering of funds. It has come to be called angel tax since it largely impacts angel investments in startups.

But on the other side due to the confusion in the valuation process, many startups are planning to get incorporated in a foreign destination like Singapore to reduce the Tax Burden.

Context: Exemption for Start-ups in Angel Tax.

Related Topics: Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

Ans 45) (a)

Explanation:

Anti-dumping duty

An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges on its own home market.

To protect local businesses and markets, many countries impose stiff duties on products they believe are being dumped in their national market.

So option (a) is right.

It is imposed on foreign goods and not on domestic goods. So option (b) and (d) is not right.

Context: Indian economy continues to be hurt by dumping of products from other countries.

Related Topics: WTO rules regarding Anti-Dumping Measures.

Ans 46) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) DGTR functions as an attached office of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It provides comprehensive and swift trade defence mechanism in

India.

DGTR now deals with Anti-dumping, CVD and Safeguard measures. It also provides trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries.

DGTR provides a level playing field to the domestic industry against the adverse impact of the unfair trade practices like dumping and actionable subsidies from any exporting country, by using Trade Remedial methods under relevant framework of WTO arrangements, Customs Tariff Act & Rules and other relevant laws and International agreements, in a transparent and time bound manner.

Context: Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) takes the case of Anti-Dumping Duty.

Related Topics: WTO rules regarding Anti-Dumping Measures.

Ans 47) (c)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct as due to increasing Global crude oil prices, India's oil import bill will increase. Due to this Current Account Deficit (CAD) will increase.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as due to increasing Global crude oil prices, India's oil import bill will increase. Due to this CAD will increase. It leads to more supply of Rupees. When there is more supply of money, Inflationary pressure on Indian Economy will be more.

Context: increasing Global crude oil prices and possible impact of increasing global oil prices on Indian Economy.

Related Topics: The relation between CAD and Inflation.

Ans 48) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as NBFC cannot accept demand deposits. These features differentiate Scheduled commercial bank with NBFC.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) does not apply to any NBFCs.

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.

A non-banking institution which is a company and has principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in instalments by way of contributions or in any other manner is also a non-banking financial company (Residuary Non-banking Company).

Context: RBI recently allowed banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued by systemically important non-deposit taking NBFCs registered with the RBI and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) registered with the National Housing Bank

Related Topics: Differences between Scheduled commercial bank and NBFC

Ans 49) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as NHB is wholly owned by the Reserve Bank of India, which contributed the entire paid-up capital.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as NHB has been established with an objective to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and to provide financial and other support incidental to such institutions and for matters connected therewith

National Housing Bank (NHB)

National Housing Bank (NHB), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was set

up on 9 July 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

NHB is an apex financial institution for housing. NHB has been established with an objective to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and to provide financial and other support incidental to such institutions and for matters connected therewith.

NHB registers, regulates and supervises Housing Finance Company (HFCs), keeps surveillance through On-site & Off-site Mechanisms and co-ordinates with other Regulators

Context: RBI recently allowed banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued by systemically important non-deposit taking NBFCs registered with the RBI and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) registered with the National Housing Bank

Related Topics: Differences between Scheduled commercial bank and NBFC

Ans 50) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Operation Greens is Central Sector Scheme and not Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) .

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

STATEMENT 3 is correct as Operation Greens aim is integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain.

Operation Greens

In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme “Operation Greens” was announced on the line of “Operation Flood”, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs #), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.

Accordingly, the Ministry has formulated a scheme for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain.

Objectives:

Enhancing value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their FPOs, and linking/connecting them with the market.

Price stabilisation for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.

Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of farm gate infrastructure, development of suitable agro-logistics, and creation of appropriate storage capacity linking consumption centres.

Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in TOP value chain with firm linkages with production clusters.

Setting up of a market intelligence network to collect and collate real time data on demand and supply and price of TOP crops.

Context: Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the operationalization strategy for Operation Greens.

Related Topics: Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

Ans 51) (a)

Explanation:

Option (a) is right as The Baba Kalyani committee was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to study the existing SEZ policy of India.

Special Economic Zone

The SEZ Policy was implemented from 01st April, 2000. Subsequently the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 and received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Act was enacted. The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10th February, 2006.

The Baba Kalyani committee

The group will evaluate the SEZ policy, suggest measures to cater to the needs of exporters in the present economic scenario and make the SEZ policy WTO compatible, suggest course corrections in SEZ policy, make comparative analysis of the SEZ scheme and dovetail the SEZ policy with other similar schemes.

Ans 52) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on National Waterway-1 (NW-1).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as is being implemented at a cost of Rs 5369.18 crore with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank. The Project is expected to be completed by March, 2023.

Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)

One of the major problems for a commercially viable and safe navigation on NW-1 is low depth upstream of Farakka due to low discharges from tributaries and difficult hydro morphological characteristics of river Ganga.

A pilot study on the Allahabad-Ghazipur stretch was commissioned by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to find solutions to this problem.

Based on the findings of this study, a proposal for development of NW-1 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,200 crore (US\$ 700 million) was taken up for seeking technical assistance and investment support from the World Bank to the tune of US\$ 350 million in three Phases.

Finance Minister announced JMVP in Budget Speech in July 2014, to enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 tonnes vessels in Ganga

Context: Regarding Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). So we should prepare these topics in details.

Related Topics: National Waterway of India.

Ans 53) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The project was launched to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of Eastern region of the country and CNG gas for the vehicles

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is being implemented by state-run gas utility GAIL.

Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project

The project is committed to provide the household members health safety by providing clean fuel with the piped gas to the locals of Varanasi and later to Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The seven main station cities include Varanasi, Patna, Bokaro, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack as the major beneficiaries of the project.

The 2,655-km long gas pipeline worth Rs 12,940 crore from Jagdishpur in UP to Haldia in West Bengal, with branch lines to Bokaro in Jharkhand and Dhamra in Odisha, will for the first time take clean environment-friendly gas to the east to fuel its industrial revolution.

Context: The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone to mark the commencement of work for 9th round of City Gas Distribution (CGD) spanning 129 districts

Related Topics: National Gas Grid.

Ans 54) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as AMF TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology

Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP) under International Energy Agency (IEA) on 9th May, 2018. AMF TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status since 30th March, 2017.

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP) under International Energy Agency (IEA) on 9th May, 2018

Ans 55) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as A SEZ is a specified demarcated duty-free territory, which for the purpose of trade operations is deemed to be considered outside the customs territory of India.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as while all exports of goods/ services and supplies of goods/ services made to a SEZ are chargeable to IGST, however, these supplies shall be treated as zero-rated supplies under GST

Related Topics: SEZ Policy of India.

Ans 56) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as India has skipped the Bharat Stage V norms and will implement the Bharat Stage VI nationwide from 2020.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change. Bharat stage emission standards {BSES} are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines and Spark-ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change

Bharat stage emission standards {BSES} The standards, based on European regulations were first introduced in 2000. Progressively stringent norms have been rolled out since then. All new vehicles manufactured after the implementation of the norms have to be compliant with the regulations.

Since October 2010, Bharat Stage (BS) III norms have been enforced across the country. In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010[3] and it has been enforced for entire country since April 2017. In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

In its recent judgment, the Supreme Court has banned the sale and registration of motor vehicles conforming to the emission standard Bharat Stage-IV in the entire country from April 1, 2020

Context: India will skip Bharat Stage Bharat Stage V emission Standard.

Related Topics: Differences between Scheduled commercial bank and NBFC

Ans 57) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank launched the Bali Fintech Agenda.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as these are policy recommendations for better harnessing the benefits and opportunities of rapid advances in financial technology

Context: the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank launched the Bali Fintech Agenda

Related Topics: Direct Benefit Transfer and Aadhar.

Ans 58) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as EESL is a joint venture of four National Public Sector Enterprises – NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation and POWERGRID. It is 100% government owned.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as EESL was formed under India's Ministry of Power to facilitate energy efficiency projects. Innovative business and implementation models can significantly reduce consumption and costs. EESL also acts as a resource centre for capacity building of state electricity distribution companies, electricity regulatory commissions (ERCs), state-designated agencies (SDAs), upcoming ESCOs, financial institutions, etc

Related Topics: SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) and UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) are some of the Initiatives of Ministry of Power. URJA and TARANG are some of the Mobile Apps launched by Ministry of Power.

Ans 59) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The Global Hunger Index 2018 report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).

Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Welthungerhilfe.

In 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide also became a co-publisher. In 2018, the GHI was a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, with IFPRI stepping aside from its involvement in the report.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.

Key facts and figures of Global Hunger Index 2018

In the countries included in the GHI, the share of the undernourished population stood at 12.3 percent in 2015–2017, down from 17.6 percent in 1999–2001. 27.9 percent of children under five years of age were stunted based on data from 2013–2017, down from 37.1 percent in 1998–2002. 9.3 percent of children under-5 years were wasted, slightly down from 9.7 percent in 1998–2002. The under-five mortality rate was 4.2 percent as of 2016, down from 8.1 percent in 2000.

Context: Recently Global Hunger Index 2018 was released.

Related Topics: Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Inequality Index published by UN organisations.

Ans 60) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Global Wage Report 2018-19 was published by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as According to the report, India and Pakistan had the highest gap of 34.5 per cent and 34 percent respectively between what men and women earn.

Global Wage Report 2018-19 The latest ILO Global Wage report finds global wage growth has been weak while the gender pay gap, at about 20 per cent globally, remains unacceptably high. This report examines the evolution of real wages around the world, giving a unique picture of wage trends globally and by region

Context: Recently International Labour Organization (ILO) has released Global Wage Report 2018-19.

Related Topics: Structure and function of ILO.

Ans 61) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR) is a biennial effort led by the UN Environment to evaluate the capacities and performance of the nations around the world to measure sustainability of economy and wellbeing of their people.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It evaluates the capacities and performance of the nations around the world to measure sustainability of economy and wellbeing of their people.

IWR 2018

The Inclusive wealth (IW) in 135 countries was higher in 2014 compared to the level in 1990 and the global growth rate of IW was 44% over the indicated period, which implies an average growth rate of 1.8% per year. However, during the same period the global GDP growth per year was 3.4%, which is close to twofold of the annual growth rate of growth in IW.

In terms of Inclusive wealth per capita and Inclusive wealth per capita adjusted, 89 and 96 of the 140 countries saw increases over the study period compared to their levels in 1990

Context: Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR) 2018 was recently released.

Related Topics: UNE



POLITY



Q1. Consider the following about 'Money Bill'

1. The money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

2. It is sent for President's assent even if it is approved only in the Lok Sabha.

3. Its defeat in the Lok Sabha leads to resignation of the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following about 'AADHAR':

1. Aadhaar number is a 10-digit random number issued by the UIDAI ("Authority") to the residents of India.

2. UIDAI is collecting biometric information to establish uniqueness therefore collecting photo, 10 fingerprints and iris.

3. It is a proof of citizenship to all Indians.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following about 'Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment':

1. No citizen can be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the State on grounds of only religion, race, caste, sex, gender, descent, place of birth or residence.

2. State can prescribe residence as a condition for certain employment or appointment in a state or union territory or local authority or other authority.=

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q4. Consider the following about 'Financial Bill':

1. All money bills are financial bills but all financial bills are not money bills.

2. Financial bill if it is not a money bill, can be either approved, rejected or amended by the Rajya 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

Q5. Consider the following statements about 'Supreme Court':

1. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by Collegium of judges.

2. The judges Enquiry Act (1968) regulates the procedure relating to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court by the process of impeachment.

3. 'Proved Misbehaviour' and 'Incapacity' are the two grounds of removal of the supreme court judge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about 'Election Commission':

1. The Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners are appointed by the President.

2. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

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. Which of the following brings out the 'Democracy Index'?

- a) Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
- c) United Nation Development Program
- d) The Fund for Peace

Q8. Identify the following Parliamentary Committee

1. It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament.

2. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.

Select the correct answer:

- a) Rules Committee
- b) Ethics Committee
- c) Committee on Privileges
- d) General Purposes Committee

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'Right to Freedom of Religion':

1. Indian Constitution provides both individual as well as collective freedom of religion.

2. Right to Freedom of Religion is available only to Citizens.

3. Right to Freedom of Religion covers not only religious beliefs (doctrines) but also religious practices (rituals).

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. What are the conditions a group must satisfy to be called a 'Religious Denomination':

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.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q11. Consider the following statements:

1. The pardoning power of the President is independent of Judiciary.

2. The President while exercising pardoning power sits as a court of appeal.

3. Both President of India and Governor of a state can pardon death sentence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q12. Match the following:

1. **Pardon** A. It denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form

2. **Commutation** B. It removes both the sentence and the conviction

3. **Respite** C. It implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character

4. **Remission** D. Awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1- B 2-D 3-A 4-C
- b) 1-B 2-C 3-A 4-D
- c) 1-C 2-D 3-A 4-B
- d) 1-B 2-A 3-D 4-C

Q13. Consider the following statements about 'Indian Constitution':

1. Indian constitution is the lengthiest of all the written constitutions of the world.

2. The constitution of India establishes a Unitary system of Government.

3. The original constitution provided for Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties along with Directive Principles of State Policy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q14. Which of the following borrowed features of Indian Constitution is/are correctly matched with the country of their origin?

1. Britain : Federation with a strong centre

2. Australia : Procedure established by law

3. Canada : Single Citizenship

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Constituent Assembly of India':

1. The Assembly was constituted under the scheme formulated by The Indian Independence Act of 1947.

2. The members of the assembly were directly elected on the basis of adult franchise.

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

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

Q16. Consider the following statements about the Anti-Defection law:

1. The presiding officer has to decide on defection petition within six months of its filing.

2. The Judiciary cannot interfere before the issue of the order by the Presiding officer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q17. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the Office of Profit in Indian Polity?

a) Disqualification due to holding an office of profit is mentioned in the Constitution.

b) It ensures the basic principle of separation of power in the political structure.

- c) The office of profit is defined in the Representation of the People Act, 1951
- d) The post of parliamentary secretaries is classified as an office of profit.

Q18. Consider the following statements about the National Financial Reporting Authority:

- 1. It is a statutory body established under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949
- 2. Its jurisdiction extends to listed companies and large unlisted public companies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q19. Competition Commission of India was formed to ensure healthy competition in Indian Business. In this context, consider the following statements:

- 1. It consists of a chairperson and six members appointed by the President.
- 2. It is obliged to give opinions on competition issues referred by any statutory body 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

Q20. The Defence Acquisition Council is headed by

- a) Prime Minister of India
- b) Defence Minister
- c) Chief of Defense Staff
- d) Defense Secretary

Q21. Consider the following statements about the Central Adoption Resource Authority:

- 1. It is the designated authority for both within the country and inter-country adoption of Indian Children.
- 2. A single male will be allowed to adopt only a boy child and not a girl child.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q22. Which of the following statements is **not correct** about the lower judiciary in India?

- a) Appointments of the district judges are made by the Governor in consultation with the State Public Service Commission.
- b) The criminal cases are heard by the Judicial Magistrate Court and civil cases by Munsiff Court in the district.

- c) The lower judiciary forms more than 80% of the cases pending in India.

- d) The judicial magistrate hears cases of criminal nature with punishment of up to only three years.

Q23. Consider the following statements about the 'Defamation law in India':

- 1. Any action of damaging the reputation of a person can be filed as a criminal case in India.

- 2. The reputation of a person is protected under this law even after his death.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q24. Consider the following statements about the Khelo India Scheme:

- 1. It is a 100% centrally funded scheme for Sports Development in India.

- 2. Promotion of rural and tribal games also forms a part of the scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q25. Major changes have been made in the corruption legislation in India. In this context, consider the following statements about the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2018:

- 1. Prosecution of a Public Servant must need sanction from respective higher authorities.

- 2. Accepting pecuniary advantage for oneself or another person is not treated as criminal misconduct.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q26. IPC section 124 A is the most misused legislation; consider the following statements about the section:

- 1. It was not part of the original Indian Penal Code drafted in 1860.

- 2. A person who attempts to excite disaffection against the Government in India can be accused under this section.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q27. Consider the following statements about the Regional Councils in India:

1. All Regional councils are statutory bodies established under the State Reorganization Act, 1956.
2. Arresting the growth of acute state consciousness is one of the main objectives of the council.

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. Who among the following chairs the Strategic Policy Group of India?

- a) Cabinet Secretary
- b) National Security Advisor
- c) Foreign Secretary
- d) Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

Q29. Consider the following about the Solicitor General of India:

1. Solicitor General is the second highest law officer of India, subordinate to Attorney General of India.
2. Solicitor General is appointed for a period of five years by appointments committee of Union Cabinet.

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. With reference to the Indian Constituent Assembly, which of the following pairs is/are **not** correctly matched?

Committee: **Chairman**

1. Union Powers Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Union Constitution Committee- Rajendra Prasad
3. States Committee - Vallabhai Patel

Codes:

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

Q31. Consider the following statements about the 'National Disaster Management Authority':

1. It is a statutory body for disaster management chaired by the Union Home Minister.
2. It is the nodal agency to approve the disaster management plans of all the Ministries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q32. Which of the following statements is not correct about the Modernization of Police Forces Scheme?

- a) It will help to develop the police infrastructure including housing for the police personals
- b) The centre has drastically reduced the fund for this scheme after the 14th finance commission recommendations.
- c) The resources under the fund is very poorly utilized by the states.
- d) Manipur spends the highest proportion of its budget on police forces.

Q33. Section 151 A of Representation of the People Act, 1951 has been in the news recently, which one of the following is associated with the above section?

- a) Conduct of bye elections
- b) Illegal election practices
- c) Monitoring of election expenses
- d) Contesting in more than one constituency

Q34. Consider the following statements about the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS):

1. It is an integrated system of investigation and criminal detection throughout India.
2. The central feature of the system is the debundling of services for simplicity.
3. It helps common citizens to access general services such as requests for certificates, verifications, and permissions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q35. Consider the following statements about the Government of Union Territories Act:

1. Legislative assembly to all Union Territories are formed under The Government of Union Territories Act and shall not have more than 70 elected Members
2. The Central Government appoints up to three members to the legislative assembly of Union Territory

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q36. Which of the following is the correct description of the Pro Bono Legal Service?

- a) Foreign legal expert services
- b) Special arbitration council
- c) Free legal aid to poor
- d) Judicial service at Panchayat level

Q37. Consider the following statements about the office of Governor:

- 1. The procedure for removal of Governor is not mentioned in the constitution.
- 2. Governor holds office under the pleasure of President which does not come under judicial review mechanism

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q38. Consider the following statements about 'Private Member's Bill':

- 1. It can be introduced by any Member of Parliament.
- 2. Its introduction in the House requires seven days' notice.

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

Q39. Under the constitutional provisions, which of the following authority does not have parliamentary privileges?

- a) Attorney general of India
- b) Union ministers
- c) President
- d) Prime Minister

Q40. Consider the following statements about 'Collective Privileges of Parliament':

- 1. There is freedom of the press to publish true reports of parliamentary proceedings without prior permission of the House except report related to secret sitting of the House.
- 2. The courts can inquire into the proceedings of the House or its committees

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

Q41. NOTA is not applicable in which of the following election process?

- 1. Member of Rajya Sabha (Upper House)

2. Member of Lok Sabha (Lower House)

3. Member of Legislative assembly

4. Member of Legislative Council

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q42. Consider the following statements about 'Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)':

1. The CBI derives its power from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

2. Its primary jurisdiction extends to all over India and without general consent of state it can institute new cases in the State concerned.

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. Consider the following statements about 'National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)':

1. It is the non-statutory organization functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector.

2. It works under The Ministry of Commerce And Industry.

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. Which Schedule of the Constitution has provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes?

- a) Fourth Schedule
- b) Fifth Schedule
- c) Sixth Schedule
- d) Seventh Schedule

Q45. Consider the following statements about 'Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)':

1. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

2. The strength or composition of Commission is determined through an Act of Parliament.

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. Consider the following statements about 'Policy Cut Motion':

- 1. It represents the economy that can be affected in the proposed expenditure.
- 2. It states that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re 1.

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. With reference to 'Pardoning power of the President', consider the following statements about 'Commutation':

- 1. It implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character
- 2. It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period

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. With reference to 'Voting on Demands for Grants, Consider the following statements:

- 1. Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have the power of Voting on Demands for Grants.
- 2. It also covers the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund 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

Q49. Consider the following statements about 'National Commission for Women':

- 1. It is a non-statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.
- 2. It has the powers to recommend amendments and submit reports which are binding on state or Union Governments.

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

- 1. National Human Right Commission
- 2. National Development Council
- 3. State Public Service Commission
- 4. Advocate General of The State.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q51. Which one of the following directives principles is based on Gandhian 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) Organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines

Q52. Consider the following statements about 'No-Confidence Motion':

- 1. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.
- 2. If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office

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

Q53. With reference to 'Parliamentary Process', consider the following statements about 'Resolutions':

- 1. All resolutions are substantive motions.
- 2. All resolutions are not necessarily put to vote of the House

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

Q54. Consider the following statements about 'JOINT SITTING OF TWO HOUSES':

- 1. Provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills as well money bills

2. Speaker of Lok Sabha can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill. 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

Q55. Which of the following Veto Power is not vested with the President of India?

- a) Absolute veto
- b) Qualified veto
- c) Suspensive veto
- d) Pocket veto

Q56. Which of the following is not part of Indian Parliament?

- a) President
- b) The Council of States
- c) The House of the People.
- d) Attorney General Of India

Q57. Consider the following statements about 'Composition of Rajya Sabha':

- 1. The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 252.
- 2. The Third Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories

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

POLITY

Ans 1) (d)

EXPLANATION

MONEY BILL:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament. A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and that too on the recommendation of the president. Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a minister.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Rajya Sabha has restricted powers with regard to a money bill. It cannot reject or amend a money bill. It can only make the recommendations. It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, whether with or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha. It is sent for President's assent even if it is approved by only Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: Its defeat in the Lok Sabha leads to resignation of the government as it would mean that the Government has lost the confidence of the house and does not have the required strength in the house.

Context: Recently the Supreme Court upheld the validity of AADHAR but with some modifications. The big question was whether the passage of Aadhar Bill as a money bill is constitutionally valid or not. In this regard, it is important for us to know about the money bill.

Related Topic: Money bill

Ans 2) (b)

Explanation

AADHAR NUMBER

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Aadhaar number is a 12-digit random number issued by the UIDAI ("Authority") to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: UIDAI is collecting biometric information to establish uniqueness therefore collecting photo, 10 fingerprints and iris.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: The Aadhaar number is a proof of identity, however, it does not confer any right of citizenship or domicile in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.

Features of AADHAR are: Uniqueness, Portability, Random number, Scalable technology architecture and Open source technologies.

Unique Identification Authority of India

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016"), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and also required to ensure the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

UIDAI was created with the objective to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India that is (a) robust enough to eliminate duplicate and fake identities, and (b) can be verified and authenticated in an easy, cost-effective way. The first UID number was issued on 29 September 2010 to a resident of Nandurbar, Maharashtra.

Approach: Recently the Supreme Court upheld the validity of AADHAR but with some modifications. The act also made UIDAI a statutory body and the body was in the news recently

due to this. In this regard, it becomes important for us to know about the UIDAI.

Related Topic: Unique Identification Authority of India

Ans 3) (c)

Explanation

Article 16 provides for equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment to any office under the State.

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: No citizen can be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the State on grounds of only religion, race, caste, sex, and descent, place of birth or residence (and not gender).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: There are three exceptions to this general rule of equality of opportunity in public employment:

(a) Parliament can prescribe residence as a condition for certain employment or appointment in a state or union territory or local authority or other authority. There is no such provision for any state except Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

(b) The State can provide for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class that is not adequately represented in the state services.

(c) A law can provide that the incumbent of an office related to religious or denominational institution or a member of its governing body should belong to a particular religion or denomination.

Approach: Recently Supreme Court allowed for grant of quota for promotions in government jobs to SCs and STs without the need to "collect quantifiable data". So we should be aware of the basics of the Article 16 which relates to Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment.

Related Topic: Article 14 and 15

Ans 4) (c)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Financial bills are those bills that deal with fiscal matters, that is, revenue or expenditure. However, the Constitution uses the term 'financial bill' in a technical sense. Financial bills are of three kinds:

1. Money bills—Article 110

2. Financial bills (I)—Article 117 (1)

3. Financial bills (II)—Article 117 (3)

This classification implies that money bills are simply a species of financial bills. Hence, all money bills are financial bills but all financial bills are not money bills.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Both Financial Bill (I) and Financial Bill (II) can be either approved, rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha.

A financial bill (I) is a bill that contains not only any or all the matters mentioned in Article 110, but also other matters of general legislation. In two respects, a financial bill (I) is similar to a money bill—(a) both of them can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha, and (b) both of them can be introduced only on the recommendation of the president.

In all other respects, a financial bill (I) is governed by the same legislative procedure applicable to an ordinary bill.

A financial bill (II) contains provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, but does not include any of the matters mentioned in Article 110.

It is treated as an ordinary bill and in all respects; it is governed by the same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill.

Approach: Recently the Supreme Court upheld the validity of AADHAR but with some modifications. The big question was whether the passage of Aadhar Bill as a money bill is constitutionally valid or not. In this regard, it becomes important for us to know about the money bill.

Ans 5) (a)

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the president after consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and high courts as he deems necessary. The other judges are appointed by the president after consultation with the chief justice and such other judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts as he deems necessary. The consultation with the chief justice is obligatory in the case of appointment of a judge other than Chief justice.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The judges Enquiry Act (1968) regulates the procedure relating to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court by the process of impeachment.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his Office by an order of the president. The President can issue the removal order only after an address by Parliament has been presented to him in the same session for such removal. The grounds of removal are two—proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Approach: President appoints Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI).

Related Topic: Supreme Court of India

Ans 6) (c)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of election commission:

1. 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.
2. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
3. When any other election commissioner is so appointed, the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
4. The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election commission.
5. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be determined by the president.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Though the constitution has sought to safeguard and ensure the independence and impartiality of the Election Commission, some flaws can be noted, viz.,

1. The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
2. The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Context: Recently Chief Election Commissioner raised his concerns regarding the use of black money in Indian Politics.

Ans 7) (a)

Explanation

DEMOCRACY INDEX

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU): Democracy Index provides a snapshot of the state of world democracy for 165 independent states and two territories.

The Democracy Index is based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism; civil liberties; the functioning of government; political participation; and political culture.

Based on their scores on 60 indicators within these categories, each country is then itself classified as one of four types of regimes: full democracies; flawed democracies; hybrid regimes; and authoritarian regime.

Approach: Recently Chief Election Commissioner said 'Democracy under threat from black money, fake news'. Also a former CEC highlighted the report 'Democracy Index'.

Related Topic: United Nation Development Program.

Ans 8) (b)**Explanation**

OPTION A is incorrect: Rules Committee considers the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House and recommends necessary amendments or additions to the rules of the House.

OPTION B is correct: Ethics committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in the Lok Sabha in 2000. It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action. Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.

OPTION C is incorrect: Privileges committee is semi-judicial in nature. It examines the cases of breach of privilege of the House and its members and recommends appropriate action. The Lok Sabha committee has 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members.

OPTION D is Incorrect: 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

Context: There was news that Senior BJP leader LK Advani has been renominated as the chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha. Committees are always important from exam's perspective.

Related Topics: Rules Committee, Committee on Privileges

Ans 9) (c)**Explanation**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Article 25 guarantees rights of freedom of religion of individuals, while Article 26 guarantees rights of religious denominations or their sections. In other words, Article 26 protects collective freedom of religion.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: These rights are available to all persons—citizens as well as non-citizens.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: Article 25 covers not only religious beliefs (doctrines) but also religious practices (rituals).

Approach: Recently there was a lot of debate on Uniform Civil Code, Triple talaq and right to freedom of religion. So we should link all this news to our static syllabus of polity.

Related Topics: Fundamental Rights

And 10) (c)**Explanation**

All three conditions must be satisfied.

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

(a) It should be a collection of individuals who have a system of beliefs (Doctrines) which they regard as conducive to their spiritual well-being;

(b) It should have a common organization; and

(c) It should be designated by a distinctive name.

Approach: Recently, there was a lot of debate on Uniform Civil Code, Triple talaq and right to freedom of religion.

Related Topics: Fundamental Rights

Ans 11) (b)**Explanation**

Pardoning Power of the President

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The pardoning power of the President is independent of Judiciary, it is an

executive power.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The President while exercising pardoning power does not sit as a court of appeal.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: the President can pardon death sentence while Governor cannot. Even if a state law prescribes the death sentence, the power to grant pardon lies with the President and not the governor.

The President can pardon sentences inflicted by court martial while the governor cannot.

Approach: Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, SC asks TN Governor to consider Perarivalan's mercy plea

Related Topics: Pardoning power of Governor

Ans 12) (d)

Explanation

The pardoning power of the President includes the following:

PARDON: It removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications.

COMMUTATION: it denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.

REMISSION: It implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.

RESPIRE: It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special facts, such as physical disability of a convict.

REPRIEVE: It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from the President.

Context: Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, SC asks TN Governor to consider Perarivalan's mercy plea

Related Topics: Pardoning power of President

Ans 13) (a)

Explanation

INDIAN CONSTITUTION

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Indian constitution is the lengthiest of all the written constitutions of the world. It is a very comprehensive, elaborate and detailed document.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The constitution of India establishes a Federal system of Government.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: The original constitution did not provide for the fundamental duties of the citizens.

Approach: Indian constitution is a very important topic. Recently an article was seen in the news related to it 'No other book can trump the Indian Constitution'.

Related Topics: Basic Structure of Constitution

Ans 14) (d)

Explanation

Britain : Single Citizenship

Australia : Concurrent list

Canada : Federation with a strong

Japan : Procedure established by law

French : liberty, equality and fraternity

Soviet Union : Fundamental Duties and ideal of justice

Approach: Indian constitution is a very important topic. Make sure you are very well aware of the basic features and facts about the Constitution. Recently an article was seen in the news related to

it 'No other book can trump the Indian Constitution'

Related Topics: 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Act

Ans 15) (c)

Explanation

Constituent Assembly of India

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The Assembly was constituted under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The constituent Assembly was not directly elected by the people of India on the basis of adult franchise. The members were indirectly elected.

Approach: Indian constitution is a very important topic. Make sure you are very well aware of the basic features and facts about the Constitution. Recently an article was seen in the news related to it 'No other book can trump the Indian Constitution'

Related Topics: Cabinet Mission Plan and Indian Independence Act of 1947.

Ans 16) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: There is no timeline mentioned in the law. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: The judiciary can interfere only after the order of the Presiding Officer. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Anti-Defection law was made to ensure the stability of Government and arrest political defection for personal gains. It is placed under the tenth schedule of the Indian Constitution. It allows for disqualification of members of the legislature for voluntary resignation from his party and acting against the wishes of the party. The Presiding Officer is the deciding authority in the matters of defection. Exceptions are made when 2/3rd members of a party switch to another party.

The decision of the Presiding Officer will come under judicial scrutiny. Hence as there is no definite timeline mentioned in the law, the Court can interfere only after a decision taken in defection.

Context: Disqualification of MLAs issue in the Tamilnadu Assembly.

Related Topics: Representation of the People Act 1950

Ans 17) (c)

Explanation:

Office of Profit is a position in the government which cannot be held by an MLA or an MP. The post can yield salaries, perquisites, and other benefits. There is no definition in the Constitution or in the Representation of the People Act, 1951 which positions constitutes the office of profit. But the constitution made it clear that in Article 102 and 191, the persons holding an office of profit can be disqualified from holding the post of member of legislatures.

The main objective of the provision is to ensure the separation of power between the legislature and the executive. This helps to curb the influence of the government on the lawmakers. The parliamentary secretaries are classified as an office of profit and led to the disqualification of MLAs of the Delhi Assembly recently.

Context: Appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries in the Delhi Assembly.

Related Topic: Representation of the People Act 1951

Ans 18) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is established under the companies act, 2013. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It oversees the listed companies and large unlisted public companies. Hence statement 2 is correct.

NFRA is an independent regulator for the auditing profession established under the Companies Act, 2013. The jurisdiction of NFRA for investigation of Chartered Accountants and their firms under section 132 of the Act would extend to listed companies and large unlisted public companies, the thresholds for which shall be prescribed in the Rules. The Central Government can also refer to such other entities for investigation where the public interest would be involved.

It will help to curb the auditing scams by an effective central regulator of the profession. It will result in improved foreign/domestic investments, enhancement of economic growth, supporting the globalization of business by meeting international practices and assist in the further development of the audit profession.

Context: PNB fraud.

Related Topics: Indian Accounting Standards- IndAS

Ans 19) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: They are appointed by the Central Government. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is obliged to give opinions to other statutory bodies on competition issues. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Competition Commission of India (CCI), which has been established to eliminate practices having an adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India. It consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government. It helps to create and sustain fair competition in the economy that will provide a 'level playing field' to the producers and make the markets work for the welfare of the consumers.

The Commission is also required to give opinions on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

Context: Raising number of Merger and Acquisitions in India.

Related Topics: Impact of acquisition and merger in India.

Ans 20) (b)

Explanation:

Defense Acquisition Council headed by the Defence Minister was constituted for overall guidance of the defense procurement planning process in India. The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

The functions of the DAC include

1. In principle approval of 15 Years Long Terms Integrated Perspective Plan for Defence Forces
2. Accord of Acceptance of Necessity to acquisition proposals;
3. Categorization of the acquisition proposals relating to 'Buy', 'Buy & Make' and 'Make';
4. Issues relating to Single vendor clearance;
5. Decisions regarding Transfer of Technology under 'Buy & Make' category of acquisition proposals;
6. Field Trial evaluation.

Context: Controversy of the Rafale Fighter Jet Procurement.

Related Topics: Defense Procurement Policy.

Ans 21) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: CARA regulates both within the country and intercountry adoption of Indian

children. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Single male is not eligible to adopt a girl child. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for the adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.

Some of the eligibility criteria for adoption are

1. The consent of both spouses for the adoption shall be required, in case of a married couple.
2. A single female can adopt a child of any gender.
3. A single male shall not be eligible to adopt a girl child.

No child shall be given in adoption to a couple unless they have at least two years of stable marital relationship. Couples with three or more children shall not be considered for adoption except in case of special needs children.

Context: India stands on the signing of the Hague agreement.

Related Topics: Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption.

Ans 22) (a)

Explanation:

The appointment, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the governor of the state in consultation with the high court. Appointment of other than district judges will be made by the governor with consultation of the state public service commission and the high court. On the civil side, is the Court of Munsiff and on the criminal side, is the Court of Judicial Magistrate. The munsiff possesses limited jurisdiction and decides civil cases of small pecuniary stake. The judicial magistrate tries criminal cases which are punishable with imprisonment for a term up to three years.

Out of 3.3 cases pending in India 2.84 crore cases are pending in the subordinate courts, the backlog clogging the High Courts and Supreme Court (SC) is 43 lakh and 57,987 cases, respectively.

Context: Status of case pendency in the Judiciary.

Related Topics: Need for All India Judicial Services.

Ans 23) (c)

Explanation:

Defamation is an oral or written statement that hurts someone's reputation. Section 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code provides an opportunity for the victim to file a criminal case for defamation against the accused. Punishment for the guilty person for criminal defamation is simple imprisonment which may extend to two years or fine or both. The case can be booked for defamation of the dead persons.

Reputation is an integral and important part of the dignity of the individual and Right to reputation is an inherent right guaranteed by Article 21 and it is also called as natural rights. While Rights of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19 of the Indian Constitution is not absolute and has imposed reasonable restrictions. The Supreme Court also upheld the constitutional validity of the defamation laws.

Context: Supreme upholding of the validity of the defamation law.

Related Topics: Misuse of the defamation law.

Ans 24) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a central sector scheme. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Rural sports and Indigenous games of tribals is a part of the scheme. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Khelo India is a central sector scheme (100% funded by the Union Government) to develop the sports environment in India. The programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation. It would impact the entire sports ecosystem, including infrastructure, community sports, talent identification, coaching for excellence, competition structure, and sports economy. The promotion of rural sports and indigenous games of tribals also forms part of the programme.

Context: India's performance in the Asian Games in 2018.

Related Topics: Target Olympic Podium.

Ans 25) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Permission needed to prosecute public servants. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is not considered as criminal misconduct. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Prevention of corruption act is amended recently with many changes. The act of giving bribe is now considered as a punishable offense except on grounds of compulsion. The prosecution of public servants needs sanctions from relevant higher authorities except when caught red-handed. Attachment of properties can be now made under the PCA. Misappropriation of properties and intentional illicit enrichment is the only two considered as criminal misconduct.

Context: Amendment to the Prevention of corruption act.

Related Topics: Impact of the amendment on curbing corruption.

Ans 26) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It was added by an amendment in 1870. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Attempt to excite disaffection against the Government can be accused under the law. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Section 124 A of Indian Penal Code reads as follows:

Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine. In the British Era, Section 124A was not a part of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. But this Section was inserted into IPC by the IPC (Amendment) Act, 1870. By an amending act of 1898, this provision was later replaced by Section 124A. According to the British Era Law, under the old IPC, Exciting or attempting to excite feelings of disaffection was considered as Sedition.

Context: Rampant misuse of the section.124 A IPC for political reasons.

Related Topics: National Security Act.

Ans 27) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: North Eastern Council was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1976. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: National Integration and arresting acute state consciousness is its main objective. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Zonal councils are regional groupings to foster cooperation among states. It was established under

the state reorganization act, 1956 and for the North East it is formed under the North Eastern Council Act, 1976. In Total there are five zonal councils in India. They are Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern, Central and in addition the North Eastern Zonal Council. These Councils are headed by the Union Home Minister and Vice-chaired by the Chief Ministers on a rotational basis for a one year period.

Context: Varies avenues for cooperation between states of India.

Related Topics: Integration Council.

Ans 28) (b)

Explanation:

The Strategic Policy Group assists the National Security Council on the matters of internal and economic security. Previously the Cabinet Secretary was the Chief of the strategic policy group. But in 2018 the National Security Advisor was placed in the place of Cabinet secretary as the Chief. It is the principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs in the formulation of national security policies.

The other members of the policy group are Vice Chairman of NITI Ayog, Cabinet Secretary, three services chiefs, RBI Governor, Secretaries of External Affairs, Home, Defence, Finance, Defence Production, Revenue, Atomic Energy, Space and National Security Council Secretariat besides Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister, Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat and the Intelligence Bureau chief.

Context: Change of chair from the cabinet secretary to the national security advisor.

Related Topic: National Security Council.

Ans 29 (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: He is the second highest law officer and subordinate to the Attorney General. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: He is appointed for a period of three years. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Solicitor General of India is subordinate to the Attorney General of India. He is the second law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is himself assisted by four Additional Solicitors General for India. Currently Solicitor General of India is Tushar Mehta.

Like the Attorney General for India, the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General advise the Government and appear on behalf of the Union of India in terms of the Law Officers (Terms and Conditions) Rules, 1972. However, unlike the post of Attorney General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution of India, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General for a period of three years.

Context: Appointment of new Solicitor General of India.

Related Topics: Advocate General of states.

Ans 30) (c)

Explanation:

During the phase of drafting Indian Constitution a number of committee was formed in the constituent assembly. Helped to draft the laws about the various heads provided to them. Some of the important committee and their chairman are given below:

1. Union Powers Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Union Constitution Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
3. Provincial Constitution Committee – Sardar Patel
4. Drafting Committee – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
5. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and
6. Excluded Areas – Sardar Patel. This committee had the following five sub-committees:
(a) Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee – J.B. Kripalani

- (b) Minorities Sub-Committee – H.C. Mukherjee
- (c) North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded & Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee – Gopinath Bardoloi
- (d) Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (Other than those in Assam) Sub-Committee – A.V. Thakkar
- (e) North-West Frontier Tribal Areas Sub-Committee
- 7. Rules of Procedure Committee – Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- 8. States Committee (Committee for Negotiating with States) – Jawaharlal Nehru
- 9. Steering Committee – Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- 10. Along with the above there were many minor committees formed in the assembly.

Context: Opening of the Statue of Unity.

Related Topics: Statute of Unity.

Ans 31) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is chaired by the Prime Minister. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It approves the disaster management plans of the all Ministries. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005, with the Prime Minister of India as its Chairman-; a Vice Chairman with the status of Cabinet Minister, and eight members with the status of Ministers of State. With well-defined functional domains for each of its members and concern to carry out the mandated functions, NDMA has evolved into a lean and professional organization which is IT-enabled and knowledge based. Skills and expertise of the specialists are extensively used to address disaster related issues. A functional and operational infrastructure has been built, which is appropriate for disaster management involving uncertainties coupled with desired plans of action.

Context: Sixth meeting of the National Disaster Management Authority.

Related Topics: National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project.

Ans 32) (b)

Explanation:

Modernization of Police Forces (MPF) is an umbrella scheme for development of the police infrastructure across the states of India. The financial outlay for the scheme over the three year's period 2017-20 is Rs.25,060 crore, out of which the Central Government share will be Rs.18,636 crore and the States' share will be Rs.6,424 crore.

Funds from the MPF scheme are typically used for improving police infrastructure through construction of police stations and provision of modern weaponry, surveillance and communication equipment. Upgradation of training infrastructure, police housing and computerization are also important objectives funded through the scheme.

Even Though the 14th Finance Commission increased the central devolution to the states, the Union Government has not reduced the funding to the modernization programme.

Manipur is the state that spends the highest percentage of its budget for police forces. The utilization of the fund is very poor due to the lack of capacity of states to absorb the funds.

Context: Umbrella scheme for the Police modernization announced.

Related Topics: Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Ans 33) (a)

Explanation:

Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy, provided that the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more. If the remaining period of the

vacancy is less than one year, then there is no necessity of conducting an by-election.

Context: Withhold of conduction of bypolls by Election Commission.

Related Topics: Section 123, Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Ans 34) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is an integrated crime investigation and criminal detection system. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It provides bundled services. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

STATEMENT 3: Common people can access different certificates. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Govt. of India. CCTNS aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through adopting of principle of e-Governance and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled-state-of-the-art tracking system around 'Investigation of crime and detection of criminals'.

The central feature of CCTNS implementation at the State level is the bundling of services concept.

Context: Conference on CCTNS has been conducted.

Related Topics: National Technical Research Organization.

Ans 35) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Government of Delhi is formed under the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: The union government nominates 3 members to the assembly of Puducherry. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Government of Union Territory is formed under the Government of Union Territory Act, 1963. At present only Government of Puducherry comes under this act. Government of Delhi the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 and it has 70 elected members and no nominated members. But Puducherry has thirty elected members and three members nominated by the central government. Hence the act limits the directly elected members to thirty in Union territories legislative assembly.

Context: Nomination of MLA to Puducherry assembly.

Related Topics: Statehood to Delhi.

Ans 36) (c)

Explanation:

Pro Bono comes from the Latin expression "pro bono publico" meaning "for the public good." Many lawyers provide poor and underprivileged clients with valuable legal advice and support without seeking any professional fee. Unfortunately, this laudable tradition of public service has not received any deserving recognition. In many countries pro bono legal support has emerged as the dominant means of dispensing free representation to poor and underserved clients.

Free legal aid and services in India is primarily the mandate of National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Aid Services authorities which has a wide presence throughout the country.

Context: Legal aid services to the poor.

Related Topics: National Legal Services Authority.

Ans 37) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: The removal procedure is not mentioned in the constitution. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The pleasure of the President is not subject to judicial review. Hence statement 2 is correct.

A governor holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, this term of five years is subject to the pleasure of the President. Further, he can resign at any time by addressing a resignation letter to the President. The Supreme Court held that the pleasure of the President is not justifiable. The governor has no security of tenure and no fixed term of office. He may be removed by the President at any time. The Constitution does not lay down any grounds upon which a governor may be removed by the President.

Context: The role played by the Governor in the Government formation in no clear majority cases.

Related Topics: Impeachment of the President.

Ans 38) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Private Member's Bill can be introduced by any Member of Parliament other than a minister. Minister introduces Public Bill in the Parliament and not Private Member's Bill.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Its introduction in the House requires one month's notice and not seven days' notice. Public bill introduction in the House requires seven days' notice.

Private Member's Bill

It reflects the stand of opposition party on public matter.

It has less chance to be approved by the Parliament.

Its rejection by the House has no implication on the parliamentary confidence in the government or its resignation.

Context: Private legislation to construct Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Related Topics: Difference between Public and Private Member Bill; Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014

Ans 39) (c)**Explanation:**

The Constitution has extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees. These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers. So option (a) and (b) is not correct.

Prime Minister also has parliamentary privileges. So (d) is also not right.

Parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament. So correct option is (c).

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES:

Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.

They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions.

Without these privileges, the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity and honour nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities

Context: Breach of privilege motion was moved against Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

Related Topics: The collective and individual privileges of Parliament

Ans 40) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as each House of Parliament has the right to publish its reports, debates and proceedings and also the right to prohibit others from publishing the same.

The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 restored the freedom of the press to publish true reports of parliamentary proceedings without prior permission of the House. So STATEMENT 1 is correct.

But this is not applicable in the case of a secret sitting of the House.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the courts are prohibited to inquire into the proceedings of the House or its committees.

Collective Privileges:

It can exclude strangers from its proceedings and hold secret sittings to discuss some important matters

It can make rules to regulate its own procedure and the conduct of its business and to adjudicate upon such matters.

Context: Breach of privilege motion was moved against Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

Related Topics: The collective and individual privileges of Parliament; Article 105

Ans 41) (c)**Explanation:**

NOTA could continue to be an option in direct elections such as the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies as per Supreme Court Guidelines. Election of Member of Rajya Sabha (Upper House) and Member of the Legislative Council is indirect i.e. not directly elected by the people. So in the Election of Member of Rajya Sabha (Upper House) and Member of the Legislative Council NOTA will not be applicable. So (c) option is right i.e. (1 and 4 only) is right.

NOTA or None of the Above

It has been provided as an option to the voters of India in most elections.

Through the usage of NOTA, a citizen can choose not to vote for any candidates who are contesting the elections. However, NOTA in India does not guarantee dismissal of the winning candidate. Therefore, it's only a method to give a negative feedback. NOTA does not hold any electoral value i.e. even if the maximum votes are for NOTA, the candidate with maximum vote share will still be the winner. Since its introduction, NOTA has gained increasing popularity amongst the Indian electorates, securing more votes than the victory margin, for instance, in the Assembly Elections in Gujarat 2017 Karnataka (2018), Madhya Pradesh (2018) and Rajasthan (2018) NOTA enables the voter to show his acceptance for the fielded candidates. If a provision is there to disqualify all the contestants of that constituency for at least 6 years if the NOTA percentage is more than 20%, it will definitely give some decisive conclusion to the voters' view.

Context: Supreme Court decision regarding NOTA option.

Related Topic: Electoral reforms In India..

Ans 42) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The CBI derives its power from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect.

Its primary jurisdiction is confined to Delhi and Union Territories only and its jurisdiction can be extended with the general consent of states or by direction of Supreme Court or high courts.

The CBI is a national agency with police powers. Its primary jurisdiction is confined to Delhi and Union Territories. As policing (detecting crime and maintaining law and order) is a State subject, the law allows the agency to function outside only with the consent of the States. Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have withdrawn their general consent to the CBI to operate within their territories.

Context: Many states have withdrawn the "general consent" granted to the CBI.

Related Topic: Functions and limitations of CBI.

Ans 43) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is the statutory organization functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector. NCDC is a statutory Corporation set up under an Act of Parliament on 13th March 1963.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as 'National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) works under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Context: National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)'s new scheme 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme'

Related Topic: Cooperative movement Of India.

Ans 44) (b)

Explanation:

Fourth Schedule

It has provisions regarding the Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and the union territories.

So option (a) is not correct.

Fifth Schedule

Provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.

So option (b) is Correct.

Sixth Schedule

Provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

So option (c) is not Correct.

Seventh Schedule

Division of powers between the Union and the States in terms of List I (Union List), List II (State List) and List III (Concurrent List). Presently, the Union List contains 100 subjects (originally 97), the state list contains 61 subjects (originally 66) and the concurrent list contains 52 subjects (originally 47)

So option (d) is not correct.

Related Topics: 11th and 12th Schedule of the Constitution.

Ans 45) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition. It is not determined through an Act of Parliament.

Related Topic: Function of UPSC and CVC.

Ans 46) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Policy Cut Motion represents the disapproval of the policy underlying the demand. Economy Cut Motion represents the economy that can be affected in the proposed expenditure.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Policy Cut Motion states that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re 1.

Policy Cut Motion

It represents the disapproval of the policy underlying the demand.

It states that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re 1.

The members can also advocate an alternative policy.

Related Topic: Token Cut Motion.

Ans 47) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to a simple imprisonment.

Remission implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form

Related Topic: Pardoning power of the President.

Ans 48) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the voting of demands for grants is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha, that is, the Rajya Sabha has no power of voting the demands.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the voting is confined to the votable part of the budget—the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India is not submitted to the vote (it can only be discussed)

Voting on Demands for Grants:

In the light of the reports of the departmental standing committees, the Lok Sabha takes up voting of demands for grants. The demands are presented ministry wise. A demand becomes a grant after it has been duly voted

Related Topic: Voting on Demands for Grants .

Ans 49) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Government of India) constituted the National Commission for Women as a statutory body.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Commission has no concrete legislative powers. It only has the powers to recommend amendments and submit reports which are not binding on state or Union Governments.

Mandate of Commission:

Section 10(1) of the Act of 1990 provides a fourteen-point mandate for the National Commission for Women.

Broadly speaking the Commission's mandate can be divided under four heads – (a) safeguard of the rights of women granted by the constitution and laws, (b) study problems faced by women in the current day and make recommendations to eradicate these problems, (c) evaluating the status of Indian women from time to time and (d) funding and fighting cases related to women's rights violations.

Context: Issue in appointment of Chairman of National Commission for Women

Related Topic: Difference between statutory and constitutional body.

Ans 50) (c)

Explanation:

National Human Right Commission is a statutory body and it is non constitutional body. National Development Council is a non-constitutional body.

State Public Service Commission and Advocate General of the state are constitutional body. So option (c) is right.

Related Topic: Difference between statutory and constitutional body

Ans 51) (b)

Explanation:

Directives principles under Gandhian Principles are based on Gandhian ideology.

Separation of Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state is based on liberal Intellectual Principles. Under article 50, there is provision for Separation of Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state. So OPTION (a) is not correct.

Promotion of cottage industries in rural areas is based on Gandhian Principles. So option (b) is Correct.

Raising the level of nutrition and standard of living of people and to improve the public health are based on Socialistic Principles. So option (c) is not correct.

Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines are based on liberal Intellectual Principles. So option (d) is not correct.

Ans 52) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as No-Confidence Motion It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only. It cannot be moved against an individual minister.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as If No-Confidence Motion is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office.

No-Confidence Motion:

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

Related Topic: Censure Motion and No Confidence Motion

Ans 53) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as "All resolutions come in the category of substantive motions, that is to say, every resolution is a particular type of motion.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as all the resolutions are required to be voted upon.

Resolutions

The members can move resolutions to draw the attention of the House or the government to matters of general public interest.

The discussion on a resolution is strictly relevant to and within the scope of the resolution.

A member who has moved a resolution or amendment to a resolution cannot withdraw the same except by leave of the House.

Ans 54) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as President can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill.

JOINT SITTING OF TWO HOUSES

Joint sitting is extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a bill.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses and the Deputy Speaker, in his absence.

Ans 55) (b)

Explanation:

Of the above options, the President of India is vested with three—absolute veto, suspensive veto and pocket veto. There is no qualified veto in the case of Indian President; it is possessed by the American President. Absolute Veto It refers to the power of the President to withhold his assent to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act. Suspensive Veto The President exercises this veto when he returns a bill for reconsideration of the Parliament. However, if the bill is passed again by the Parliament with or without amendments and again presented to the President, it is obligatory for the President to give his assent to the bill.

Ans 56) (d)

Explanation:

Under the Constitution, the Parliament of India consists of three parts viz, the President, the Council of States and the House of the People.

Attorney General of India is not a part of Indian Parliament. So option (d) is the correct option.

Though the President of India is not a member of either House of Parliament and does not sit in the Parliament to attend its meetings, he is an integral part of the Parliament. This is because a bill passed by both the Houses of Parliament cannot become law without the President's assent.

Ans 57) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as

The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250, out of which, 238 are to be the representatives of the states and union territories (elected indirectly) and 12 are nominated by the president.

At present, the Rajya Sabha has 245 members. Of these, 229 members represent the states, 4 members represent the union territories and 12 members are nominated by the president.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories



ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY



Q1. Consider the following about 'Animal Welfare Board of India':

1. It is a statutory body established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. It advises the government on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in India.
3. One of the most important functions of the Board is to provide financial assistance to the recognized Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following about 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats':

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. The Scheme consists of Project Tiger (CSS-PT), Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and Project Elephant (CSS-PE).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following about 'Coral Reefs':

1. Coral reefs are colonies of tiny living creatures found in ocean water that contains nutrients.
2. Corals are considered as the tropical rain forests of oceans.
3. Coral reefs are fragile ecosystems which are susceptible to climate change.

Which of the above is/are correct regarding coral reefs?

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

Q4. Kulik Bird sanctuary is located in which state?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

Q5. Consider the following statements about 'National Green Tribunal':

1. National Green Tribunal is a statutory body.
2. The objective is to provide effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

3. It cannot take suo motu cognisance of a case.

Which of the above is/are correct regarding coral reefs?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about 'Indian Roofed Turtle':

1. It is found only in India.
2. It can be distinguished by the distinct "roof" at the topmost part of the shell.
3. It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN red list.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q7. In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Royle's Pika':

- a) Himalayas
- b) Rann of kutch
- c) Western Ghats
- d) Gulf of Mannar

Q8. Identify the following:

1. It is the meeting point of two bio-geographic regions of India; the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats.
2. It spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi.

Select the correct answer:

- a) Sunabeda tiger reserve
- b) Simlipal tiger reserve
- c) Indravati tiger reserve
- d) Satkosia tiger reserve

Q9. 'T1' and 'T17' sometimes seen in the news is

- a) Airport terminals
- b) New tanks built by Defence Research and Development Organization
- c) Tigress believed to be man-eater
- d) None of the above

Q10. Which of the following best describes 'TX2 Programme'?

- a) It aims to double the number of wild tigers by 2022.
- b) A new laboratory established by ISRO to detect gravitational waves.
- c) It is an ambitious plan to phase out hazardous chemical by European Union.
- d) It aims to develop new vaccines for Tuberculosis.

Q11. Consider the following statements about 'International Union for Conservation of Nature':

1. Its members include both states and non-government organizations.
2. It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'Black Carbon':

1. It is a form of particulate air pollutants, produced from incomplete combustion.
2. It stays in the atmosphere for years.
3. It is the strong absorber of sunlight and heats the air directly.

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

Q13. Consider the following statements about 'mass movements of rocks':

1. The movements take place under the direct influence of gravity.
2. It is an in-situ or on-site process.
3. Weathering is not a prerequisite for mass movement though it aids mass movements.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q14. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Creep : Movement of water-saturated clayey or silty earth materials down low-angle terraces or hillsides
2. Earth Flow : Movement of materials is extremely slow and imperceptible except through extended observation.
3. Landslides : These are relatively rapid and perceptible movements. The materials involved are relatively dry.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Geological Survey of India':

1. Geological Survey of India is an attached office to The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF).
2. The main functions of GSI relate to creation and updation of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.

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

Q16. Which of the following is not an Indian migratory Bird?

- a) Siberian cranes
- b) Greater flamingo
- c) Cuckoos
- d) The Bengal Florican

Q17. Some birds migrate every year from one place to another. Some even travel continent to continent. What are the reasons for this migration?

1. To avoid adverse climatic conditions.
2. To manage food shortage
3. To avoid competition for nesting space
4. To have a better breeding conditions

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q18. Arrange the following in increasing order of their Global Warming Potential:

1. Methane
2. Nitrous oxide
3. Hydro fluoro carbons
4. Sulfur hexafluoride

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Methane < Nitrous oxide < Sulfur hexafluoride < Hydro fluoro carbons
- b) Methane < Sulfur hexafluoride < Hydro fluoro carbons < Nitrous oxide
- c) Methane < Nitrous oxide < Hydro fluoro carbons < Sulfur hexafluoride
- d) Sulfur hexafluoride < Methane < Hydro fluoro carbons < Nitrous oxide

Q19. Consider the following statements about 'Black Spotted Turtles':

1. It is classified as critically endangered by

the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species.

2. The black spotted turtle or spotted pond turtle is native to India.

3. It is a medium-sized freshwater turtle and has a black shell with yellow streaks.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q20. Identify the following:

1. It is the oldest range of Fold Mountains in India.

2. The 700km long range and its thick forest cover protects National Capital Region and fertile plains of India from the effects of Desert.

3. Guru Shikhar, a peak in Arbuda Mountains is the highest point of this range.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a) Himalayas
- b) Satpura range
- c) Vindhya
- d) Aravallis

Q21. Consider the following statements about the Eurasian Otter:

1. It is endemic to the wetlands of the Central Asian region and Eastern Europe.

2. It is classified as near threatened species under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q22. Banni grasslands, India's largest grassland known for the Maldhari pastoral community is located at

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Tamilnadu
- c) Gujarat
- d) Uttarakhand

Q23. Consider the following statements about the Eco-sensitive Zone:

1. Area up to 10 Km from the boundary of all National Park and sanctuaries are classified as Eco-sensitive Zone.

2. The development activities are only regulated and not prohibited inside the Zone.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q24. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the minimum river flow?

a) It is the ecological water demand on rivers apart from industrial and agricultural demand.

b) It includes the minimum standards of quantity, time and quality of the water in the rivers.

c) Construction of dams and barrages negatively affects ecological flow in the rivers.

d) Unlike Peninsular Rivers, all the Himalayan rivers always maintain an ecological flow.

Q25. Consider the following statements about the Champions of Earth Award:

1. It is the highest environmental honor provided by the United Nations.

2. Cochin International Airport received the award for the year 2018 for the entrepreneurial category.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q26. 'STAPCOR', recently seen in the news is related to

- a) Coral reefs protection
- b) Artificial Intelligence
- c) Antarctic Research activities
- d) International Space Laws

Q27. Consider the following statements about the National River Conservation Plan:

1. It is 100% centrally funded scheme for preventing the pollution of major rivers.

2. The plan for all the major rivers is implemented by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climatic Change.

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 statements about RE-Invest India:

1. It is a global event to attract investment to the renewable energy sector in India.

2. It is organized annually by NITI Aayog and Invests India agency.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q29. 'St. Mary's Island', recently seen in the news is located at

- a) Goa
- b) West Bengal
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Island

Q30. With respect to the issue of ghost fishing consider the following statements:

1. It is the unreported illegal fishing in the territories of foreign nations.
2. It involves trapping of fish and marine animals resulting in the destruction of their habitat.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q31. Which of the following states received the Future Policy Gold Award?

- a) Telangana
- b) Sikkim
- c) Karnataka
- d) Assam

Q32. Consider the following statements about the Sovereign Blue Bond:

1. It is the debt instrument to finance the sustainable marine project resulting in climatic benefits.
2. Mauritius is the first nation to launch the sovereign blue bond in the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q33. Canine Distemper Virus causes fatal diseases in animals. Consider the following statements about its nature:

1. It affects only carnivorous animals and causes fatal diseases to them.
2. It is the main reason for the death of the Lions at Gir Wildlife Sanctuary.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q34. Which of the following statements are true about the River Dolphins in India?

1. Gangetic River Dolphins are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. Asia's first National Dolphin Research

Centre will be formed at Allahabad.

3. Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary is the only dolphin sanctuary in India.

Codes:

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

Q35. Consider the following statements about the Methanol as an energy source:

1. Methanol burns in internal combustion engines with almost zero pollution.
2. It helps in complete sequestration of carbon dioxide in a looped manner.

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. The pollution level peaks across Indian Cities during the Diwali season. In this context, consider the following statements about the Green Crackers:

1. It eliminates the use of Potassium Nitrate and Sulfur in crackers.
2. It releases water vapor and air as a dust suppressant on cracking.
3. The cost of manufacturing is high due to the need for sophisticated technologies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q37. 'Green Good Deeds', recently seen in the news is related to

- a) Campaign on Climate Change.
- b) Financial instrument for Eco-friendly projects.
- c) Special bond released by the World Bank.
- d) Interest Subvention for Sustainable Industrial practices.

38. Fall Armyworm causes havoc in the agricultural fields of India, in this context, consider the following statements:

1. Fall Armyworms are native to central and western Africa which affects maize and a range of crops
 2. The transmission happen through trade and flying ability of the moth as an adult moth is able to move over 100 km per night
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. 'Mission Gange', recently seen in the news is related to

- a) Discovery of Fossil Rivers
- b) Indian Astronomical Observation
- c) Protection of River Dolphin
- d) Rafting Expedition

40. Barsey Rhododendron sanctuary is located in which of the following states?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Sikkim
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) West Bengal

41. When visiting the garden or nursery, we will come across a green tent-like structure called shade house. In this context, consider the following statements about the uses of shade house:

- 1. Growing temperate plant varieties in the tropical climatic regions.
- 2. Protection from pest attacks on plants.
- 3. Development of the tissue cultured plantlets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q42. A national park is about 4.9 km away from the proposed site of India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO). The park is located between other reserve forests like Eravikulam National Park and Pampadam Shola National Park. The park was part of the Cardamom Hill Reserve region till it was notified as a national park.

Which of the following is being referred to in the above passage?

- a) Mathikettan Shola national park
- b) Anamudi Shola National Park
- c) Mudumalai National Park
- d) Guindy National Park

Q43. With reference to 'Talanoa Dialogue Synthesis Report', consider the following statements:

- 1. It is released by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- 2. The report highlights that climate action can help to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

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. With reference to 'Talanoa Dialogue', consider the following statements:

1. The Dialogue was mandated by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change to take stock of the collective global efforts to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

2. The Talanoa Dialogue was launched at COP (Conference of Parties) 21(UNFCCC) in 2015.

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

Q45. With reference to 'Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action', consider the following statements:

1. It was established by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. It was launched at COP (Conference of Parties) 22 (UNFCCC) in 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

Q46. Consider the following statements about 'Bandhavgarh National Park':

- 1. It is situated in the state of Chattisgarh.
- 2. It is spread in vindhya hills.

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. 'Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration' recently seen in news, is related to:

- a) Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet
- b) Promoting women participation in law making.
- c) Ending hunger all over the world by 2030.
- d) Promoting Girl education in Developing Country.

Q48. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. Bandhavgarh National Park: Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Dudhwa National Park: Uttar Pradesh
- 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

Q49. A tiger reserve shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal, which is defined to a large extent by the Mohana River. The area is a vast alluvial floodplain traversed by numerous rivers and streams flowing in a southeasterly direction. The vegetation of the area are of North Indian Moist Deciduous type.

Which tiger reserve has these features?

- a) Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- b) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
- c) Udandi and sidandi Tiger Reserve
- d) Indravati Tiger reserve

Q50. With reference to 'Himalayan State Regional Council', consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Environment and Forest has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region.
2. The Himalayan States Regional Council will be the nodal agency for Sustainable development in the Himalayan 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

Q51. With reference to 'Narcondam Hornbill', consider the following statements:

1. It is endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in the Lakshadweep.
2. Under IUCN Red List, it is listed as Extinct.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q52. With reference to 'Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)', consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-statutory body established to combat wildlife crime.
2. It was constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

Q53. With reference to 'Greenhouse Gas Bulletin', consider the following statements:

1. It reports biannually on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases
2. It is released by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q54. With reference to 'Virtual Climate Summit', consider the following statements:

1. It was the first global political meeting to be held online and it was carbon neutral Summit.

2. It was organized by the Climate Action Network (CAN) and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)

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

Q55. A protected area is in Tamil Nadu, along the Palk Strait. The sanctuary was created for conservation of the near threatened blackbuck antelope, an endemic mammal species of India. It is famous for large congregations of water birds, especially greater flamingos.

Which protected area has these features?

- a) Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (PCWBS)
- b) Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- c) Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park
- d) Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park

Q56. With reference to 'Pong Dam Lake', consider the following statements:

1. It is built on Ravi River in the wetland zone of the Siwalik Hills of the Kangra district of the state of Himachal Pradesh.

2. It is one of the 26 international wetland sites declared in India by the Ramsar Convention

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

Q57. Consider the following pairs :

Wetland Sites : States

1. Bhoj Wetland : Madhya Pradesh
2. Deepor Beel : Uttar Pradesh
3. Harike Wetland: Punjab

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

Q58. A protected area situated in Andhra Pradesh, India. It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species. It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture. The sanctuary is a part of the Godavari estuary and has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest. Which of the following is being referred to in the above passage?

- a) Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (PCWBS)
- b) Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park
- c) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park

Q59. Consider the following statements about 'Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary':

1. It is situated in the state of Nagaland
2. It is recognized as Important Bird Areas (IBA) by Birdlife International.

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. In which of the following city 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held?

- a) New Delhi
- b) New York
- c) Paris
- d) Berlin

Q61. Consider the following statements about 'Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018':

1. It was awarded to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. The Asia Environment Enforcement Awards publicly recognize and celebrate excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions/teams combating transboundary environmental crime in Asia.

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. Consider the following statements about 'OPERATION SAVE KURMA':

1. It was started by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

2. The operation was conducted to combat the proliferating illegal trade of live turtles and its parts from the country to destinations abroad.

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

Q63. Consider the following statements about 'CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):

1. It is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.

2. It is not legally binding on the Parties, but it takes the place of national laws.

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

Q64. 'Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary' recently seen in news, is in which of the following states?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura.
- d) Manipur.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Ans 1) (b)

Explanation

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

The Board grants recognition to the newly started Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs).

STATEMENT 3 is correct: One of the most important functions of the Board is to provide financial assistance to the recognized Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs).

Context: Organizations are important in environment and ecology section. Recently there was an article casting capers: Maneka sees animals in wrong role.

Related Topics: Environment (Protection) Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Ans 2) (b)

Explanation

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Scheme consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT), Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and Project Elephant (CSS-PE).

The schemes would address the human wildlife conflict effectively

These schemes would generate employment opportunities resulting in economic upliftment of people in and around tiger reserves/ Protected Areas besides leading to reduction in natural resource dependency with substitution by clean energy use.

Local populace would get opportunities to serve as guides, drivers, and hospitality personnel and in other ancillary jobs. These schemes would foster imparting various skills towards making people self-dependent through various eco-development projects, thereby enabling them to go for self-employment.

Approach: Recently Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond the 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Ans 3) (d)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Corals reefs are colonies of tiny living creatures found in ocean water that contains nutrients. Reefs are built from corals, Which consists of polyps. Polyps are nothing but sea anemones to which they are related. Coral polyps secrete hard carbonate exoskeleton which supports and protects their bodies.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Coral reefs are rich in biodiversity and so they are called tropical rainforest of the sea. They are the most diverse ecosystem of the earth, they occupy just 0.1% of the ocean's surface and they are home to 25% of marine species including crustaceans, fish and mollusks.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: corals are fragile ecosystem where rise in temperature can destroy them and change in salinity will also have adverse impacts on them. So climate change is the new threat faced by these fragile species

Warm and shallow waters are preferable for growth of coral reefs

Approach: An important topic in Environment. Already questions have been asked from this section. Also this was in the news 'A team from National Centre for Coastal Research, Chennai, plans to work on coral monitoring and restoration in the Gulf of Mannar.

Related Topics: Coral Bleaching

Ans 4) (b)**Explanation**

Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary/Kulik Bird sanctuary

It is situated near Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal.

The sanctuary has one of the highest numbers of Open bill stork population not only in India but also in Asia and this makes this sanctuary unique.

It draws its name from river Kulik.

Of the new bird species visiting the sanctuary for the first time in 2018 are the Asia Paradise Flycatcher and Indian Patta.

Approach: Location of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks are important. This was in the news recently as more than 1 lakh birds reached the sanctuary this year.

Related Topics: Asia Paradise Flycatcher and Indian Patta.

Ans 5) (b)**Explanation**

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

STATEMENT 1 is correct: National Green Tribunal is a statutory body established by a Government Notification using the powers of Section 3 of the NGT Act 2010. It has replaced National Environment Appellate Authority.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The objective of establishing a National Green Tribunal was as follows:

To provide effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment.

Giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property

Other Related Matters.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It can take suo motu cognisance of a case.

It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of Article 21, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment

The chairperson should have been either a Judge of India's Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court in India.

Approach: NGT is a very important organisation which is always in the news. Recently it took suo motu cognisance of the increase in polluted river stretches in the country and directed the states and union territories to prepare an action plan.

Ans 6) (c)**Explanation**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It can be distinguished by the distinct "roof" at the topmost part of the shell.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN red list.

Approach: A small population of Indian Roofed Turtles in the Lota Devi Temple pond in West Bengal was struggling to survive due to pollution caused by devotees.

Related Topics: Loggerhead sea turtle, Hawksbill sea turtle

Ans 7) (a)**Explanation**

Royle's Pika/Himalayan Mouse Hare

Royle's Pika is distributed mainly in Nepal, Punjab, and Kashmir; Tibet; Szechuan and Yunnan provinces in western China; northern Burma.

IUCN status: Least Concern

Royle's Pika has slightly arched head with rufous-grey body with chestnut-colored head and sparse hair in front of his ears.

Approach: Recently there was an article related to Royle's Pika. Generally questions are asked from environment from sections which are in the news.

News: DNA metabarcoding reveals herb-specific diet of pikas

Related Topics: Metabarcoding

Ans 8) (d)

Explanation

Sunabeda tiger reserve and Simlipal tiger reserve are not located along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi. So option A and B can't be the answer.

Also Indravati Tiger reserve is not in Odisha but Chhattisgarh. So option C is not the right answer.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve

Satkosia spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi in Odisha.

Established in 1976 as a wildlife sanctuary, Satkosia is a paradise of immense scenic charm.

The area was declared as Satkosia Tiger Reserve in 2007, comprising two adjoining wildlife sanctuaries; the Satkosia Gorge sanctuary and Baisipalli sanctuary.

Satkosia is the meeting point of two bio-geographic regions of India; the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats, contributing immense biodiversity.

Approach: Satkosia Tiger Reserve has been in the news because of Tigress Sundari. It is important for us to know the location of the reserve.

Related Topics: National Tiger Conservation Authority

Ans 9) (c)

Explanation

T-1 (Avni) is a tigress from Pandharkawada (Maharashtra) believed to be responsible for the deaths of 13 people.

T-17 (Sundari) is the tigress brought from Madhya Pradesh as part of tiger reintroduction programme in Odisha's Satkosia Tiger Reserve.

Ans 10) (a)

Explanation

TX2 PROGRAMME

It is the most ambitious and visionary species conservation goal ever set by Nepal and the 12 other tiger range countries: TX2 – to double wild tiger numbers by 2022, the next year of the tiger.

WWF was a driving force behind the Tiger Summit and remains a major force behind TX2.

Approach: For the past 2-3 years one or more question has been asked from conservation of tigers. So it is important for us to focus on all the new initiatives in this field.

Related Topics: Tiger Reserves in India

Ans 11) (c)

Explanation

The International Union for Conservation of Nature

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to

safeguard it.

IUCN was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France.

The organization changed its name to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1956 with the acronym IUCN (or UICN in French and Spanish). This remains our full legal name to this day.

Approach: International organizations are always asked in UPSC. This organization is always in news like recently '59 plant species in IUCN threat categories.'

Related Topics: CITES, TRAFFIC etc.

Ans 12) (c)

Explanation

BLACK CARBON

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Black carbon is a potent climate-warming component of particulate matter formed by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, wood and other fuels.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: Black carbon is a short-lived climate pollutant with a lifetime of only days to weeks after release in the atmosphere.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: Black carbon is an important contributor to warming because it is very effective at absorbing light and heating its surroundings directly.

Per unit of mass, black carbon has a warming impact on climate that is 460-1,500 times stronger than CO₂.

When suspended in the atmosphere, black carbon contributes to warming by converting incoming solar radiation to heat. It also influences cloud formation and impacts regional circulation and rainfall patterns.

When deposited on ice and snow, black carbon and co-emitted particles reduce surface albedo (the ability to reflect sunlight) and heat the surface. The Arctic and glaciated regions such as the Himalayas are particularly vulnerable to melting as a result.

Black carbon and its co-pollutants are key components of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution, the leading environmental cause of poor health and premature deaths.

Approach: Focus has always been given to conventional sources of pollution but we should also be very clear of the new pollutants which are equally damaging.

Related Topics: Brown Carbon

Ans 13) (d)

Explanation

MASS WASTING

STATEMENT 1 is correct: These movements transfer the mass of rock debris down the slopes under the direct influence of gravity. That means, air, water or ice does not carry debris with them from place to place but on the other hand the debris may carry with it air, water or ice.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It is not an in-situ process as it involves transportation of material. Weathering is an in-situ or on-site process.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: Gravity exerts its force on all matter, both bedrock and the products of weathering. So, weathering is not a prerequisite for mass movement though it aids mass movements of rocks.

Mass movements of rocks are very active over weathered slopes rather than over unweathered materials.

Mass movements of rocks can be grouped under two major classes: (i) slow movements; (ii) rapid movements.

Approach: this is a basic geography concept which you should be aware of. Recently there was a news related to landslides and this question has been framed keeping that news in mind. Recently,

a real-time landslide warning system has been set up in the Sikkim-Darjeeling belt of north-eastern Himalayas.

Related Topic: Types of mass wasting, weathering

Ans 14) (c)

Explanation

CREEP: Creep is one type under this category which can occur on moderately steep, soil covered slopes. Movement of materials is extremely slow and imperceptible except through extended observation.

EARTH FLOW: Movement of water-saturated clayey or silty earth materials down low-angle terraces or hillsides. Quite often, the materials slump making steplike terraces and leaving arcuate scarps at their heads and an accumulation bulge at the toe. When slopes are steeper, even the bedrock especially of soft sedimentary rocks like shale or deeply weathered igneous rock may slide downslope.

LANDSLIDES: These are relatively rapid and perceptible movements. The materials involved are relatively dry. The size and shape of the detached mass depends on the nature of discontinuities in the rock, the degree of weathering and the steepness of the slope. Depending upon the type of movement of materials several types are identified in this category.

Approach: Recently there was a news related to landslides and this question has been framed keeping that news in mind. Recently, a real-time landslide warning system has been set up in the Sikkim-Darjeeling belt of north-eastern Himalayas.

Related Topics: Slump, rockslide, mudflow, avalanche etc.

Ans 15) (b)

Explanation

Geological Survey of India

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Geological Survey of India is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The main functions of GSI relate to creation and updation of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.

These objectives are achieved through ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical, geo-environmental and natural hazards studies, glaciology, seismotectonic studies, and carrying out fundamental research.

GSI, headquartered at Kolkata, has six Regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, and Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata and State Unit offices in almost all States of the country.

Approach: Recently there was a news related to landslides. This question has been framed keeping that news in mind. Recently, a real-time landslide warning system has been set up in the Sikkim-Darjeeling belt of north-eastern Himalayas.

Ans 16) (d)

Explanation

Siberian Cranes: Siberian Cranes have the longest migration, flying 3,000 miles between their breeding and wintering grounds in eastern Siberia and south eastern China each year. Migration is the most dangerous time for cranes, due to habitat loss along flyways, powerline collisions and shootings...and they must do this twice a year. Cranes can cover an average of 200 miles on a single day during migration by using thermals, or updrafts of warm air, to gain elevation and glide great distances.

Greater Flamingo: Distributed from Africa and southern Europe through West Asia to South Asia. Very large, with long, "coat hanger" neck, big kinked bill, and very long pinkish legs. Plumage at rest whitish with pale pink blush and some deep pink often visible on closed wings. Flies with long

neck and legs extended, when deep pink-and-black wing pattern striking. They are winter migratory birds.

Cuckoos: they are winter migratory bird.

The Bengal Florican: A rare bustard species that is very well known for its mating dance. Among the tall grasslands, secretive males advertise their territories by springing from the ground and fitting to and fro in the air. Currently, the Bengal Florican is found only in U.P., Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in India. Its population in India is estimated at less than 350 birds. About 40 of them survive in Nepal (BirdLife 2010) and the bird may be extinct in Bangladesh. There is little doubt that the populations continue to decline everywhere.

Approach: An important topic in environment and ecology section. Recently was in the news as 'Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has developed a National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along Central Asian Flyway (CAF) for the period 2018-23'.

Related Topics: Threats to migratory birds

Ans 17) (d)

Explanation

Reasons for Migration

- To avoid adverse climatic conditions.
- To manage food shortage
- To avoid competition for nesting space
- To have a better breeding conditions
- To manage shortage of water

MIGRATORY BIRDS OF INDIA

Winter birds: Siberian Cranes, Greater Flamingo, Ruff, Black Winged Stilt, Yellow Wagtail, Wood Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Long Billed Pipit

Summer birds: Asian Koel, Black Crowned Night Heron, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Cuckoos, Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eater, Blue-Tailed Bee-Eater.

Context: 'Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has developed a National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along Central Asian Flyway (CAF) for the period 2018-23'.

Ans 18) (c)

Explanation

Global Warming Potential referenced to the updated decay response for the Bern carbon cycle model and future CO₂ atmospheric concentrations held constant at current levels.

1. Carbon Dioxide:

Global warming potential (100 years): 1

2. Methane

Global warming potential (100 years): 21

3. Nitrous oxide

Global warming potential (100 years): 310

4. Hydro fluoro carbons

Global warming potential (100 years): 140-11,700

5. Sulfur hexafluoride

Global warming potential (100 years): 23,900

Related Topics: Green House Gases, Kigali Agreement

Ans 19) (c)

Explanation

Black Spotted Turtles

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is classified as vulnerable by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The black spotted turtle or spotted pond turtle is native to South Asia. They are found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: It is a medium-sized freshwater turtle and has a black shell with yellow streaks.

Approach: An important topic from Environment section. Recently it was seen in the news as 'India sees highest seizure of black spotted turtles'.

Related Topics: Loggerhead sea turtle, Hawksbill sea turtle, Green sea turtle

Ans 20) (d)**Explanation**

ARAVALLIS

It is a composite Sanskrit Word 'ara' and 'vali' meaning 'the line of peaks'

It is the oldest range of Fold Mountains in India.

It is a range of mountains running in North West direction between Delhi and Palanpur in Gujarat.

It constitutes a vital corridor between Asola Bhatti Sanctuary in Delhi and Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

The 700km long range and its thick forest cover protects National Capital Region and fertile plains of India from the effects of Desert. In earlier decades, Aravalli hills region had a thick forest cover which used to act as a green barrier and acted as an effective shield against desertification. Today, the forests in the Aravalli hills no longer effectively act as a green barrier. The forests of Aravallis range are now the most degraded forests in India; most of the indigenous plant species have disappeared.

Guru Shikhar, a peak in Arbuda Mountains is the highest point of this range.

Approach: This topic is very important in Geography section. Aravallis in particular was in the news for the whole year. In news 'How Haryana has failed the Aravallis'.

Related Topics: Mountain system in India

Ans 21) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: Eurasian Otter's presence confirmed in the Western Ghats. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

The Eurasian otter is a semiaquatic mammal native to Eurasia. It is found in the waterways and coasts of Europe, many parts of Asia, and parts of northern Africa. The Eurasian otter has a diet mainly of fish and is strongly territorial.

Recently there was a discovery of Eurasian Otter in the Western Ghats region. It has been the first solid evidence of their presence in the region after its first record in 1941. They are classified as near threatened in the IUCN Red List. They are affected by illegal poaching for their pelts.

Context: Eurasian Otter recorded in the Western Ghats.

Related Topics: Wood Snakes and Shola Forests

Ans 22) (c)**Explanation:**

The Banni grassland of Gujarat is the largest natural grassland in the Indian subcontinent and an area that is both socio-culturally unique and ecologically valuable. The Banni is home to great biological diversity, having 37 grass species, 275 bird species, and domesticated animals, like Banni Buffalo, Kankrej Cattle, Sheep & Goat, Horses, and Camel, as well as wildlife.

The Banni is also home to 22 pastoralist communities, Maldharis, spread across 48 settlements. The Maldharis rights to graze the Banni are derived from historical rulers of the region who granted these rights in return for a grazing tax.

Context: Drought impacts the Banni Grasslands.

Related Topics: Forest Rights Act and recent tribal protests.

Ans 23) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT: 10 Km is not similar to all protected areas and it is variable. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

Eco-sensitive zones are shock absorbers of the protected areas like National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary. Area up to 10 Km from the boundary of the protected area is notified as eco-sensitive zones. But it varies from one protected area to others depending on their location. The developmental activities are regulated in this zone as decided by the National Board for Wildlife.

Context: Restriction to clearance of projects in the Eco-Sensitive Zones of Western Ghats.

Related Topics: Developmental activity on the fringe of the protected areas.

Ans 24) (d)

Explanation:

Environmental flow refers to the water considered sufficient for protecting the structure and function of an ecosystem and its dependent species. Environmental flows are required to be maintained through a river reach for sustaining its ecosystem and dependent species. It means enough water is to be released in the downstream of the river system after utilizing the water for the development projects in order to ensure downstream environmental, social and economic benefits.

The building of dams and barrages may help to satisfy the needs of the human community but it affects the existence of the life downstream. Hence there has to be a minimum standard of the quality, quantity and time of the flow in the river. Most of the rivers in India, including the Himalayan rivers are affected due to dam construction and manipulation of rivers flows.

Context: Notification of eFlow for the River Ganga.

Related Topics: Interlinking of Indian Rivers and their potential impact on environmental flow.

Ans 25) (c)

Explanation:

Champions of the Earth, the UN's highest environmental honor, celebrate outstanding figures from the public and private sectors and from civil society whose actions have had a transformative positive impact on the environment.

Champions of the Earth recognizes laureates in the following categories:

1. Lifetime Achievement
2. Policy Leadership
3. Action and Inspiration
4. Entrepreneurial Vision
5. Science and Innovation

For the year 2018, Prime Minister of India and Cochin International Airport received Champions of the Earth award under the Political Leadership and Entrepreneurial vision category respectively.

Context: Champions of Earth award to Prime Minister of India.

Related Topic: Seoul Peace Prize to Prime Minister of India.

Ans 26) (a)

Explanation:

International Conference on the Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR) was conducted in Lakshadweep in the backdrop of the International Year of the Reef. It has collaborated with the Zoological Survey of India. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) had declared 2018 as the

year of the reefs. It is the third such conference to be held by the ICRI.

Context: an International conference held in Bangaram Coral Island.

Related Topic: Climatic change and Coral bleaching.

Ans 27) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is jointly funded by the centre and the state governments as it is a centrally sponsored scheme. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: For River Ganga, it will be implemented by the National Ganga River Basin Authority. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the National River Conservation Directorate, Ministry of Environment & Forests, and Government of India jointly with the State Governments on a cost-sharing basis. The pollution abatement works under NRCP include all rivers except main stem Ganga river, which is being handled by the National Ganga River Basin Authority. The NRCP presently cover identified polluted stretches of 40 major rivers in 121 towns spread over 19 States in the country.

Context: Fund for Rivers Devika and Tawi has been sanctioned.

Related Topics: Namami Ganga

Ans 28) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a global event to attract investment to the renewable sector in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

RE-Invest is a major platform for investment promotion in the clean energy sector at Government of India level to signal India's commitment to the development and scaling up of renewable energy to meet its energy requirements in a sustainable manner. This will enable the global investment community to connect with renewable energy stakeholders in India. It is organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

It will help India to mobilize the financial and technological resources needed to achieve its commitments to the Paris agreement on climate change.

Context: Second global renewable energy investment meeting held in Noida.

Related Topics: Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and RE-Invest-IORA.

Ans 29) (c)

Explanation:

St. Mary's Island, declared a national geo-heritage site in 1975, is estimated to be an 88-million-year-old formation that goes back to a time when Greater India broke away from Madagascar. It is proposed to be included in the UNESCO Geoparks heritage list. It is located near the Maple beach in the state of Karnataka.

Context: Application for inclusion in the UNESCO Geoparks List.

Related Topic: Lonar Lake and Continental Drift.

Ans 30) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is the trapping of fish in discarded fishing nets. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It traps fish and marine animals resulting in the destruction of their habitat. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Derelict fishing gear, sometimes referred to as "ghost gear," is any discarded, lost, or abandoned, fishing gear in the marine environment. This gear continues to fish and trap animals, entangle and potentially kill marine life, smother habitat, and act as a hazard to navigation. Derelict fishing gear, such as nets or traps and pots, is one of the main types of debris impacting the marine environment today.

While there are no quick-fix solutions, the United Nations has outlined practical measures aimed at curbing ghost gear, such as educating the fishing industry about the problem and providing incentives for fishermen to report lost equipment and retrieve nets they find at sea.

Establishing collection facilities at each port would help fishermen to dispose of old, damaged or retrieved gear quickly and safely, ready for recycling.

Context: Report on marine plastics submitted to Food and Agriculture Organization.

Related Topics: Microplastics and Marine Life.

Ans 31) (b)

Explanation:

Future Policy Gold Award of Food and Agriculture Organization recognize best policies on agroecology and sustainable food systems.

The Gold award for 2018 was received by the state of Sikkim. It is the first organic state in the world. All of its farmland is certified organic. At the same time, Sikkim's approach reaches beyond organic production and has proven truly transformational for the state and its citizens. Embedded in its design are socioeconomic aspects such as consumption and market expansion, cultural aspects as well as health, education, rural development, and sustainable tourism. The policy implemented a phase-out of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and achieved a total ban on sale and use of chemical pesticides in the state.

Context: Announcement of Future Policy Awards for 2018.

Related Topic: Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

Ans 32) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Sovereign blue bond is a debt instrument to finance the eco-friendly marine projects. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Seychelles launched the first sovereign blue bond. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The blue bond is a debt instrument issued by governments, development banks or others to raise capital from impact investors to finance marine and ocean-based projects that have positive environmental, economic and climate benefits. The Blue Bond is inspired by the green bond concept. Seychelles, a small Island nation launched the world's first sovereign blue bond. The blue bond, as well as the program of marine and ocean-related activities it will support, was prepared with assistance from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility.

Context: World's first sovereign blue bond launched.

Related Topic: Green Bond

Ans 33) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It can also infect non-carnivore animals. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: CDV caused the death of Lions in Gir Wildlife Sanctuary. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Canine Distemper Virus causes fatal diseases in dogs. It also affects wolves, fox, Lions, Tigers, and some non-carnivore animals. It is transmitted airborne by sneezing of the affected animals. It infects the spinal cord and brain and also the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts. The virus is believed to have a 50% fatality rate in dogs. It has been found that the CDV is the reason for the multiple deaths of Lions in the Gir Sanctuary.

Previously CDV caused a 30% reduction of Lion population in the Serengeti region of Africa, where 1,000 lions died in three weeks. The animals can be protected by providing vaccination at the right time.

Context: Vaccination of Gir Lions.

Related Topic: Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus.

Ans 34) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is protected under Schedule 1 of WPA, 1972. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: The center will be located at Patna. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

STATEMENT 3: Vikramashila sanctuary is the only of its nature in India. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Gangetic River Dolphins are declared as National Aquatic Animal of India. They are protected under Schedule 1 of the wildlife protection act, 1972. The National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna, capital of Bihar. It will be India's and Asia's first Dolphin research center.

Vikramashila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is India's only sanctuary for its national aquatic animal.

The sanctuary is a 50 km stretch of the Ganges River from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon. Designated in 1991, it is a protected area for the endangered Gangetic dolphins in Asia. It is placed under the endangered list in IUCN Red List.

Context: First Dolphin Research Centre at Patna.

Related Topic: River Dolphins in other parts of the world.

Ans 35) (c)

Explanation:

Methanol is a clean burning drop in fuel which can replace both petrol & diesel in transportation & LPG, Wood, Kerosene in cooking fuel. It can be produced from a variety of feedstocks like Natural Gas, Coal (Indian High Ash Coal), Biomass, Municipal Solid waste and most importantly from CO₂. The Concept of Methanol Economy is being actively pursued by China, Italy, Sweden, Israel, USA, Australia, Japan, and many other European countries. 10% of fuel in China in transport Sector is Methanol. It burns efficiently in all internal combustion engines, produces no particulate matter, no soot, almost nil SOX, and NOX emissions

One of the reasons why Methanol has the potential to be an enduring solution to human energy needs is because the belched out CO₂ both from using Methanol and while producing Methanol can be tapped back to produce Methanol. Thereby a seamless loop of CO₂ sequestration cycle is created to perpetually burn fuels without polluting the environment at all.

Context: India's first methanol cooking fuel distributed in Assam.

Related Topic: M15 and M100 Programme of India.

Ans 36) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It eliminates the use of Potassium nitrate and sulfur. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It releases water vapor and air. Hence statement is 2 correct.

STATEMENT 3: It cost lower compared to conventional crackers. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

CSIR has developed green crackers in the names of safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminum (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR). They are not only environment-friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones. It has been found that many times the poor quality raw materials used in firecrackers are the major sources of particulate matter pollution.

It has a unique property of releasing water vapor and /or air as a dust suppressant and diluent for gaseous emissions and matching performance in sound with conventional crackers

SWAS crackers eliminate usage of (KNO₃) Potassium nitrate and Sulphur with the consequent reduction in particulate matter (30-35%) SO₂ and NO_x. It has matching sound intensity with commercial crackers in the range of 105-110 dBA.

AFAL has minimal usage of aluminum (only in flash powder for initiation) with a consequent significant reduction in particulate matter (35-40 %) compared to commercial crackers. It has matching sound intensity with commercial crackers in the range of 110-115 dBA.

Context: Introduction of Green Crackers.

Related Topics: e-crackers.

Ans 37) (a)

Explanation:

Green Good Deeds, the societal movement launched to protect the environment and promote good living in the country, has found acceptance by the global community. It campaigns on climate change and global warming. It also advocates for the eco-friendly way of life and makes it more sustainable in Nature. Green Good Deeds includes all small positive actions to be performed by individuals or organizations to strengthen the cause of environmental protection.

The participation of the public and institutions are central to the success of this effort to a greener tomorrow.

Related Topics: Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Ans 38) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: They are native to Latin America. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: They are spread through trade and their flying capacity. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Fall Armyworm is an insect native to the tropical and subtropical regions of America. It prefers crops like maize but can damage a range of crops like rice, millet, sugarcane among others. They were first detected in central and west African region and quickly spread throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Recently their presence is confirmed in India and Yemen. The trade and their flying ability cause their spread.

Integrated pest management can help to fight the fall armyworm menace.

The adult moth is able to move over 100 km per night. It lays its eggs on plants, from which larvae hatch and begin feeding. The female moth can lay up to a total of 1 000 eggs in her lifetime.

Context: Detected in the sugarcane crop at Maharashtra.

Related Topics: Pink Bollworm in Bt Cotton.

Ans 39) (d)

Explanation:

Mission Gange is a month-long rafting expedition that traverses along the river Ganga and visits 7 different cities on the way. The aim of this expedition is to spread awareness among the locals through cleaning rivers and riverfronts and educating people about waste management. National Mission for Clean Ganga has partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation to organize this mission. It consists of 40 members which will be led by the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest, Ms. Bachendri Pal.

Context: Beginning of the rafting expedition on the river Ganga.

Related Topics: Namami Gange Mission.

Ans 40) (b)

Explanation:

Rhododendron is majorly found in the Himalayan states of India. In the north eastern states of India, the species is losing its numbers and vulnerable to extinction. The state of Sikkim has two sanctuaries namely Shingba and Barsey Rhododendron sanctuary.

Context: Vulnerability of Rhododendron on the eastern Himalayas.

Related Topics: States having Rhododendron as their state flowers and plants.

Ans 41) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It protects the plants from the intense heat of the sun. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It helps to protect the plants from pest attacks. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3: The hardening of the tissue culture plantlets done in shade house. Hence statement 3 is correct.

A Shade house is a structure enclosed by agro nets or any other woven material to allow required sunlight, moisture and air to pass through the gaps. It creates an appropriate micro climate conducive to plant growth. It is also referred as shade net house or net house.

The uses of the shade house is as follows:

1. Helps in cultivation of flower plants, foliage plants, medicinal plants, vegetables and spices,
2. Used for fruit and vegetable nurseries as well as for raising of forest species etc,
3. Helps in quality drying of various agro products,
4. Used to protect against pest attack,
5. Protects from natural weather disturbances such as wind, rain, hail and frost,
6. Used in production of graft saplings and reducing its mortality during hot summer days,
7. Used for hardening tissue culture plantlets.

Context: Basic facts related to gardening and agriculture.

Related Topics: Vertical gardening and Hydroponics.

Ans 42) (a)

Explanation:

Out of all the given options, Mathikettan Shola national park is only 4.9 km away from the proposed site of India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO). The park is located between other reserve forests like Eravikulam National Park and Pampadam Shola National Park. The park was part of the Cardamom Hill Reserve region till it was notified as a national park. So option (a) is right.

Anamudi Shola National Park

It is a protected area located along the Western Ghats in Idukki District, Kerala state, South India. It is composed of Mannavan shola, Idivara shola and Pullardi shola, covering a total area of around 7.5 km². Draft notification of this new park was released on Nov 21, 2003.

Context: Issue in INO project due to Mathikettan Shola national park.

Related Topics: INO project.

Ans 43) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Talanoa Dialogue Synthesis Report is released by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and not by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNFCCC released two key publications, Talanoa Dialogue Synthesis Report and Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2018.

It is based on reports such as (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)IPCC report, Emission

Gap Report and WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the report highlights that climate action can help to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Context: New Report by UNFCCC

Related Topics: the Environmental Performance Index; Paris Climate deal.

Ans 44) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. As The Talanoa Dialogue was mandated by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change to take stock of the collective global efforts to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The Talanoa Dialogue is a process designed to help countries implement and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020.

The Dialogue was mandated by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change to take stock of the collective global efforts to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, which is to limit the rise in average global temperature to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect Talanoa Dialogue was launched at COP (Conference of Parties) 23 in 2017 and not in 2015.

The Talanoa Dialogue was launched at COP 23 under the Presidency of the Republic of Fiji, and is a year-long process that will culminate in political discussions at COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, where political leaders will be expected to signal their commitment to increasing the ambition of their NDCs

Context: New Report by UNFCCC

Related Topics: the Paris climate deal and NDC of different countries.

Ans 45) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action was launched by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and not by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It was launched at COP(Conference of Parties) 22(UNFCCC) in 2016.

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, established at the CoP22 (UNFCCC), aims to mobilize climate actions quickly and to reap the benefits in efficiency and effectiveness through partnerships and coordination between the different actors.

Context: New initiative of Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for climate change.

Related Topics: The Paris climate deal and NDC of India.

Ans 46) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Bandhavgarh National Park is situated in the state of Madhya Pradesh .

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is located in the Vindhya Hills .

Bandhavgarh National Park

It is one of the most popular national parks in India located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh.

Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968, with an area of 105 km².

The buffer is spread over the forest divisions of Umaria and Katni, and totals 820 km².

The park derives its name from the most prominent hillock of the area, which was said to be given by Hindu Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana to keep a watch on Lanka (Ceylon). Hence the name Bandhavgarh (Sanskrit: Brother's Fort).

Ans 47) (a)**Explanation:**

'Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration is related to Invest in Biodiversity for People and Planet. Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration. Governments commit to mainstream biodiversity through, integrating biodiversity values in legislative and policy frameworks, and development and finance plans. So option (a) is right.

Context: 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14) at Sharm El-Sheikh.

Related Topics: The Convention on BioDiversity.

Ans 48) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as

Bandhavgarh National Park

- It is one of the most popular national parks in India located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The park derives its name from the most prominent hillock of the area, which was said to be given by Hindu Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana to keep a watch on Lanka (Ceylon). Hence the name Bandhavgarh
- The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India. The park has a large breeding population of leopards, and various species of deer.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as

Dudhwa National Park

It shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal, which is defined to a large extent by the Mohana River. The area is a vast alluvial floodplain traversed by numerous rivers and streams flowing in a southeasterly direction. It is situated in the state of UttarPradesh.

In 1987, Dudhwa National Park and the Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary were brought under the purview of the 'Project Tiger' as Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. The Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary was added in the year 2000.

STATEMENT 3 is correct as

Nanda Devi National Park

Nanda Devi National Park is in Uttrakhand. 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.

Ans 49) (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. As these tiger reserve don't share a boundary with Nepal. So option (c) and (d) cannot be right option.

Valmiki tiger reserve shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal but Mohana River don't flow through Valmiki tiger reserve. So option (a) cannot be an option.

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal, which is defined to a large extent by the Mohana River. The area is a vast alluvial floodplain traversed by numerous rivers and streams flowing in a southeasterly direction. The vegetation of the area is of North Indian Moist Deciduous type. So option (b) is right.

Context: Hint in the question is sharing boundary with Nepal. Good understanding of the location of these reserves on Map.

Related Topics: All the tiger reserve of India which shares International boundary.

Ans 50) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region and not by The Ministry of Environment and Forest

The Council has been constituted to review and implement identified action points based on the Reports of five Working Groups, which were established along thematic areas to prepare a roadmap for action.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as The Himalayan States Regional Council will be the nodal agency for Sustainable development in the Himalayan Region.

It consists of the twelve States namely Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, two districts of Assam namely Dima Hasao and KarbiAnglong and Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal

It shall monitor the implementation of action points for Central Ministries, Institutions and 12 Himalayan State Governments in Indian Himalayan Region which include river basin development and regional cooperation, spring mapping and revival across Himalayas in phased manner for water security; develop, implement and monitor tourism sector standards as well as bring policy coherence, strengthen skill & entrepreneurship with focus on identified priority sectors, among other action points.

Context: NITI Aayog Constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council

Related Topics: Functions of NITI aayog

Ans 51) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Narcondam Hornbill is endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in the Andamans and not in Lakshadweep. Narcondam Island is located 240 km northeast of Port Blair. Narcondam is a small volcanic island located in the Andaman Sea.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Under IUCN Red List, it is listed as Endangered and not Extinct.

Ans 52) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory body established by the Government of India to combat wildlife crime.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect As It was constituted through the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 and received its on 6 June 2007. It became operational in 2008. It was not constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.

Under Section 38 (Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals; to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank;

It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.

Context: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has won Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 for excellent work done by the Bureau in combating transboundary environmental crime.

Related Topics: Statutory organisation under Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Ans 53) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Greenhouse Gas Bulletin reports annually on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and not biannually.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect As The Atmospheric Environment and Research Division of WMO's Research Department publishes the WMO-GAW Annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletins.

Each year, these bulletins will report the latest trends and atmospheric burdens of the most influential, long-lived greenhouse gases; carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O), as well as a summary of the contributions of the lesser gases.

The Bulletins represent the consensus of a consortium of networks operated since the mid 1980s. These three major gases alone contribute about 88% of the increase in radiative forcing of the atmosphere by changes in long-lived greenhouse gases occurring since the beginning of the industrial age (since 1750).

Context: New Report of Greenhouse Gas Bulletin

Ans 54) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. As Virtual Climate Summit was the first global political meeting to be held online and it was carbon neutral Summit.

The Virtual Climate Summit is the brainchild of Marshall Islands President, whose nation is facing the ill impacts of climate change.

STATEMENT 2 is correct As It was organised by the Climate Action Network (CAN) and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)

Context: Virtual Climate Summit was first carbon neutral Summit.

Ans 55) (a)

Explanation:

Out of all the given options, Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park is in Gulf of Kutch is situated on the southern shore of the Gulf of in the Jamnagar of Gujarat. It is the first national marine park of India with 42 islands on the Jamnagar coast in the Marine National Park. So option (d) cannot be a correct option.

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is a national park of India on the Andaman Islands, Situated 29 km. from Port Blair. Most of the coral reefs in the park are fringing reefs and the park is an important breeding ground for turtles

So option (c) cannot be an option..

Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park is a protected area of India consisting of 21 small islands (islets) and adjacent coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar in the Indian Ocean.

It lies 1 to 10 km away from the east coast of Tamil Nadu, India for 160 km between Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) and Dhanushkodi. It is the core area of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve which includes a 10 km buffer zone around the park, including the populated coastal area.

The park has a high diversity of plants and animals in its marine, intertidal and nearshore habitats. Public access inside the Park is limited to glass bottom boat rides.

So option (a) cannot be right option.

Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (PCWBS)

It is a protected area is in Tamil Nadu, along the Palk Strait. The sanctuary was created for conservation of the near threatened blackbuck antelope, an endemic mammal species of India.

It is famous for large congregations of waterbirds, especially greater flamingos.

So option (a) is right options

Context: Hint in the question is Palk Strait.. A person should have a good understanding of the location of these reserves on Map.

Related Topics: All the Marine National Park of India which shares International boundary.

Ans 56) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect. As Pong Dam Lake is built on Beas River in the wetland zone of the Siwalik Hills of the Kangra district of the state of Himachal Pradesh. It is not built on Ravi River.

STATEMENT 2 is correct As Pong Dam Lake is one of the 26 international wetland sites declared in India by the Ramsar Convention

Pong Dam Lake

Maharana Pratap Sagar in India, also known as Pong Reservoir or Pong Dam Lake was created in 1975, by building the highest earthfill dam in India on the Beas River in the wetland zone of the Siwalik Hills of the Kangra district of the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Named in the honour of Maharana Pratap (1540–1597), the reservoir or the lake is a well-known wildlife sanctuary and one of the 27 international wetland sites declared in India by the Ramsar Convention.

The reservoir covers an area of 24,529 hectares (60,610 acres), and the wetlands portion is 15,662 hectares (38,700 acres).

The Pong Reservoir and Gobindsagar Reservoir are the two most important fishing reservoirs in the Himalayan foothills of Himachal Pradesh. These reservoirs are the leading sources of fish within the Himalayan states.

Context: Pong Dam Lake was in the news due to environmental degradation.

Related Topics: Ramsar Convention.

Ans 57) (c)

Explanation:

PAIR 1 is correct as

Bhoj Wetland

The Bhoj Wetland consists of two lakes located in the city of Bhopal, the capital of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

The two lakes are the Bhojtal (Upper Lake) & the Lower Lake, which lies to the west of the city center. The Bhojtal has an area of 31 km², and drains a catchment or watershed of 361 km². The watershed of the Bhojtal is mostly rural, with some urbanized areas around its eastern end. The lower lake has an area of 1.29 km².

Its catchment is 9.6 km² and is mostly urbanized; the Lower Lake also receives subsurface seepage from the Bhojtal.

PAIR 2 is incorrect as

Deepor Beel

Dipor Bil, also spelt Deepor Beel, is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup district of Assam, India] It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river.

It is also called a wetland under the Ramsar Convention which has listed the lake in November 2002, as a Ramsar Site for undertaking conservation measures on the basis of its biological and environmental importance

PAIR 3 is correct as

Harike Wetland

Harike Wetland also known as "Hari-ke-Pattan", with the Harike Lake in the deeper part of it, is the largest wetland in northern India in the border of Tarn Taran Sahib district and Ferozepur district of the Punjab state in India.

The wetland and the lake were formed by constructing the headworks across the Sutlej River, in 1953.

Related Topics: Ramsar Convention.

Ans 58) (c)

Explanation:

Out of all the given options, Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park is in Gulf of Kutch is situated on the southern shore of the Gulf of in the Jamnagar of Gujarat. It is the first national marine park of India with 42 islands on the Jamnagar coast in the Marine National Park. So option (d) cannot be a correct option.

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is a national park of India on the Andaman Islands, Situated 29 km. from Port Blair. Most of the coral reefs in the park are fringing reefs and the park is an important breeding ground for turtles
So option (b) cannot be an option..

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated in Andhra Pradesh, India. It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species.

It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture. In a mangrove ecosystem the water bodies of the ocean/sea and the river meet together at a certain point.

So option (c) be right option.

Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (PCWBS)

It is a protected area is in Tamil Nadu, along the Palk Strait. The sanctuary was created for conservation of the near threatened blackbuck antelope, an endemic mammal species of India.

It is famous for large congregations of waterbirds, especially greater flamingos.

So option (a) is not right options

Context: Try to remember the famous Protected Area and states in which they are situated. Try to create interest in Protected Area

Related Topics: Type of Protected Area and its features.

Ans 59) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is situated in the state of Manipur. .

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is recognized as Important Bird Areas (IBA) by Birdlife International.

Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary:

The Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary is one among the nine Important Bird Areas (IBA) identified in Manipur.

The Sanctuary is located at the Indo-Myanmar border at Chandel district which is about 110 km from Imphal. The eastern boundary of the Sanctuary is coterminous with the international border and Moreh town.

Very little is known about the Sanctuary and its wildlife as most people in Manipur only recognize Moreh and not the adjoining Sanctuary which falls in the Eastern Himalayan Endemic Bird area famous for harboring some of the rare and restricted bird species found nowhere else in the world. This part of the Himalayas is particularly rich in endemic bird species such as the genus *Sphenocichla* (Babblers) etc.

Related Topic: Wildlife Sanctuary of Manipur.

Ans 60) (a)

Explanation:

The 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi, India. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India. So option (a) is right.

Context: 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi, India.

Related Topic: Function of BASIC organization.

Ans 61) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It was awarded to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

STATEMENT 2 is correct as The Asia Environment Enforcement Awards publicly recognize and celebrate excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions/teams combating transboundary environmental crime in Asia.

Context: Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 was awarded to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

Related Topic: Function of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

Ans 62) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It was started by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) for its efforts in conducting and coordinating species-specific wildlife enforcement operation, codenamed 'Operation Save Kurma'.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the operation was conducted to combat the proliferating illegal trade of live turtles and its parts from the country to destinations abroad.

Context: Initiatives of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

Related Topic: Operation ThunderBird.

Ans 63) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as it is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as CITES is legally binding on the Parties, but it does not take the place of national laws.

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention) is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.

It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The convention was opened for signature in 1973 and CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975.

Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants.

In order to ensure that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was not violated, the Secretariat of GATT was consulted during the drafting process

Related Topic: UNEP.

Ans 64) (a)**Explanation:**

Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary is in Nagaland. So option (a) is right.

The Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary in Kiphire district is ideal for nature lovers and animal enthusiasts. The sanctuary is considered to be an abode for many wildlife animals such as leopards, tigers, wild buffaloes, hoolock gibbons and mithun.

Hornbill, the most popular bird in Nagaland is also abundantly found in the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary. The wildlife sanctuary is spread over 642 hectares. It was established in the year 1983, and it lies along the international border with Myanmar.

The sanctuary is not only an abode for animals, but abundant flora to be found here too. The important trees to be found here are Bogipoma, Bonsum, Khasi Pine, Amari, Oaks, Gamari, Nahor, Uriam, Hollock, Alder, Sasi and Kachnar. Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary is located in such a geographic location that it receives high rainfall facilitating the growth of abundant flora.

The nearest airport to the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary is Dimapur from where easy road transports can be availed.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLGOY



Q1. With reference to 'The beyond Ultra-Deep Frontiers Fields and Legacy Observations (BUFFALO) survey', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an initiative of NASA.
 2. BUFFALO will place significant new constraints on how and when the most massive and luminous galaxies in the universe formed and how early galaxy formation is linked to dark matter assembly.
- 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

Q2. Consider the following statements about 'The Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager (FOXSI)':

1. It is collaboration between ISRO and NASA.
2. It studies solar radiation by exploring issues of energy release and particle acceleration in the corona—the outermost layer of the Sun.

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. The 'Gaganyaan Mission' recently seen in the news is

- a) First manned space program of India
- b) India's First plane to be run completely on Bio-jet fuel
- c) World's first private mission to the moon
- d) None

Q4. 'Hope Mars Mission' recently seen in news belongs to which country?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) India
- c) USA
- d) UAE

Q5. Consider the following statements about 'International Centre for Transformative AI (ICTAI)':

1. It is collaboration between NITI Aayog, Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
2. ICTAI aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas – healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility

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

Q6. 'Ryugu' recently seen in news is

- a) An exoplanet orbiting in the habitable zone of the red dwarf star Proxima Centauri
- b) A new planet discovered by ISRO
- c) A near-Earth asteroid
- d) None of the above

Q7. Consider the following statements with respect to 'UTRAQ':

1. It is a VTS module based on IRNSS to track locations.
2. UTRAQ modules can be used for marine, aerial, terrestrial navigation.

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

Q8. XMM-Newton, an X-ray space observatory, recently seen in the news is related to which space organization?

- a) NASA
- b) European Space Agency
- c) The China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- d) United Kingdom Space Agency

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'Bio speleology':

1. It is the scientific study of cave organisms and ecosystems.
2. They are collectively known as troglafauna.

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

Q10. Which of the following statements about 'Food Safety and Standards Authority of India' is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body which lays down science-based standards for articles of food and regulates their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import.
2. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.

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

Q11. Which of the following is incorrect about food fortification?

- a) It is an excellent method to improve the health of a large section of the population, all at once.
- b) The addition of micronutrients to food does not pose a health risk to people.
- c) It requires changes in eating patterns or food habits of people.
- d) It does not alter the characteristics of the food like the taste, aroma or the texture of the food.

Q12. 'F Logo' released by Government of India is related to

- a) Organic fertilizers
- b) Fortified foods
- c) Organic food (free from chemical fertilizers)
- d) None of the above

Q13. Which of the following statements about 'Central Drugs Standard Control Organization' is correct?

- 1. It is a statutory authority.
 - 2. It works under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
 - 3. It regulates the import of drugs and the introduction of new drugs.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q14. 'Chandrakant Kokate Committee', sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) Review of 344 banned Fixed Dose Combination Drugs
- b) To review the feasibility of Bullet Train
- c) To review the status of Non-Performing Assets
- d) To look into how much excess reserves of RBI can be transferred to Government.

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Hydrogen Fuel':

- 1. It is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water.
- 2. Hydrogen can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q16. 'Apsara-U', 'Dhruva' and 'Kamini', recently seen in news are

- a) Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines
- b) Missiles developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Program
- c) New earth like planets discovered by NASA
- d) They are the names of research reactors operational in India

Q17. Recently a satellite named 'ICESAT-2' was launched by which organization?

- a) ISRO
- b) NASA
- c) European Space Agency
- d) Roscosmos

Q18. Consider the following statements about 'Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar':

- 1. This Radar is indigenously developed by Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore under Technology Transfer from ISRO.
- 2. Doppler weather Radar is used for the observation of the weather system helps in early warning of severe weather events.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q19. Which of the following conditions are required for a celestial body to be called a planet?

- 1. It must orbit the sun.
- 2. It must have a moon of its own.
- 3. It should be massive enough to acquire near spherical shape.
- 4. It has to 'clear its orbit', that is, be the object that exerts the maximum gravitational pull within its orbit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

20. 'OneerTM', recently seen in the news, is related to

- a) Water disinfection
- b) Backwaters transport
- c) Bottled Ganges water
- d) Water desalination

21. Which one of the following statements is correct about the BepiColombo Mission?

- a) Srilankan post-war rehabilitation measures
- b) Economic and social development in Asia Pacific
- c) Interplanetary space mission
- d) The welfare of migrant workers from Asian Countries

22. Consider the following statements about the Chandra X-Ray Observatory

- 1. It is one of the most important astronomical observatories of India.
- 2. It detects the X-Ray emissions from very cold regions of 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

23. Which of the following are baseload power plants?

- 1. Thermal Power Plant
- 2. Pumped storage hydropower plant
- 3. Nuclear power plant
- 4. Wind power plant

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

24. Consider the following statements about Bisphenol A:

- 1. It is used as a coating in many plastic objects used in day to day life.
- 2. It is a hydrophilic chemical, making difficult to remove from water or food materials.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

25. Which of the following is the correct description of 'IBUKI-2'?

- a) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for combat
- b) Amphibious aircraft
- c) Observatory satellite
- d) Exoplanet

26. Which of the following is the correct description of the 'Astra' military hardware?

- a) Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle
- b) Air to Air missile
- c) Portable radar technology
- d) Surface to Air missile

27. The term SPHEREx recently seen in the

news is related to

- a) Space Telescope
- b) Mission to Mercury
- c) Space probe to Saturn
- d) Artificial Intelligence assistance to Astronauts

28. Consider the following statements about the Nirbhay Missile:

- 1. It is indigenously developed long-range super-sonic missile.
- 2. It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warhead.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements about Mycotoxins:

- 1. It is a kind of toxins produced by bacteria when they grow on food materials.
- 2. Ergot alkaloids is a mycotoxin which on consumption leads to nausea and vomiting.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

30. Which of the following are the macronutrients for the plants?

- 1. Nitrogen
- 2. Manganese
- 3. Sulfur
- 4. Calcium

Codes:

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

31. Consider the following statements about the eco-friendly energy source Beehive Briquettes:

- 1. It is made from the abandoned beehive with clay as a substrate for the briquettes.
- 2. It generates smokeless blue flame uniformly for more than two hours.

Which of the above statements 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 "LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) Scientific Collaboration"

1. This Experiment is for detecting Neutrinos and measuring mass of Neutrinos.
 2. It is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory to understand the origins of gravitational waves. 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

Q33. Consider the following statements about 'GSAT-29 Communication Satellite':

1. It is the heaviest satellite launched from India.
 2. It was placed into a Sun Synchronous transfer orbit over the equator.

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 'NASA's InSight probe':

1. It is a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Venus.
 2. It will be launched in 2020 by NASA.

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 statements about 'Hyper Spectral imaging satellite (HYSIS)':

1. It is India's first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced Earth observation.
 2. It was placed into a GeoSynchronous transfer orbit over the equator.

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 statements about 'GSLV Mk III':

1. It is a four-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
 2. It is designed to carry 10 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 4 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

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. Which one of the following is correct regarding 'Earth BioGenome Project'?

- a) It is an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth's currently described eukaryotic species over a period of ten years
- b) It is an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth's currently described Prokaryotes species over a period of ten years
- c) It is an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth's currently described Prokaryotes species over a period of twenty years
- d) It is an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth's currently described eukaryotic species over a period of twenty years

Q38. Consider the following statements about 'General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)':

1. The CGPM is the highest international body of the world for accurate and precise measurements.

2. India is not a member of this Organization. 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

Q39. Consider the following statements about 'Mars orbiter mission':

1. It is the First Mars mission in the world to succeed Mars Orbit Insertion in first attempt.
 2. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization in October 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

Q40. Which one of the following is correct regarding 'New Definition of Kilogram' as suggested by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)?

- a) It will be based on Planck constant, which is a physical constant.
- b) It will be based on the speed of light, which is a physical constant
- c) It will be based on Avogadro Constant, which is a physical constant

d) It will be based on Electron's Charge, which is a physical constant

Q41. Consider the following statements about 'Lagrange point in space':

1. A Lagrange point is a location in space where the combined gravitational forces of two large bodies, such as Earth and the sun or Earth and the moon, equal the centrifugal force felt by a much smaller third body.

2. It is a point of equilibrium where a spacecraft may be "parked" to make observations.

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. 'ClaRAN', 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 artificial intelligence (AI) programme to scan images taken by radio telescopes

Q43. Consider the following statements about 'Human Brain Project':

1. It is largely funded by the European Union.

2. It is for advanced knowledge in the fields of neuroscience, computing, and brain-related medicine.

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 'SpiNNaker (Spiking Neural Network Architecture) Supercomputer':

1. It is the world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer, designed and built to work in the same way a human brain works.

2. It is now supported by the European Human Brain Project.

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

Q45. Consider the following statements about

First 'Global Cooling Innovation Summit':

1. It is related to explore concrete means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners

2. It was held in London.

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. Consider the following statements about 'Wellcome Trust':

1. It is the largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research in the United Kingdom.

2. Recently, The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Wellcome Trust completed two decades of their partnership.

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 'The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative':

1. It is a collaborative 10-year bilateral research initiative by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, India and Cancer Research UK (CRUK)

2. It is £100 million bilateral research initiative which will focus on low cost approaches to cancer treatment.

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 'Common Service Centers':

1. The Common Services Centers (CSCs) are an integral part of Digital India Programme.

2. These are the access points for delivery of various digital services to villages and rural areas across the country and contribute towards fulfilling the Government's mandate of a digitally and financially inclusive society

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 'Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India

1. It intends to increase transparency in the functioning of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative uses of Government Data to give different perspective
2. It was setup by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in compliance with the Open Data Policy 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

Q50. Consider the following statements about 'PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAAN (PMGDISHA)':

1. The Scheme is applicable for rural as well as urban areas of the country
2. All members of the eligible household would be considered for training under this programme.

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 statements about 'Chandrayaan-1':

1. It was India's first lunar probe
2. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization in October 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

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ans 1) (c)

Explanation

The Beyond Ultra-Deep Frontiers Fields and Legacy Observations (BUFFALO) survey

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is an initiative of NASA.

Beyond Ultra-deep Frontier Fields And Legacy Observations (BUFFALO) is an astronomical survey built around the six Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Frontier Fields clusters designed to learn about early galactic assembly and clustering and prepare targets for observations with the James Webb Space Telescope.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: BUFFALO will place significant new constraints on how and when the most massive and luminous galaxies in the universe formed and how early galaxy formation is linked to dark matter assembly.

The same data will also probe the temperature and cross section of dark matter in the massive Frontier Fields galaxy clusters, and tell us how the dark matter, cluster gas, and dynamics of the clusters influence the galaxies in and around them.

Context: BUFFALO initiative of NASA was recently seen in news.

Related Topics: Insights mission of NASA.

Ans 2) (b)

Explanation

The Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager (FOXSI)

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is collaboration between National Astronomical Observatory of Japan and NASA. The Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager (FOXSI) rocket project is collaboration between the University of Minnesota, University of California Berkeley, NASA/Marshall, NASA/Goddard, University of Tokyo/Kavli IPMU, Nagoya University, Tokyo University of Science, JAXA/ISAS, and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: This experiment studies solar radiation by exploring issues of energy release and particle acceleration in the corona—the outermost layer of the Sun.

The rocket observes and collects x-ray data throughout its brief six to seven-minute flight by targeting active regions, small solar flares, and the quiet Sun.

FOXSI is the first solar mission to use direct focusing optics in such a high energy range, rather than the indirect imaging methods of the past.

Context: Recently there was a news 'NASA's FOXSI mission to search Sun with X-ray vision'

Related Topics: JUNO Mission

Ans 3) (a)

Explanation

GAGANYAAN MISSION

Gaganyaan is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft that is intended to send 3 astronauts to space for a minimum of seven days by 2022, as part of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme. It will be for the first time that India will launch its manned mission to space, making the country fourth in line to have sent a human into space.

Context: 'ISRO setting up launch pad for Gaganyaan mission' This is one of the most important missions of India recently announced by India.

Related Topics: GSLV Mk III

Ans 4) (d)**Explanation**

HOPE MARS MISSION/EMIRATES MARS MISSION

It is a space exploration probe mission to Mars, set to be launched by the United Arab Emirates in 2020.

Upon launch, UAE will become the first mission to Mars by any Arab or Muslim country. Under the mission, UAE will send an uncrewed probe to Mars. It is aimed at providing a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere.

Context: Recently this was in the news as UAE announces first astronauts to go into space.

Ans 5) (c)**Explanation**

International Centre for Transformative AI (ICTAI)

STATEMENT 1 is correct: NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) announced that they are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: the Model ICTAI aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas – healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility – by bringing together the expertise of Intel and TIFR.

This initiative is a part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' Discussion Paper that focuses on establishing ICTAI in the country through private sector collaboration.

It aims to experiment, discover and establish best practices in the domains of ICTAI governance, fundamental research, physical infrastructure, compute and service infrastructure needs, and talent acquisition.

Approach: This was in the news recently as NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR collaborate to set up a Model International Center for Transformative AI (ICTAI).

Ans 6) (c)**Explanation**

Ryugu, is a near-Earth object and a potentially hazardous asteroid of the Apollo group. It measures approximately 1 kilometer (0.6 mi) in diameter and is a dark object of the rare spectral type Cg, with qualities of both a C-type asteroid and a G-type asteroid.

Approach: Recently Japan became the world's first to land rovers MINERVA-II1 on asteroid Ryugu. So this news becomes important from exam's perspective.

Related Topics: Asteroids and Comets

Ans 7) (c)**Explanation**

UTRAQ

STATEMENT 1 is correct: MobileTek and Rama Krishna Electro Pvt Ltd UTRAQ is a VTS module based on IRNSS to track locations.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: UTRAQ modules can be used for marine, aerial, terrestrial navigation.

L110 GNSS and L100 GNSS are the two modules launched. The L110 GNSS module is a compact NavIC module, while the L100 GNSS module is a smaller-sized POT (Patch on Top) IRNSS module. These modules can be used for different tasks other than tracking. These include ranging, command, control, timing and more.

These modules can also be used for vehicle tracking and Geodetic data capture among others.

UTRAQ's launch will help ISRO systems will be able to provide accurate data without any dependency on foreign satellites.

Context: India is trying to build its own navigation system and a lot has been done in this. So this is the new development in that field.

Related Topics: NAVIC system

Ans 8) (b)

Explanation

XMM- NEWTON

The European Space Agency's (ESA) X-ray Multi-Mirror Mission (XMM-Newton) was launched by an Ariane 504 on December 10th 1999.

XMM-Newton is ESA's second cornerstone of the Horizon 2000 Science Programme.

It carries 3 high throughput X-ray telescopes with an unprecedented effective area, and an optical monitor, the first flown on an X-ray observatory. Since Earth's atmosphere blocks out all X-rays, only a telescope in space can detect and study celestial X-ray sources.

Context: this observatory was in the news recently as a UK team of astronomers report the first detection of matter falling into the black hole. The team used data from the European Space Agency's X-ray Observatory XMM-Newton.

Related Topics: Black holes

Ans 9) (c)

Explanation

Biospeleology

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is the scientific study of cave organisms and ecosystems.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: cave organisms and ecosystems are collectively known as troglotauna.

Cave organisms fall into three basic classes:

Troglobite

Troglobites are obligatory cavernicoles, specialized for cave life. Some can leave caves for short periods, and may complete parts of their life cycles above ground, but cannot live their entire lives outside of a cave environment. Examples include chemotrophic bacteria, some species of flatworms, collembola, and cavefish.

Troglophile

Troglophiles can live part or all of their lives in caves, but can also complete a life cycle in appropriate environments on the surface. Examples include cave crickets, bats, millipedes, pseudoscorpions and spiders.

Trogloxene

Trogloxenes frequent caves, and may require caves for a portion of its life cycle, but must return to the surface (or a para hypogean zone) for at least some portion of its life. Oilbirds and the Daddy longlegs are troglaxenes.

Approach: Recently Zoological Society of London nominated Dr. Shaik for its fellowship for his work on Bio speleology. So this news is important from exam's perspective.

Ans 10) (c)

Explanation:

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 establishes an independent statutory Authority – the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India with head office at Delhi. FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.

The Act also aims to establish a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and

standards, by moving from multi- level, multi- departmental control to a single line of command.

Context: Recently FSSAI released a report on Food Fortification.

Related Topics: Food Corporation of India.

Ans 11) (c)

Explanation

FOOD FORTIFICATION: Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as Iron, Iodine, Zinc, and Vitamins A & D to staple foods such as rice, wheat, oil, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content. These nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing or may have been lost during processing.

Benefits of food fortification:

Food Fortification has a high benefit-to-cost ratio. The Copenhagen Consensus estimates that every 1 Rupee spent on fortification results in 9 Rupees in benefits to the economy. It requires an initial investment to purchase both the equipment and the vitamin and mineral premix, but the overall costs of fortification are extremely low. Even when all program costs are passed on to consumers, the price increase is approximately 1-2%, which is less than the normal price variation. Following are the various benefits of fortification of foods:

Nutrients are added to staple foods since they are widely consumed. Thus, this is an excellent method to improve the health of a large section of the population, all at once.

It is a safe method of improving nutrition among people. The addition of micronutrients to food does not pose a health risk to people. The quantity added is small and well under the Recommended Daily allowance (RDA) and are well regulated as per prescribed standards for safe consumption.

It is a cost-effective intervention and does not require any changes in eating patterns or food habits of people. It is a socio-culturally acceptable way to deliver nutrients to people.

It does not alter the characteristics of the food like the taste, aroma or the texture of the food.

Context: Recently FSSAI released a report on it. A very important topic which has many benefits and can solve the hunger problem of the country.

Related Topics: PDS scheme

Ans 12) (b)

Explanation

+F Logo

FSSAI has created a logo for fortification which will help consumers identify the fortified food commodities in an easy, straightforward manner.

The square represents completeness. The plus sign (+) is about adding extra nutrition and vitamins to daily meals, to adding more to life. And the ring around the letter 'F' illustrates the ring of good health, protection and an active life.

The Colour Blue symbolizes purity and good health. As a primary colour in the colour wheel, it also represents the basic need for good health and Food Fortification.

Context: Recently FSSAI released a report on Food Fortification.

Related Topics: Mid-day Meal Scheme.

Ans 13) (d)

Explanation

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It works under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: It is a regulatory body for the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials, meetings of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) and Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), approval of certain licenses as Central License Approving Authority is exercised by the CDSCO headquarters.

Context: Recently the body was in the news as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in exercise of the powers conferred by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has prohibited the manufacture for sale, sale or distribution for human use of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) and restricted the manufacture, sale or distribution of six FDCs subject to certain conditions.

Related Topics: Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)

Ans 14) (a)

Explanation

Chandrakant Kokate Committee: The Health Ministry appointed the C.K. Kokate Commission in 2013-14 to review the 7000+ applications forms pharma companies to manufacturing F.D.C.s.

Fixed Dose Combinations: Sometimes, two or more drugs are combined in a fixed ratio into a single dosage form, which is termed as fixed dose combinations (FDCs). The FDCs are justified when they demonstrate clear benefits in terms of (a) potentiating the therapeutic efficacy, (b) reducing the incidence of adverse effects of drugs, (c) having pharmacokinetic advantage, (d) better compliance by reducing the pill burden, (e) reducing dose of individual drugs, (f) decreasing development of resistance, and (g) cheaper than individual drug because of reduced cost from packaging to distribution. It is important that the above claims are adequately supported by scientific evidence.

Context: Recently, based on the recommendations of Kokate committee, the Union Health Ministry had imposed the ban on 344 FDC drugs under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act .

Ans 15) (c)

Explanation

HYDROGEN FUEL

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Hydrogen can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind.

It can be used in cars, in houses, for portable power, and in many more applications. Today, hydrogen fuel can be produced through several methods. The most common methods today are natural gas reforming (a thermal process), and electrolysis. Other methods include solar-driven and biological processes.

Context: A new and clean source of energy. Recently there was news that Delhi is all set to be India's first city to launch hydrogen-enriched CNG (HCNG) buses in 2019.

Related Topics: Nuclear energy

Ans 16) (d)

Explanation

APSARA-U:

"Apsara", the first research reactor in Asia became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in August 1956.

The reactor was shut down in 2009. Recently APSARA-upgraded was opened.

The reactor, made indigenously, uses plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched

Uranium (LEU).

By virtue of higher neutron flux, this reactor will increase indigenous production of radio-isotopes for medical application by about fifty percent and would also be extensively used for research in nuclear physics, material science and radiation shielding.

DHRUVA:

It was established in August 8, 1985.

It is used for basic research, isotope production, manpower training, neutron activation analysis, and testing of neutron detectors.

KAMINI

It was established in October 29, 1996.

It is used for neutron radiography, calibration of detectors, material characterization, shielding experiments, irradiation study on samples.

Context: Recently swimming pool type research reactor “Apsara-upgraded” has become operational at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay.

Ans 17) (b)

Explanation

ICESAT-2

ICESat-2 (short for Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite), launched Sept. 15, 2018, uses lasers and a very precise detection instrument to measure the elevation of Earth’s surface.

It will measure the height of a changing Earth – one laser pulse at a time, 10,000 laser pulses a second.

Our planet's frozen and icy areas, called the cryosphere, are a key focus of NASA's Earth science research. ICESat-2 will help scientists investigate why, and how much, our cryosphere is changing in a warming climate.

The satellite will also measure heights across Earth's temperate and tropical regions, and take stock of the vegetation in forests worldwide.

Context: Satellite launches are important from the exam’s perspective. Recently ‘ICESAT-2’ was launched by NASA.

Related Topics: Low Earth orbit, Medium Earth orbit, geosynchronous orbit, geostationary orbit

Ans 18) (c)

Explanation

Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar

ISRO inaugurated an S-band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar at SDSC/ISRO, Sriharikota on September 16, 2018.

STATEMENT 1 is correct: This Radar was indigenously developed by Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore under Technology Transfer from ISRO.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Doppler weather Radar is used for the observation of the weather system and helps in early warning of severe weather events.

This is the seventh Radar manufactured in the country under “Make in India” Concept.

Approach: ISRO inaugurated an S-band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar at SDSC/ISRO, Sriharikota on September 16, 2018. An important development as India is a disaster prone country.

Ans 19) (b)

Explanation

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union (IAU), which has the final say on matters of astronomical nomenclature, voted on a formal definition of what makes a planet. (The official press release is [here](#).) According to their decision a planet must satisfy the following three criteria:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It must be an object which independently orbits the Sun (this means moons can't be considered planets, since they orbit planets)

STATEMENT 3 is correct: It must have enough mass that its own gravity pulls it into a roughly spheroidal shape.

STATEMENT 4 is correct: It must be large enough to "dominate" its orbit (i.e. its mass must be much larger than anything else which crosses its orbit)

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: there are no criteria for the planet to have a moon of its own. For e.g.: mercury and venus don't have moons.

Context: There was an article 'Celestial Misfit'. The question has been framed from there.

Related Topics: Solar System

Ans 20) (a)

Explanation:

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for Drinking Water Disinfection System with Trade name OneerTM

It is useful for the continuous treatment of water and eliminates all disease-causing pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, and protozoa to provide safe drinking water to domestic and community settings as per National and International standards prescribed for potable water. It is powered by Solar power and hence suitable even for remote rural places.

Context: CSIR develops affordable Water Disinfection System "OneerTM"

Related Topic: Malaria, Cholera

Ans 21) (c)

Explanation:

BepiColombo is Europe's first mission to Mercury. It will set off in 2018 on a journey to the smallest and least explored terrestrial planet in our Solar System. BepiColombo is a joint mission between ESA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), executed under ESA leadership.

The mission comprises of two spacecraft: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO).

Context: Mission to the least explored planet Mercury.

Related Topic: MESSENGER and Indian Mission to Venus.

Ans 22) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is part of great space observatories of NASA. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It detects the X-rays from the very hot regions of the universe. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Chandra X-ray Observatory of NASA is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe such as exploding stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes. As X-rays are absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere, Chandra must orbit above it, up to an altitude of 139,000 km in space. The Smithsonian's Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, MA, hosts the Chandra X-ray Center, which operates the satellite, processes the data, and distributes it to scientists around the world for analysis.

Chandra has imaged the spectacular, glowing remains of exploded stars, and taken spectra showing the dispersal of elements. Chandra has observed the region around the supermassive black hole in the center of our Milky Way and found black holes across the Universe. Chandra has traced the separation of dark matter from normal matter in the collision of galaxies in a cluster and is contributing to both dark matter and dark energy studies.

Context: Delay in the launch of James Webb Telescope.

Related Topic: Great observatories of NASA like Hubble, Chandra, Crompton, and Spitzer.

Ans 23) (b)

Explanation:

Baseload power plants are the one that provides continuous reliable power throughout the year without variability due to external conditions. Some of the examples are thermal and nuclear power plants. They will fail to supply power only when they go under maintenance work. Pumped storage hydropower plant is a peak load plant and the wind energy will be available only during particular seasons. Diesel power plants are also an example of the peak load power plant. They will be operated during the period of high demand.

Context: Potential energy mix for India.

Related Topics: Peak load power plants.

Ans 24) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is commonly found chemical in plastic objects. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is Hydrophobic in nature. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

BPA is commonly used to coat the insides of food cans, bottle tops, and water supply lines, and was once a component of baby bottles. While BPA that seeps into food and drink is considered safe in low doses, prolonged exposure is suspected of affecting the health of children and contributing to high blood pressure. It is hydrophobic in nature. They are also associated with the cancer-causing effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), which have hormone-like effects in the body.

Context: Invention of a trap to destroy the BPA.

Related Topics: Plastic waste management rules.

Ans 25) (c)**Explanation:**

IBUKI mission of the Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) made it possible to get an accurate map of carbon dioxide and methane concentrations around the globe.

As the successor to the IBUKI mission, IBUKI-2 or GOSAT-2 aims to gather observations of greenhouse gases with higher levels of accuracy via even higher-performance on board observation sensors. The project will serve to provide observation data to environmental administrations and drive international anti-global warming efforts.

Context: Rocket carrying 1st UAE-made satellite Ibuki-2 launched from Japan.

Related Topics: Orbiting carbon observatory of NASA.

Ans 26) (b)**Explanation:**

Astra missile is the beyond visual range air to air missile (BVRAAM) developed by DRDO. It is the first BVRAAM completely developed within India. It is a state-of-the-art weapon system comparable with the best include its long range of over a hundred kilometers and its smokeless propulsion that lets the missile kill its target without giving any clue about the location of the launching aircraft. It forms the most potent weapon systems for such aircraft in modern aerial warfare and is needed in large numbers by any Air Force. It is attached to the IAF Su 30 and also planned to be integrated into the LCA Tejas.

Context: Missile technological development in India.

Related Topics: Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme and Barak missiles.

Ans 27) (a)**Explanation:**

The US space agency NASA has unveiled a new space telescope, SPHEREx or Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer will begin a two-year mission in 2023 to look for life's ingredients and probe how the universe evolved. SPHEREx will survey the sky in optical as well as near-infrared light which, though not visible to the human eye,

serves as a powerful tool for answering cosmic questions.

Context: Recently there was a news that NASA will launch a new space telescope, SPHEREx, in 2023, that could provide a glimpse of the first moments in the history of the universe.

Related Topics: James Webb Telescope.

Ans 28) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 : It is a subsonic missile. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Nirbhay is a two-stage sub-sonic missile indigenously developed by the DRDO. Fueled by solid rocket motor it has a range of 1000 Km. It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads. The two-stage missile — it takes off vertically like a conventional rocket and then takes a 90-degree turn to come into horizontal flight, or 'cruise mode' — flies at treetop level to avoid detection by enemy radars. Flight speed of 900-1,000 kilometers per hour allows the missile to maneuver and navigate its way precisely to the target.

It is equivalent to American Tomahawk missile carrying nuclear weapons up to 300 kg.

Context: CAG report on the Nirbhay Missile reliability.

Related Topics: Brahmos

Ans 29) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect, It is produced by fungi.

STATEMENT 2 is correct; Ergot alkaloids on consumption will lead to nausea and vomiting.

Mycotoxins are toxins produced by some fungi when they grow on food; most fungi produce mycotoxins which are harmless and even helpful. For example, the antibiotic penicillin came from a fungus, and it is a mycotoxin. Some of the harmful mycotoxins are aflatoxins, ergot alkaloids, Fumonisin mycotoxicosis, Trichothecene, and deoxynivalenol mycotoxicosis.

Ergot alkaloids are toxins released by the fungus belonging to the group Claviceps.

1. These contaminate the cereals like wheat, rye, and bajra during the pre-harvest stages in the field.
2. Consuming ergot alkaloids leads to diseases characterized by nausea, vomiting, giddiness, and somnolence.
3. In extreme cases, it may lead to gangrene of extremities.

Context: supreme Court's role in food procurement and storage.

Related Topics: Control measures of mycotoxins.

Ans 30) (c)

Explanation:

Plant nutrition refers to the interrelated steps by which a living organism assimilates food and uses it for growth and replacement of tissue. It takes into account the interrelationships of mineral elements in the soil or soilless solution as well as their role in plant growth. This interrelationship involves a complex balance of mineral elements essential and beneficial for optimum plant growth.

The six macronutrients, nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and sulfur (S) are required by plants in large amounts.

The rest of the elements are required in trace amounts (micronutrients). Essential trace elements include boron (B), chlorine (Cl), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), sodium (Na), zinc (Zn), molybdenum (Mo), and nickel (Ni). Beneficial mineral elements include silicon (Si) and cobalt (Co).

Context: Unscientific usage of chemical fertilizers.

Related Topics: Soil health card and NPK imbalance in Indian agriculture.

Ans 31) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a mixture of char and clay mud. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: Dried briquettes will provide a uniform smokeless blue flame for 2-3 hours. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Beehive briquettes are mainly charcoal briquettes made from char and clay mud mixed in a certain proportion. Mud acts mainly as a binding agent and reduces the rate of burning. Due to the holes, it looks like a beehive, thus the name came to Beehive Briquette. Dried beehive briquette produces smokeless blue flame during burning for 2.5 to 3 hrs. It can be burnt in a specially made metal stove.

Once the briquette catches fire at the base, fire spreads uniformly and propagates upward. It can be used for cooking and space heating. This could be an eco-friendly alternative clean source of household fuel to save electricity and wood fuel. Emission of harmful gases from burning briquettes is very low as compared to wood and woody biomass which is commonly used by rural people.

Context: Innovation to reduce indoor air pollution.

Related Topics: Effects of indoor air pollution and smokeless chulhas.

Ans 32) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) Scientific Collaboration is an Experiment is for detecting Gravitational-Wave and not detecting Neutrinos and measuring mass of Neutrinos.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory to understand the origins of gravitational waves.

LIGO

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves and to develop gravitational-wave observations as an astronomical tool.

Two large observatories were built in the United States with the aim of detecting gravitational waves by laser interferometry. These can detect a change in the 4 km mirror spacing of less than a ten-thousandth the charge diameter of a proton.

Context: LIGO to Publish Paper on Analysis Techniques to detect gravitational Waves.

Related Topics: INDIGO, or IndIGO (Indian Initiative in Gravitational-wave Observations) project of India.

Ans 33) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as GSAT-29 Communication Satellite is the heaviest satellite launched from India. Weighing 3,423 kg at lift-off, GSAT-29 is the heaviest satellite to be launched from India.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It will be placed in a geostationary transfer orbit and not in Sun Synchronous transfer orbit over the equator.

GSAT-29 Communication Satellite

GSAT-29 is a high-throughput communication satellite developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The mission aims at providing high-speed bandwidth to Village Resource Centres (VRC) in rural areas. The two Ku and Ka operational payloads will provide communication services to Jammu and Kashmir and Northeast India under Digital India Programme.

GSAT-29 is the heaviest satellite, weighing 3,423 kg (7,546 lb) that was placed in orbit by an Indian launch vehicle

Context: Launch of GSAT-29 Communication Satellite.

Related Topics: Ariane-5 VA-246, GSLV Mk III-D2 / GSAT-29 Mission

Ans 34) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect 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 and not Venus.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the mission launched on 5 May 2018 at aboard an Atlas V-401 rocket and successfully landed at Elysium Planitia on Mars on 26 November 2018.

NASA's InSight probe

InSight's objectives are to place a seismometer, called SEIS, on the surface of Mars to measure seismic activity and provide accurate 3D models of the planet's interior; and measure internal heat flow using a heat probe called HP to study Mars' early geological evolution.

This could bring a new understanding of how the Solar System's terrestrial planets – Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars – and Earth's Moon form and evolve.

Context: NASA's Mars InSight probe has reached its destination and touched down near the red planet's equator.

Related Topics: India's Mission to Mars.

Ans 35) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as HysIS, the country's first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced Earth observation.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It was placed into a Polar Sun Synchronous transfer orbit. It will be placed in a polar orbit 636 km away at an inclination of 97.957 degrees.

Hyper Spectral imaging satellite (HYSIS)

A hyperspectral imaging camera in space can provide well-defined images that can help to identify objects on Earth far more clearly than regular optical or remote sensing cameras.

The technology will be an added advantage of watching over India from space for a variety of purposes such as defence, agriculture, land use, minerals and so on.

Context: ISRO's PSLV C43 launched India's first Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) along with 30 foreign satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Related Topics: Polar Sun Synchronous satellite..

Ans 36) (d)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as 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. It is not a four-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as 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.

GSLV Mk III

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

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.

The two strap-on motors of GSLV Mk III are located on either side of its core liquid booster. Designated as 'S200', each carries 205 tons of composite solid propellant and their ignition results in vehicle lift-off. S200s function for 140 seconds. During strap-ons functioning phase, the two clustered Vikas liquid Engines of L110 liquid core booster will ignite 114 sec after lift-off to further augment the thrust of the vehicle. These two engines continue to function after the separation of the strap-ons at about 140 seconds after lift-off.

Related Topics: Geosynchronous Orbit.

Ans 37) (a)**Explanation:**

Earth BioGenome Project aims to sequence, catalog and characterize the genomes of all of Earth's eukaryotic biodiversity over a period of ten years. So option (a) is right.

Earth BioGenome Project (EBP)

The Earth BioGenome Project (EBP) is an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth's currently described eukaryotic species over a period of ten years.

The initiative would produce an open DNA database of biological information that provides a platform for scientific research and supports environmental and conservation initiatives

Context: International biologists have launched an ambitious Earth BioGenome Project at an estimated cost of \$4.7bn.

Ans 38) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) is the highest international body of the world for accurate and precise measurements. The CGPM is the highest international body of the world for accurate and precise measurements

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The CGPM comprises 60 countries including India and 42 Associate Members.

General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)

The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), the main executive body of CGPM has the responsibility of defining the International System of Units (SI). The General Conference on Weights and Measures is the supreme authority of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, the inter-governmental organization established in 1875 under the terms of the Metre Convention through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards. The CGPM is made up of delegates of the governments of the Member States and observers from the Associates of the CGPM. Under its authority, the International Committee for Weights and Measures executes an exclusive direction and supervision of the BIPM.

Context: New definition of World's standard definition of kilogram, Ampere, Kelvin, and Mole.

Ans 39) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is the First Mars mission in the world to succeed Mars Orbit Insertion in first attempt

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has various achievements to its credit after it was inserted into Mars orbit on September 24, 2014 The mission, launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on November 5, 2013, successfully placed itself into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

Context: India's First Mars mission.

Related Topic: Chandrayaan 1 mission.

Ans 40) (a)**Explanation:**

The definition of the kilogram has been changed from being the mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to the Planck constant, which is a physical constant. So option (a) is right.

Context: New definition of World's standard definition of kilogram, Ampere, Kelvin, and Mole.

Related Topics: new definition of SI units like kilogram, Ampere, Kelvin, and Mole.

Ans 41) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Lagrange point is a location in space where the combined gravitational forces of two large bodies, such as Earth and the sun or Earth and the moon, equal the centrifugal force felt by a much smaller third body.

STATEMENT 2 is correct It is a point of equilibrium where a spacecraft may be "parked" to make observations.

Lagrange point

A Lagrange point is a location in space where the combined gravitational forces of two large bodies, such as Earth and the sun or Earth and the moon, equal the centrifugal force felt by a much smaller third body. The interaction of the forces creates a point of equilibrium where a spacecraft may be "parked" to make observations.

These points are named after Joseph-Louis Lagrange, an 18th-century mathematician who wrote about them in a 1772 paper concerning what he called the "three-body problem." They are also called Lagrangian points and libration points.

Context: Kordylewski clouds are large concentrations of dust that exist at the L4 and L5 Lagrangian points of the Earth–Moon system.

Ans 42) (d)

Explanation:

ClaRAN is artificial intelligence (AI) programme which was used to recognize faces on Facebook can also identify galaxies in deep space. The AI bot named ClaRAN scans images taken by radio telescopes.

ClaRAN

This programme was completely overhauled and trained to recognise galaxies instead of people. Its job is to spot radio galaxies -- galaxies that emit powerful radio jets from supermassive black holes at their centres.

Context: Launch of ClaRAN to study about astronomy.

Ans 43) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Human Brain Project is largely funded by the European Union. The Project, which started on 1 October 2013, is a European Commission Future and Emerging Technologies Flagship. The HBP is coordinated by the École Poly technique Fédérale de Lausanne and is largely funded by the European Union

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is for advance knowledge in the fields of neuroscience, computing, and brain-related medicine. The Human Brain Project (HBP) is a large ten-year scientific research project, based on exascale supercomputers, that aims to build a collaborative ICT-based scientific research infrastructure to allow researchers across Europe to advance knowledge in the fields of neuroscience, computing, and brain-related medicine.

Human Brain Project

The primary objective of the HBP is to create an ICT-based research infrastructure for brain research, cognitive neuroscience and brain-inspired computing, which can be used by researchers world-wide.

The HBP is funded by the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) under the Horizon 2020 framework, an EU Research and Innovation funding programme. It was one of the two initial Future Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagship projects.

Ans 44) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as SpiNNaker (Spiking Neural Network Architecture) Supercomputer is the world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer, designed and built to work in the same way a human brain works

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is now supported by the European Human Brain Project.

SpiNNaker (Spiking Neural Network Architecture) Supercomputer

SpiNNaker is being used as one component of the neuromorphic computing platform for the Human Brain Project

The project was initially funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and is now supported by the European Human Brain Project.

Context: Launch of SpiNNaker Supercomputer.

Ans 45) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Global Cooling Innovation Summit is related to explore concrete means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the Global Cooling Prize coalition hosted the first-of-its-kind cooling solutions oriented summit—Global Cooling Innovation Summit in New Delhi, India.

Context: Global Cooling Prize coalition hosted the first-of-its-kind cooling solutions oriented summit—Global Cooling Innovation Summit in New Delhi

Related Topic: Global Cooling Prize coalition.

Ans 46) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The Wellcome Trust is an independent charity funding research to improve human and animal health. Established in 1936 and with an endowment of around £15 billion, it is the largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research in the United Kingdom.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the partnership between the Department of Biotechnology and the Wellcome Trust completed its first decade of their partnership and not two decades of their partnership.

Wellcome Trust

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust, to support a three-tier fellowship programme on biomedical research at post-doctoral level, celebrated 10 years of their joint partnership recently.

The Wellcome Trust is an independent charity funding research to improve human and animal health. Established in 1936 and with an endowment of around £15 billion, it is the largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research in the United Kingdom. The aim of setting up the fellowship jointly with Wellcome Trust was to create a system comparable to the best in the world, taking India on the path of becoming a leader in key areas of life sciences and biomedical research

Context: Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India and Wellcome Trust, UK-(India Alliance), completes 10 year of partnership.

Related Topic: Department of Biotechnology (DBT) .

Ans 47) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative is a collaborative 5-year bilateral research initiative by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, India and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) that will focus on affordable approaches to cancer.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Both CRUK and DBT will invest £5m each in this 5-year pilot, and seek further investment from other potential funding partners. India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK propose to launch a £10 million bilateral research initiative which will focus on low cost approaches to cancer treatment.

Context: Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India and Wellcome Trust, UK-(India Alliance), completes 10 year of partnership.

Related Topic: Access India Programme

Ans 48) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Common Services Centers (CSCs) are an integral part of Digital India Programme.

STATEMENT 2 is correct these are the access points for delivery of various digital services to villages and rural areas across the country and contribute towards fulfilling the Government's mandate of a digitally and financially inclusive society.

Common Service Centres (CSC)

Common Service Centres (CSC) are physical facilities for delivering Government of India e-Services to rural and remote locations where availability of computers and Internet was negligible or mostly absent.

They are multiple-services-single-point model for providing facilities for multiple transactions at a single geographical location.

CSCs are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services, apart from host of B2C services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

It is a pan-India network catering to regional, geographic, linguistic and cultural diversity of the country, thus enabling the Government's mandate of a socially, financially and digitally inclusive society.

Context: Bharat Net, Electronics Development Fund

Related Topic: Digital India.

And 49) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India intends to increase transparency in the functioning of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative uses of Government Data to give different perspectives.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It was setup by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in compliance with the Open Data Policy of India

Context: Launch of Open Government Data (OGD) Platform.

Related Topic: Digital India.

Ans 50) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Scheme is applicable only for rural areas of the country and not urban area of the country.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect Only one person per eligible household would be considered for training under this programme and not All members of the eligible household would be considered for training under this programme.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAAN (PMGDISHA)

The Scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population including the marginalized sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), women and differently-abled persons and minorities.

Related Topic: E-governance Initiative like PRAGATI

Ans 51) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Chandrayaan-1 was India's first lunar probe.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization in October 2008, and operated until August 2009.

Context: Chandrayaan-1 was India's first lunar probe.

Related Topic: Mars Orbiter Mission.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Q1. Identify the river:

1. It demarcates Nepal's western border with India. It joins ghaghara river, a tributary of Ganga.

2. It is also called Sharda river. It offers potential for hydroelectric power generation.

Select the correct answer:

- a) Kali river
- b) Gandak river
- c) Ramganga
- d) Satluj

Q2. Consider the following statements about Chemical Weapons Convention':

1. It aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

2. It prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties.

India has not signed this convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. 'Exercise KAKADU' recently seen in news is held in

- a) India
- b) Australia
- c) Japan
- d) China

Q4. 'e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB)' Network Project, recently seen in news has been launched for which purpose?

- a) To provide easy loans to Indian students who plan to study abroad
- b) To provide education and healthcare to remote areas of India
- c) An ambitious educational program to provide health education started by Prasar Bharati.
- d) A technological upgrade and extension of the Pan-African e-Network Project to impart tele-education and tele-medicine

Q5. Which of the following is not a part of G4 countries seeking to get a permanent seat of United Nations Security Council?

- a) Japan
- b) Brazil
- c) Australia
- d) Germany

Q6. 'Haqqani group' sometimes seen in news is associated with which country?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Syria
- c) Lebanon

d) Yemen

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'IOWave18', recently seen in news:

1. It is a major tsunami mock exercise.

2. It is organized by Indian Navy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. 'MILEX' recently seen in the news is related to which organization?

- a) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- b) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- d) Association of South-East Asian Countries

Q9. Consider the following statements about WTO:

1. It is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

2. Its members need to be full sovereign nation members.

3. It has a 'one country one vote' system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q10. Report 'A Glass Half Full: The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia' has been released by which organization?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) NITI Aayog

Q11. Which of the following best describes Special Safeguard Mechanisms:

a) A mechanism that would allow developing countries to temporarily increase tariffs on agriculture products in cases of import surges or price declines.

b) A mechanism that would allow developing countries to permanently increase tariffs on agriculture products in cases of import surges or price declines.

c) They are the special safeguards a country undertakes to balance its balance of payments.

d) Trade defensive mechanism to counter the volatility of domestic commodity prices.

Q12. India is a member of which of the following agencies of the World Bank Group?

1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
 2. International Development Association
 3. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
 4. International Finance Corporation.
 5. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
 - c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
 - d) All of the above

Q13. 'Early-Harvest Package' recently seen in news relates to which organization?

- a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- b) European Union
- c) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
- d) World Trade Organization

Q14. Consider the following statements about 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership':

1. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and six Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners of the ASEAN.
2. The RCEP negotiation includes trade in goods only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty':

1. It obligates countries that sign and ratify not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.
2. India has ratified the treaty.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q16. The programme of South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation is hosted by

- a) The World Bank Group
- b) Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank
- c) New Development Bank
- d) Asian Development Bank

Q17. Consider the following statements about the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM):

1. It is an informal multidimensional dialogue for cooperation between Asia and Europe.
 2. India, China, and the European Union are the founding members of the forum of ASEM.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q18. Recently there is a tussle between the US and Russia regarding the INF treaty. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to eliminate the missiles and nuclear warheads of USA and Russia with the range of 500-5500 Km.
2. The treaty also includes the Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan under its ambit.

Which of the above statements 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 Marrakesh Treaty:

1. It is a World Intellectual Property Organization initiative for inclusive education.
2. India is the first country to ratify the treaty to make education universally accessible.

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. Consider the following statements about the UN Human Rights Council:

1. All members of the United Nations are the members of the UN Human Rights Council.
2. It is responsible for the protection of human rights in its member states only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q21. 'Astana Declaration', recently seen in the news will help develop:

- a) Digital literacy
- b) Multimodal connectivity
- c) Primary Health Care
- d) Free trade agreement

Q22. India has recently carried out a humanitarian and disaster relief measure titled Operation Samudra Maitri in which of the following country?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Maldives
- c) Yemen
- d) Srilanka

Q23. A fierce contest over a tiny Island of Migingo is in the news. Which of the following countries engaged in this contest?

- a) Rwanda and Uganda
- b) Uganda and Kenya
- c) Burundi and Tanzania
- d) Egypt and Saudi Arabia

Q24. Recently the Prime Minister of India is conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded once every two years for individual efforts in global harmony and peace.

2. Prime Minister of India is the first person from South Asia to receive this prestigious award for the year 2018.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q25. Consider the following statements about the 'Project Mausam:

1. It aims to reestablish the ancient relations between India and the Indian Ocean littoral countries.

2. It was launched by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q26. Consider the following regarding the WTO appellate dispute settlement body:

1. The body consists of seven members serving four-year term and they are eligible for reappointment.

2. Each appellate case will be heard by two member division.

3. Presently an Indian serves as the chairperson of the body.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q27. The World Bank Group has released a report titled 'A Glass Half Full', which of the following is the main theme of the report?

- a) Regional trade in South Asia
- b) Unequal wealth distribution
- c) State of agriculture in South Asia
- d) Vulnerability to climatic change

Q28. Consider the following statements about the charter cities:

1. It is an idea of delegating the administrative responsibility of a city to foreign nations.

2. GIFT city in Gujarat is the first chartered city built 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

Q29. Consider the following statements about the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

1. All the Indian Ocean littoral countries are members of the association with its secretariat in Mauritius.

2. First IORA renewable energy ministerial meeting was held in 2018 at New Delhi.

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. The United Nations Relief and Work Agency engages in the rehabilitation of refugees. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. It functions for the relief and rehabilitation of only the Palestinian refugee group.

2. More than 90% of its funds come through voluntary contributions from the UN member States.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q31. Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas is prepared by

- a. United Nation Environment Program
- b. Conservation International
- c. Food and Agricultural Organisation
- d. World Wide Fund For Nature

Q32. With reference to 'Kartarpur corridor', which of the following statements is/are

correct?

1. Kartarpur Sahib - The gurdwara in Kartarpur is situated on the bank of River Satluj.

2. Kartarpur Sahib is revered as Guru Nanak's birth place.

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

Q33. With reference to 'East Asia Summit (EAS)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India is not a member of this organization.
2. All ASEAN countries are members of this organization.

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

Q34. Consider the following statements about 'Chabahar port':

1. It is situated in the Gulf of Aden.
2. It will help in increasing the trade among India, Iran and Afghanistan.

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 'Quadrilateral or 'Quad' group of countries', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Quadrilateral Group consists of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.A.
2. The Quad has a shared objective to ensure and support a "free, open and prosperous" Atlantic region.

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

Q36. Consider the following statement about the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA):

1. It is a proposed trade agreement between India and ASEAN countries
2. Under this Agreement, India was given Data Secure Nation Status.

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. An economic group consisting of 21 members, formed in 1989, with the primary goal of promoting free trade and sustainable development in the Pacific Rim economies. India is not a member of this organization. Which economic group has these features?

- a) G-20
- b) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- c) European economic community
- d) Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Q38. 'Minsk Protocol' often seen in the news is related to:

- a) Agreement between Ukraine and Russia to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- b) Agreements between Russia and America to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- c) Agreements between Syria and Russia to resolve the conflict in Syria.
- d) Agreements between Russia and America to resolve the conflict in Syria

Q39. Consider the following pairs:

Port : Country

- 1. Chabahar : Iraq
- 2. Gwadar : Pakistan
- 3. Kyaukpyu : Sri Lanka

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

Q40. Consider the following pairs

Rebel Group : Country

- 1. Houthi : Yemen
- 2. Taliban : Afghanistan
- 3. Donetsk People's Republic: Iraq

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

Q41. It 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. Which security forum has these features?

- a) Raisina Dialogue
- b) Shangri-La Dialogue
- c) Wuhan Dialogue
- d) None of the above

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

And 1) (a)

Explanation

KALI RIVER: The Sharda River demarcates Nepal's western border with India. It descends from 3,600 m (11,800 ft) at Kalapani to 200 m (660 ft) as it enters the Terai plains in Uttar Pradesh, flowing southeast across the plains to join the Ghaghra river, a tributary of the Ganges.

It is called Mahakali River in Nepali: or Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand. It is named after Śārādā, which is another name for Saraswati, the goddess of learning. It offers potential for hydroelectric power generation. The river is also proposed as a source for one of the many projects in the Himalayan component of the Indian Rivers Inter-link project.

Context: 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Boundary Working Group concluded in Kathmandu.

Related Topics: River system of India

Ans 2) (b)

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 AND 2 is correct: The Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: India has signed this convention in 1993 and passed Chemicals Weapons Convention Act, v2000 for implementing the provisions of the convention.

Chemical Weapons Convention is universal non-discriminatory, multilateral, Disarmament Treaty. Countries having stockpiles of chemical weapons are required to declare and destroy them in a specified time frame and those who produce and use chemicals that can be easily converted into chemical weapons have to be open and transparent about the use they put these chemicals to.

Context:

Ongoing fight in Syria and Iraq

Half-brother of North Korean President was killed by a nerve agent.

Related Topics: National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Ans 3) (b)

Explanation

EXERCISE KAKADU

Exercise KAKADU is a joint-enabled, biennial exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force.

KAKADU is Australia's largest maritime exercise and aims to foster and strengthen effective security and humanitarian partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region through a series of training and engagement activities.

Indian Navy's participation in KAKADU 18 provides an excellent opportunity to engage with regional partners and undertake multinational maritime activities ranging from constabulary operations to high-end maritime warfare in a combined environment, aimed at enhancing interoperability and development of common understanding of procedures for maritime operations. During the exercise, professional exchanges in harbour and diverse range of activities at sea, including complex surface, sub-surface and air operations would enable sharing of best practices and honing of operational skills.

Approach: Military exercises are important for exams. India participated in this exercise.

Related Topics: Malabar exercise

Ans 4) (d)

Explanation

e-VidyaBharati and e-Arogya Bharati (e-VBAB)

E-VBAB Network Project is primarily a technological upgrade and extension of the Pan-African e-Network Project (Phase 1) which was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017. The Phase 1 of the Project successfully imparted tele-education and tele-medicine by linking educational institutions and hospitals in India with those from the participating African countries.

Over the 5 years project duration, e-VBAB Network Project will provide free tele-education courses in various academic disciplines to 4000 students every year from African countries. The Project will also be utilized for providing free Continuing Medical Education (1000 every year) to African doctors/nurses/para-medical staff. Further, Indian doctors, through this project will provide free medical consultancy to those African doctors who seek such consultancy.

The e-VBAB Network Project will be completely funded by the Government of India for its entire duration and will be open for participation to all our partner countries in Africa. The Project will be another important milestone in our development partnership with Africa.

Approach: India-African relationship has been the focus of Indian Government. We should not miss any development in this field especially from International Relations point of view.

Ans 5) (c)**Explanation**

G4 Countries: the G4 countries consist of Japan, Brazil, Germany and India.

The current composition of the UNSC does not reflect the changed global realities and they stressed that Security Council reform is essential to address today's complex challenges.

The G4 leaders emphasize that the G4 countries are legitimate candidates for permanent membership in an expanded and reformed security council and supported one another's candidature.

Approach: The term is sometimes seen in news and it is an important topic for India too as India has been trying for a long time to get a permanent seat.

Related Topics: UNGA

Ans 6) (a)**Explanation**

HAQQANI NETWORK

The Haqqani Network is a Sunni Islamist militant organization founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, who emerged as a top Afghan warlord and insurgent commander during the anti-Soviet war.

The Haqqani Network is primarily based in North Waziristan, Pakistan, and conducts cross-border operations into eastern Afghanistan and Kabul.

The group is primarily composed of members of the Zadran tribe.

Approach: The network is seen in news many times. It is related to Afghanistan and recently many countries are trying to bring peace to the nation. Recently the founder of Haqqani network was found dead.

Related Topics: Heart of Asia Istanbul Process

Ans 7) (a)**Explanation**

IOWave18

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a major tsunami mock exercise. Indian Ocean-wide tsunami exercises (IOWave) are effective tools for evaluating the readiness of the end-to-end Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigations System (IOTWMS) and for identifying changes that can improve its effectiveness.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It is organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

Exercise IOWave18 will simulate Indian Ocean countries being put in a tsunami warning situation and require NTCs and the National and/or Local Disaster Management Offices (NDMO/LDMO) in each country to activate their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

A primary motive for IOWave18 is to enhance tsunami preparedness at community level.

Context: IOWave18 was held recently.

Ans 8) (b)

Explanation:

MILEX

It is the first joint military exercise of the seven member countries of the BIMSTEC held at Foreign Training Node, Aundh Military Station, Pune

AIM: to practice the BIMSTEC nations in planning and conduct of counter terrorist operations.

The exercise is focused upon learning of best practices, team building and special tactical level operations in a counter-terrorist environment in semi urban setting.

Approach: A very important exercise which can save hundreds of lives. Recently it was held in 2018. Since this is the first exercise of this organization and India is a part of it, it is important from the exam's perspective.

Related Topics: SAARC, BIMSTEC etc.

Ans 9) (c)

Explanation

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: WTO members need not be full sovereign nations instead they need to have a customs territory with full autonomy to conduct their external commercial trade. Example: European Union

STATEMENT 3 is correct: The WTO continues GATT's tradition of making decisions not by voting but by consensus. This allows all members to ensure their interests are properly considered even though, on occasion, they may decide to join a consensus in the overall interests of the multilateral trading system. Where consensus is not possible, the WTO agreement allows for voting — a vote being won with a majority of the votes cast and on the basis of "one country, one vote".

Context: Recently, IMF, World Bank and WTO called for reforms in multilateral trading System in order to tackle ongoing trade war between China and the US.

Related Topics: International Monetary Fund, World Bank

Ans 10) (a)

Explanation

A Glass Half Full: The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia

This report documents systematically the gaps between current and potential trade in South Asia and addresses important specific barriers that have held trade back. These barriers include tariffs and paratariffs, real and perceived nontariff barriers, connectivity costs, and the broader trust deficit. This policy-focused report unpacks these critical barriers to effective trade integration in South Asia through four in-depth studies that produce new, detailed, on-the-ground knowledge. Three of the studies are based on extensive stakeholder consultations. Two also rely on tailored surveys. The fourth study, on tariffs, benefits from new data on paratariffs.

Approach: Just like military exercises, reports and indices are also very important in Exams. Recently this report was launched by the World Bank.

Related Topics: Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report, Global Financial Development, World Development Report

Ans 11) (a)

Explanation

Special Safeguard Mechanisms: Ministers in Nairobi adopted a Decision on the Special Safeguard

Mechanism (SSM) for Developing Countries, a mechanism that would allow developing countries to temporarily (not permanently) increase tariffs on agriculture products in cases of import surges or price declines. According to this decision, WTO members will continue to negotiate the mechanism in dedicated sessions of the Agriculture Committee in Special Session, and the General Council will regularly review the progress.

It is a trade defensive mechanism to counter the volatility of international commodity prices.

It is not related to Balance of payments.

Context: Recently, IMF, World Bank and WTO has called for reforms in multilateral trading System in order to tackle ongoing trade war between China and the US.

Related Topics: International Monetary Fund, World Bank

Ans 12) (c)

Explanation

The World Bank Group consists of 5 agencies:

1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
2. International Development Association
3. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
4. International Finance Corporation
5. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

INDIA is a member of all the agencies except International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Approach: Recently, IMF, World Bank and WTO has called for reforms in multilateral trading System in order to tackle ongoing trade war between China and the US. In this context these organisations and important agreements of them becomes very important from exam's perspective.

Related Topics: IMF

And 13) (a)

Explanation:

Early Harvest Package: RCEP is negotiating agreements on Goods, Services and Investment. India has made it clear that it doesn't favour an "early harvest", this means agreements on all the three pillars of negotiations — goods, services and investment — can be implemented only as a package, not one at a time. So even if a consensus is reached early on goods (which is what most nations want), it cannot be enforced in isolation.

Approach: recently a meeting was held of RCEP members to finalize and review the progress of negotiations. So any issues related to RCEP are important from exam's perspective, especially when it affects India.

Related Topics: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, European Union, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, World Trade Organization

Ans 14) (a)

Explanation

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership 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, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and six Free Trade Agreement s(FTA) partners of the ASEAN like Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The scope of RCEP includes include trade in goods, competition, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property and investments, and dispute settling mechanisms.

RCEP was set up in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

The objective of launching RCEP negotiations is to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA partners.

Approach: Recently a meeting was held of RCEP members to finalize and review the progress of negotiations. So any issue related to RCEP is important for us, especially when it affects India.

Ans 15) (a)

Explanation

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The CTBT obligates countries that sign and ratify “not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.”

It provides for an extensive verification regime including an International Monitoring System (IMS) to detect nuclear explosions, a global infrastructure for satellite communications from IMS stations to an International Data Center (IDC) that processes and distributes data to State Parties, and for on-site inspections, which may be requested by any State Party to determine whether suspected cheating has occurred.

To implement these verification arrangements, the treaty establishes a Comprehensive Test Ban Organization (CTBTO) located in Vienna.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The following Article XIV states have not yet ratified the treaty: China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, United States of America.

Approach: Recently UN chief appealed to these 8 countries to ratify the treaty. So in this sense this treaty becomes important from exam point of view.

Related Topics: Non-Proliferation Treaty

Ans 16) (d)

Explanation:

The South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership that aims to promote regional prosperity, improve economic opportunities, and build a better quality of life for the people of the sub region hosted by the Asian Development Bank.

It seeks to strengthen multimodal cross-border transport networks that boost intraregional trade and open up trade opportunities with East and Southeast Asia. The program helps build modern and effective customs administration that speeds up time and reduces the costs of moving goods, vehicles, and people across borders. Better connectivity will help unleash the tremendous potential for mutually beneficial trade between the seven SASEC countries, which remain some of the least economically integrated in the world.

Context: Connectivity in the south and South East Asian Nations.

Related Topic: Asian Highway Project.

Ans 17) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: ASEM is an informal dialogue across various sectors between Asia and Europe. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: India joined the forum only in 2008. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. It addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. The initial ASEM Partnership in 1996 consisted of the 15 EU Member States and 7 ASEAN Member States plus China, Japan, Korea, and the European Commission.

The ASEM Summit is a biennial meeting between the Heads of State and Government, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Presently it comprises 53 Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. India joined the grouping in 2008 during its second round of enlargement.

Context: 12th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit at Brussels.

Related Topics: East Asia Summit

Ans 18) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It deals with only missiles and not the nuclear warheads. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: After the fall of the USSR, the new Republics are added into the treaty. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) is a bilateral nuclear arms control treaty signed by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on 8 December 1987. It aims to eliminate all shorter range and intermediate range ground-launched missiles with ranges between 500 km and 5500 km. By 1991, all such missiles, launchers and support structures as listed in the MoU attached to the INF Treaty were eliminated. It should be noted that the treaty did not cover the elimination of any nuclear warheads. The missiles eliminated covered both nuclear and conventional capable missiles.

Following the break-up of the USSR, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan were also brought into the INF Treaty as these republics had hosted either production or operation of the missiles covered under the treaty.

Context: Withdrawal of the US from the INF treaty.

Related Topics: Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Ans 19) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: WIPO treaty related to books for blind and deaf people. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: India is the first country to ratify the treaty. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Marrakesh Treaty of WIPO makes the production and international transfer of specially-adapted books for people with blindness or visual impairments easier. It does this by establishing a set of limitations and exceptions to traditional copyright law.

India is the first country to ratify the treaty in 2014 and it came into force by 2016. It will facilitate access to published works for the millions of blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled persons in India and other countries. It would go a long way in establishing equal rights and opportunities for education and employment for them.

Context: India's role in the welfare of the disabled people.

Related Topics: Intellectual Property Index.

Ans 20) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It consists of only 47 members elected by UNGA. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is responsible for the protection of human rights throughout the globe. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human

Rights.

India has been recently elected to the UNHRC with the highest number of votes for a three-year term starting from January 1, 2019

Context: India elected to the UNHRC with the highest margin of votes.

Related Topics: Election process of the UNHRC.

Ans 21) (c)

Explanation:

Global conference on Primary Healthcare at Astana, Kazakhstan. It has renewed political commitment to primary health care from Governments, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, academia, and global health and development organizations. It will be used to inform the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on UHC in 2019.

The new declaration was also a chance to commemorate the 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care and reflect on how far we have come and the work that still lies ahead.

Context: Focus on primary healthcare.

Related Topics: Alma-Ata declaration.

Ans 22) (a)

Explanation:

India had launched Operation Samudra Maitri to assist victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi Province of the Republic of Indonesia. India will be one of the first countries reaching to countries affected by disasters in the Asia-Pacific region. India had also done the same during the 2004 Tsunami in which India was also worst affected.

Context: Role of India in the Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Measures.

Related Topics: Cause of Indonesian Tsunami.

Ans 23) (b)

Explanation:

Migingo island located in Lake Victoria is a rock crammed with corrugated metal shacks rises out of Lake Victoria right at the border between Kenya and Uganda. The deep waters that surround it are rich with fish. The availability of the Nile Perch fish variety in large numbers near the island is the major reason for the contest of this tiny island. The fish earns good foreign exchange due to demand for it in Asia and Europe.

Context: Tensions in Eastern Africa.

Related Topics: Contest for Islands in the South China Sea.

Ans 24) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It recognizes the effort in global harmony and peace. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Modi is the third person from South Asia to receive this award. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The Seoul Peace Prize has been awarded biennially to those individuals who have made their mark through contributions to the harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and to world peace. Past laureates include distinguished global personalities like former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and renowned international relief organizations like Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.

It was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea – an event in which 160 nations from across the world took part, creating harmony and friendship and a worldwide atmosphere of peace and reconciliation. The Seoul Peace Prize was established to crystallize the Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean Peninsula

and in the rest of the world.

Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendhra Modi received the award for the year 2018. They recognized the Modi Doctrine and Act East Policy in this award. Previously Muhammed Yunus from Bangladesh (2006) and Abdul Sattar Edhi from Pakistan (2008) had received this award.

Context: Prime Minister of India selected for the Seoul Peace Prize.

Related Topics: Amir Amanullah Khan Award of Afghanistan.

Ans 25) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It aims to establish ancient relations between the Indian Ocean littorals with India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It was launched by the Ministry of Culture. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Project Mausam is a Ministry of Culture project to be implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi as the nodal coordinating agency with the support of Archeological Survey of India and National Museum as associate bodies.

The endeavor of Project 'Mausam' is to position itself at two levels:

1. At the macro level, it aims to re-connect and re-establish communications between countries of the Indian Ocean world, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns;
2. At the micro level, the focus is on understanding national cultures in their regional maritime milieu.

The Project scope falls under several themes to be explored through various UNESCO Culture Conventions to which the Government of India is a signatory with the Ministry of Culture and ASI as the nodal agency.

Context: Indian cultural outreach in the Indian Ocean Region.

Related Topics: Compare Project Mausam with Belt and Road Initiative of China

Ans 26) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It consists of seven members serving for four years and they can be reappointed. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Each case will be heard by the three-member division. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

STATEMENT 3: Ujal Singh Bhatia is the present chairman of the body. Hence statement 3 is correct.

The Appellate Body is composed of seven Members who are appointed by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to serve for four-year terms. Each person may be reappointed for another four-year term. Terms are staggered, ensuring that not all Members begin and complete their terms at the same time.

Each Member of the Appellate Body is required to be a person of recognized authority, with demonstrated expertise in law, international trade and the subject-matter of the covered agreements generally. They are also required to be unaffiliated with any government and are to be broadly representative of the Membership of the WTO.

A Division of three Members is selected to hear each appeal; each Division elects a Presiding Member. The process for the selection of Divisions is designed to ensure randomness, unpredictability, and opportunity for all Members to serve regardless of their national origin

A Chairman is elected among the Members to serve a one-year term, which can be extended for an additional period of one year. The Chairman is responsible for the overall direction of the Appellate

Body business. The current Chairperson is Ujal Singh Bhatia.

Recently the US is blocking the appointment to the appellate dispute settlement body. It will cripple the highest trade court in the world.

Context: Blockade to appointment by the US.

Related Topics: USA blockade to the appointment of members to the body.

Ans 27) (a)

Explanation:

'A Glass Half Full-The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia' is a regional trade report released by the World Bank Group. Among the major sub regions of the world, South Asia is the least economically integrated. There is a huge potential which can be unleashed on giving green signal to the seamless flow of goods and services across the region. It not only increases the economic growth but also lead to the interdependence of countries in this region. This will lead to reduced tension between the countries in the region mainly India and Pakistan. The report gives a glimpse of opportunities and challenges for economic integration in South Asia.

Context: Trade as a potential cooperation process in Asia.

Related Topics: South Asian Free Trade Area.

Ans 28) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Delegation of administrative responsibility to foreign nations. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: There are no charter cities in India or any of the world nations. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Charter Cities are new cities with distinct rules that foster innovation and economic growth. They will be administered by the countries in which it is not located. It is portrayed as a solution to the developing nations like India which face a huge problem with the urbanization. Paul M. Romer who was awarded Nobel prize for economy advocates this idea. But on the other side, it may also result in a neo-colonial attitude of the developed countries toward the developing nations.

Context: Idea of the individual who received the nobel prize for economy.

Related Topics: Smart Cities in India.

Ans 29) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Pakistan is not a member of the IORA. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: First IORA renewable energy ministers meeting is held in 2016 at UAE. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Indian Ocean Rim Association is an intergovernmental organization of countries located in the Indian Ocean Region. It enhances economic dialogue and regional cooperation to promote sustainable growth and balanced development for a prosperous Indian Ocean Rim. It consists of 21 member countries as follows India, Australia, Iran IR, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Singapore, Mauritius, Madagascar, UAE, Yemen, Seychelles, Somalia, Comoros, and Oman.

Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region was adopted in the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held at the 2nd Global Re-Invest India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo in Greater Noida.

Context: Joint meeting of the Reinvest India and the IORA renewable energy Ministers.

Related Topics: Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy.

Ans 30) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It works for only the Palestinian refugee group. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: Almost the entire part of its funds comes through voluntary contributions from UN member States. Hence statement 2 is correct.

UNRWA is unique in terms of its long-standing commitment to one group of refugees. It has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees, defined as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.” The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including legally adopted children, are also eligible for registration.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States. UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs. The Agency’s services encompass education, health care, relief, and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.

Context: Reduction of Fund to UNRWA by the US.

Related Topics: Jewish Nation State-Israel.

Ans 31) (d)

Explanation:

The Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas is prepared by the World Wide Fund for Nature as a part of the Living Planet Report, 2018. The atlas includes the first global map of risks to soil biodiversity and this is explored later in this chapter. Human activities have important consequences for the abundance and/or richness of soil organisms, particularly through the negative impacts of land-use change and agricultural intensification. Soil biodiversity is not the only key to sustain food production and other ecosystem services but also to detoxify polluted soils, suppress soil-borne diseases and contribute to the nutritional quality of food.

It indicates the threats from loss of above-ground diversity, pollution and nutrient overloading, overgrazing, intensive agriculture, fire, soil erosion, desertification, and climate change shows India among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk.

Context: Vulnerable position of India in the Soil Biodiversity.

Related Topics: Living Planet Report, Organic farming and its prospects in soil health protection

Ans 32) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Kartarpur Sahib - The gurdwara in Kartarpur is situated on the bank of River Ravi and not Satluj.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Kartarpur Sahib is revered as Guru Nanak’s final resting place and not Guru Nanak’s birth place. Guru Nanak’s birth place was present day Nankana Sahib, Punjab, Pakistan) near Lahore.

Kartarpur corridor

The Kartarpur Corridor is a proposed border corridor between the neighbouring nations of India and Pakistan, connecting the Sikh shrines of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib (located in Punjab, India) and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur (in Punjab, Pakistan).

It is for passage of pilgrims seeking to visit Pakistan's Kartarpur Sahib.

It will be developed from Dera Baba Nanak village in Gurdaspur, Punjab to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur. The length of the corridor is about 4 km, 2 km on either side of the International Border.= The Kartarpur corridor was first proposed in 1999 when PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee took a bus ride to Lahore.

Context: Cabinet approved the development of a corridor to enable smooth passage of pilgrims seeking to visit Pakistan's Kartarpur Sahib.

Related Topic: India Pakistan relation; Sikhism and tenth Guru of Sikh community.

Ans 33) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as India is also a member of this organization.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: All ASEAN countries are also members of this organization.

East Asia Summit (EAS):

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, and South Asian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism.

Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011.

Since its establishment, ASEAN has held the central role and leadership in the forum. EAS meetings are held after the annual ASEAN leaders' meetings, and plays an important role in the regional architecture of Asia-Pacific. The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.

Context: Recently there was East Asia Summit (EAS).

Related Topic: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO.

Ans 34) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: As Chabahar port is situated in the Gulf of Oman and not in Gulf of Aden.

STATEMENT 2 is correct : As Chabahar port will help in increasing the trade among India, Iran and Afghanistan

Chabahar port

Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar in south-eastern Iran. Its location lies in the Gulf of Oman. Chabahar Port is the one and only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean. It lies in the Gulf of Oman. It is a seaport in South-Eastern Iran. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean. In the 1990's under the Ashgabat agreement, India partially built the port with the intention of providing access to the Central Asian region and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. A series of agreements were signed by the Indian Prime Minister and his counterpart, the President of Iran in May 2016 in Teheran for developing the Chabahar port. This move was initiated to promote exports to Iran and also possibility of connectivity to the Central Asian region and Afghanistan.

Context: The US government recently announced a waiver to its sanctions on Indian investments in Chabahar port.

Related Topic: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO.

Ans 35) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: As The Quadrilateral Group consists of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.A.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The Quad has a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region and not Atlantic region. Quadrilateral or ‘Quad’ group of countries The grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, USA and Japan– known as the quadrilateral security dialogue or quad, was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007 In 2007, when the grouping was first formed following cooperation after the 2004 tsunami, the idea was to better coordinate maritime capabilities for disaster situations. When revived in 2017, the grouping seemed to have become a counter to China’s growing inroads into the region.

Context: Recently there was a meeting of Quadrilateral or ‘Quad’ group of countries.

Related Topics: OPEC, ASEAN, AND SCO.

Ans 36) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) is a proposed trade agreement between India and European Union countries and not between India and ASEAN countries

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as under this Agreement, India was not given Data Secure Nation Status yet. This is the stumbling block between India and European Union under BTIA.

Context: European Union has unveiled a ‘strategy paper’ outlining the broad roadmap for accelerating cooperation with India in a range of key sectors.

Related Topics: Structure and function of European Union.

Ans 37) (b)

Explanation:

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), is an economic group of 21 members, formed in 1989, with the primary goal of promoting free trade and sustainable development in the Pacific Rim economies. So option (b) is right.

Creation of APEC was primarily in response to the increasing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies. Also, the proliferation of regional economic blocs, such as the European Union (EU) and the, now defunct, North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), encouraged its formation. So option (b) is correct.

G-20

G-20 was created in September 1999 as a forum of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the 19 major economies and the EU in the aftermath of the East Asian crisis of 1997. So option (a) is not right.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP),

TPP also called the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, is a defunct proposed trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States signed on 4 February 2016, which was not ratified as required and did not take effect. So option (d) is not right.

And 38) (a)

Explanation:

The Minsk Protocol (later known as Minsk-1) with the Minsk Memorandum of September 2014 and the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements (Minsk-2) are agreements between Ukraine and Russia to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The Minsk Protocol (Minsk-1) failed. Four months later Minsk-2 was signed to revive the peace efforts featured by Minsk-1. Minsk-2 is basically a more detailed Minsk-1 agreement. Minsk-2 didn’t replace the first agreement, but it was intended to revive the Minsk-1 after its collapse.

Related Topics: Ukraine and Russia relations:

Ans 39) (a)**Explanation:**

Chabahar port is in Iran. So it is not correctly matched.

Gwadar port is in Pakistan so it is correctly matched.

Kyaukpyu port is in Myanmar so it is not correctly matched.

Chabahar port

Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar in southeastern Iran. Its location lies in the Gulf of Oman. Chabahar Port is the one and only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean. It lies in the Gulf of Oman. It is a seaport in South-Eastern Iran. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.

In the 1990's under the Ashgabat agreement, India partially built the port with the intention of providing access to the Central Asian region and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.

A series of agreements were signed by the Indian Prime Minister and his counterpart, the President of Iran in May 2016 in Teheran for developing the Chabahar port. This move was initiated to promote exports to Iran and also possibility of connectivity to the Central Asian region and Afghanistan.

Gwadar Port

The Gwadar Port is a deep-sea port situated on the Arabian Sea at Gwadar in Balochistan province of Pakistan.

The port features prominently in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan, and is considered to be a link between the ambitious One Belt, One Road and Maritime Silk Road projects.

Kyaukpyu

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

Context: Recently there was an agreement between China and Myanmar regarding Kyaukpyu port

Related Topic: String of pearls Theory

Ans 40) (c)**Explanation:**

Houthi rebels are functioning in Yemen. So it is 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.

The Taliban or Taleban, who refer to themselves as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) are a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military organization in Afghanistan currently waging war (an insurgency, or jihad) within that country. So statement 2 is correctly matched.

The Donetsk People's Republic is a declared People's republic and proto-state in the Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine recognized only by the partially recognized South Ossetia and Luhansk People's Republic. So statement 3 is correctly matched.

Context: These rebels group are in the news. So make a list of these groups and know about this group function.

Related Topics: Kachin Independence Army, Taliban

Ans 41) (b)**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 (a) is not the correct option.

The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD)

It 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 the correct option.

So option (b) is correct.

Wuhan Dialogue is an informal dialogue between India And China.

Related Topics: Raisina Dialogue and Wuhan dialogue.



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES



Q1. Which of the following statements about 'PM Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyaan' is/are correct?

1. It is aimed towards ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.
2. Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS) are the three components of the scheme.
3. It has been launched by the Ministry of Finance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik':

1. It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market.
2. It is a market-based mechanism in which airlines bid for seat subsidies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd.':

1. It is a Non-Banking Finance Company.
2. It provides loans directly to micro entrepreneurs / individuals.
3. It is wholly owned subsidiary of RBI.

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

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

Q4. Which of the following statements is correct about 'Swadhar Greh scheme':

1. It caters to primary needs of women living in college hostels.
2. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

Q5. Which of the following statements about 'National Database on Sexual Offenders'

is/are correct?

1. It is a central database of "sexual offenders" in the country which will be maintained by the NCRB
2. Victims/complainants, the civil society organizations and responsible citizens can anonymously report complaints pertaining to child pornography, child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about 'The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis':

1. It is a statutory body established under 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993'.
2. It recommends to the Central Government specific programmes of action towards elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis.
3. It works under Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q7. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana':

1. The scheme will focus on primary health care.
2. The beneficiaries will be identified based on the latest Population Census 2011.
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 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Q8. 'Capacity Development Scheme' has been launched to

- a) Provide infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely Official Statistics
- b) Build enough warehouses to store food grains to stop food wastage
- c) Give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country

d) Develop and apply management and learning tools for use by government and communities to improve efficiency and accountability of the education sector

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'Bureau of Energy Efficiency':

1. The Government of India has set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. It helps in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.
3. It also implements Standards and Labelling Program.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

Q10. Which of the following equipment's/appliances are covered under Standards and Labelling Program of The Bureau of Energy Efficiency?

1. Colour Television
2. Agricultural Pumpset
3. Washing Machine
4. Ceiling Fan
5. Domestic Gas Stove

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q11. Which of the following statements is incorrect about SAUBHAGYA scheme?

- a) Non-poor rural and urban households are excluded from this scheme.
- b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.
- c) The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme would be identified using SECC 2011 data.
- d) It provides free electricity connections to all households in rural areas and poor families in urban areas

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'National Nutrition Mission':

1. 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.

2. It is a scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. The mission focuses on Social and Behavioural change.

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

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

Q13. Consider the following statements about the POSHAN Abhiyaan:

1. It is an umbrella scheme for the nutritional welfare of children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers.

2. Mission 25 by 2022 is the part of the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q14. Consider the following statements about the Employee State Insurance Corporation:

1. It covers the health insurance of all workers from the organized sector and few from the unorganized sector.

2. All states of India are covered under it except Jammu and Kashmir.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about the 'Invest India scheme':

1. It is a private company for investment promotion and facilitation in India.

2. It also helps prospective investments from India to other countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q16. Jaipur Foot makes life easier for the physically challenged in India and all over the world. In this context, consider the following statement:

1. It is developed and produced by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India.

2. A range of artificial limbs is provided to the disabled at free of cost.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- a) 1 only

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

Q17. Consider the following statements about the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund:

1. It will help to strengthen the fishing infrastructure of both Inland and Marine fisheries sector.
2. It received the whole amount of Rs. 7500 crores as initial funding from the Union budget.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q18. The Bharat Net plans to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats. Which among the following is/are the implementing agencies of the project?

1. Powergrid Corporation of India
2. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
3. Railtel Corporation of India

Codes:

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

Q19. Consider the following statements about the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India:

1. It functions as a regulator of regulators and also as a regulator for the professionals.
2. It is responsible for the implementation of the insolvency of both corporations and individuals.

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. Consider the following statements about the Sagarmala Project:

1. It will enhance the competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing industries.
2. Skill development and coastal tourism form the component of the project.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q21. The National Human Rights

Commission is the body to promote and protect human rights in India. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Only retired Chief Justice of India will be appointed as the chairman of the NHRC.
2. Chairperson of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights is an Ex-officio member of NHRC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q22. The Government of India has come up with an initiative SATAT, which of the following is the objective of the initiative?

- a) Eco-friendly Transportation
- b) Vocational skill development
- c) Sustainable Tourism development
- d) The small satellite development programme

Q23. Consider the following statements about the KISAN SAMPADA Yojana:

1. It is a 100% centrally funded scheme in the Food Processing sector.
2. It provides a farm gate to retail outlet connectivity solution through modern infrastructure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q24. Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana:

1. It provides living aid devices to senior citizens implemented by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation.
2. It is a central sector scheme funded by unclaimed amounts in employee social security schemes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q25. The name 'Kudumbashree' was seen in the news recently. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. It is a poverty eradication and women empowerment scheme of the Government of Kerala.
2. It was recognized as a state rural livelihoods mission by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q26. An initiative called Kanyashree Prakalpa for educational empowerment of girl child is implemented in

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamilnadu
- c) Kerala
- d) West Bengal

Q27. Consider the following about Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme:

1. A Central sector scheme providing direct financial assistance for the welfare of the persons with disabilities
2. It also encourages voluntary action to ensure the implementation of People with disabilities act

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

Q28. Consider the following statements about Nirbhaya fund:

1. Nirbhaya fund was formed to fund projects related to women's safety and security.
2. Both central and state government can propose projects for women's safety under the fund.
3. The fund is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development which is the nodal agency.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q29. Consider the following statements about the Goods and Services Tax Council:

1. GST council is a constitutional body to make recommendations on issues related to Goods and Service Tax
2. The union finance minister, Union minister of state for finance, finance ministers of all state governments and Union territories are members of GST council

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q30. Which of the following is the correct description of eKuber that was seen in the

news recently?

- a) Government e-Market Portal
- b) Common Service Centre
- c) GST digital network
- d) Core banking system

Q31. Recently the Government of India and Asian Development Bank inked an agreement to develop a Global Skills Park. In which of the following states upcoming skill park going to be established?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Tamilnadu

Q32. Consider the following statements about 'Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)'Scheme:

1. The Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency.
2. Under the Scheme, 1500 research projects will be awarded for 5 years to support social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making.

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

Q33. Consider the following statements about 'Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Higher Education (RISE) Scheme:

1. It will be financed via restructured higher education financing agency (HEFA), a non-banking financial company.
2. It will step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions.

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 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)':

1. It is a Non -Profit, Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC).
2. It was set up for mobilizing extra-budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Govt.

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 statements about 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)' program':

1. It is systematically fostering a culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.
2. The major focus of this program is to Prepare institute for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements 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

Q36. Consider the following statements about 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)':

1. It is an initiative of The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It systematically ranks all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties..

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 statements about 'Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)':

1. It is a scheme that aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
2. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

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. Which one of the following is correct regarding 'Atal Tinkering Marathon'?

a) It's focus is on identifying a problem and developing innovative solutions that align with the National Agenda of creating a New India by 2022.

b) It's focus is on promotion of gender education in Schools.

c) It's focus is on promotion of innovation in higher education Institution.

d) It's focus is on promotion of environmental education in primary schools.

Q39. Consider the following statements about 'Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)' Scheme:

1. It is a program of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate.

2. The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecasts and services.

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

Q40. Consider the following statements about 'Border Area Development Programme (BADP)':

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Defence.

2. It aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border

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

Q41. Consider the following statements about Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme':

1. The scheme was launched for attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.

2. The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

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

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Ans 1) (a)

Explanation

PM Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyaan

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The three components outlined under the scheme is aimed towards enhancing agricultural productivity, reducing the cost of cultivation which will enable boosting and securing farmer's income in the long run.

Price Support Scheme (PSS)

Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It has been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

In Price Support Scheme (PSS), physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments. It is also decided that in addition to NAFED, Food Corporation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states /districts. The procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by the Central Government as per norms.

Under Price Deficiency Payment Scheme this scheme (PDPS), it is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. In this direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/model price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process.

Context: Recently PM Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyaan was approved by the cabinet.

Related Topics: Minimum Support Price

Ans 2) (c)

Explanation

UDAN- Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market. The scheme UDAN envisages providing connectivity to unserved and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme would be in operation for a period of 10 years.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is a market-based mechanism in which airlines bid for seat subsidies. This first-of-its-kind scheme globally will create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.

The operators could seek a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) apart from getting various concessions.

The fare for a one hour journey of appx. 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30 minute journey on a helicopter would now be capped at Rs. 2,500, with proportionate pricing for routes of different stage lengths / flight duration.

This would be achieved through (1) a financial stimulus in the form of concessions from Central and State governments and airport operators and (2) a Viability Gap Funding to the interested airlines to kick-off operations from such airports so that the passenger fares are kept affordable.

Context: Recently PM Modi inaugurated Pakyong Airport under the scheme.

Ans 3) (b)

Explanation

Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd.

STATEMENT 1 is correct: MUDRA was registered as a Company in March 2015 under the Companies Act 2013 and as a Non-Banking Finance Institution with the RBI on 07 April 2015.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: "MUDRA is a refinancing Institution. MUDRA do not lend directly to the micro entrepreneurs / individuals. Mudra loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) can be availed of from nearby branch office of a bank, NBFC, MFIs etc.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: MUDRA has been initially formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with 100% capital being contributed by it. Presently, the authorized capital of MUDRA is 1000 crores and paid up capital is 750 crore, fully subscribed by SIDBI.

Under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), MUDRA has created products / schemes. The interventions have been named 'Shishu', 'Kishor' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth / development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit / entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation / growth to look forward to :

Shishu : covering loans upto 50,000/-

Kishor : covering loans above 50,000/- and upto 5 lakh

Tarun : covering loans above 5 lakh and upto 10 lakh

The funding support from MUDRA are of four types :

Micro Credit Scheme (MCS) for loans upto 1 lakh finance through MFIs.

Refinance Scheme for Commercial Banks / Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) / Scheduled Co-operative Banks

Women Enterprise programme

Securitization of loan portfolio

Context: Recently Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan warned that MUDRA loans and Kisan Credit Card scheme should be monitored carefully otherwise these loans could turn bad.

Related Topics: Kisan credit card

Ans 4) (d)

Explanation

SWADHAR GREH

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The scheme targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for these women.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme. Under the Scheme, Swadhar Greh will be set up in every district with capacity of 30 women with the following objectives:

To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are without any social and economic support. To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.

To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society. To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally. To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress. To enable them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.

Approach: Recently the scheme was in the news as The Ministry of Women and Child Development has started an initiative 'Krishna Kutir' under Swadhar Greh scheme.

Related Topics: Krishna Kutir Initiative

Ans 5) (a)

Explanation

National Database on Sexual Offenders

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a central database of "sexual offenders" in the country which will be maintained by the NCRB for regular monitoring and tracking by the State Police.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The database is accessible only to the law enforcement agencies for

investigation and monitoring purpose. The database will include offenders convicted under charges of rape, gang rape, POCSO and eve teasing. The database includes name, address, photograph and fingerprint details for each entry. However, the database will not compromise any individual's privacy.

The Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC) portal

It is convenient and user friendly that will enable complainants in reporting cases without disclosing their identity. Victims/complainants, the civil society organizations and responsible citizens can anonymously report complaints pertaining to child pornography, child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape. Complainants can also upload the objectionable content and URL to assist in the investigation by the State Police. The complaints registered through this portal will be handled by police authorities of respective State/UTs. There are other features such as a victim or complainant can track his/her report by opting for "report and track" option using his/her mobile number.

Context: Recently Government of India launched two separate portals to strengthen Women Safety. Women safety is an important topic.

Related Topics: National Crime Records Bureau

Ans 6) (d)

Explanation

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It was established as a statutory body but now is working as a non-statutory body. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993', for a period of three years i.e. up to 31st March, 1997. As per sub-section (4) of Section 1 of the Act, it was to cease to exist after 31.3.1997. However, the validity of the Act was extended up to March, 2002, and then up to February, 2004 vide Amendment Acts passed in 1997 and 2001 respectively. With the lapsing of the "The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993" w.e.f. 29.2.2004, the Commission is acting as a Non-Statutory body.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It recommends to the Central Government specific programmes of action towards elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis. It also Studies and evaluate the implementation of the programmes and schemes relating to the social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis; and scavengers, in particular.

It Investigates specific grievances and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to non-implementation of:-

programmes or schemes in respect of any group of Safai Karamcharis decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating the hardships of Safai Karamcharis measures for the social and economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis the provisions of any law in its application to Safai Karamcharis; and take up such matters with the concerned authorities or with the Central or State Governments

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: With the lapsing of the "The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993" w.e.f. 29.2.2004, the Commission is acting as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment whose tenure is extended from time to time through Government Resolutions.

Context: Recently 5 manual scavengers died in Delhi which highlights how the problem of manual scavenging still persists in India.

Ans 7) (d)

Explanation

PM JAN AROGYA YOJANA

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).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: 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).

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: PM-JAY will cover medical and hospitalization expenses for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures. PM-JAY has defined 1,350 medical packages covering surgery, medical and day care treatments including medicines, diagnostics and transport.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: 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. The benefit also includes pre and post-hospitalization expenses. The scheme is an entitlement based, the beneficiary is decided on the basis of family being figured in SECC database.

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.

Context: Recently PM Modi launched the world's largest state funded health insurance scheme, PM Jan Arogya Yojana, at Ranchi, Jharkhand. There are high chances of this scheme being asked by UPSC this year.

RELATED TOPIC: National Health Mission.

Ans 8) (a)

Explanation:

CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME

The Capacity Development Scheme is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The overall objective of the scheme is to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely Official Statistics for policy makers and the public at large.

The Capacity Development Scheme has two Sub-schemes, Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS).

Under Economic Census, listing of all non-agricultural establishments is undertaken periodically, which forms the basis for conducting detailed socio-economic surveys.

The SSS Sub-scheme is to strengthen State/ Sub-State level statistical systems/ infrastructure to facilitate the development of a robust national system.

Context: Recently The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of the Capacity Development Scheme for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs 2,250 crore.

Related Topics: SAMPADA scheme

Ans 9) (d)

Explanation

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY: It works under Ministry of Power.

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Government of India has set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001

STATEMENT 3 is correct: It also implements Standards and Labelling Program. The Objectives of

Standards & Labeling Program is to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the marketed household and other equipment.

Context: Ministry of Power, Government of India launched an ambitious program to encourage the deployment of Energy Efficient chiller systems in the country. The Chiller Star Labelling Program has been formulated by The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Related Topics: List of equipment which requires star rating system set for energy efficiency.

Ans 10) (d)

Explanation

Standards and Labelling Program

The Objectives of Standards & Labeling Program is to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the marketed household and other equipment.

The scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Power in May, 2006 and is currently invoked for equipments/appliances Room Air Conditioner (Fixed Speed), Ceiling Fan, Colour Television, Computer, Direct Cool Refrigerator, Distribution Transformer, Domestic Gas Stove, Frost Free Refrigerator, General Purpose Industrial Motor, Monoset Pump, Openwell Submersible Pump Set, Stationary Type Water Heater, Submersible Pump Set, Tfl, Washing Machine (Semi/Top Load/Front Load), Ballast, Solid State Inverter, Office Automation Products, Diesel Engine Driven Monoset pumps For Agricultural Purposes, Diesel Generator Set, Led Lamps, Room Air Conditioner (Variable Speed), Chillers, Agricultural Pumpset.

Context: Ministry of Power, Government of India launched an ambitious program to encourage the deployment of Energy Efficient chiller systems in the country. The Chiller Star Labelling Program has been formulated by The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Ans 11) (a)

Explanation

SAUBHAGYA SCHEME (Ministry of Power)

Only Non-poor urban households are excluded from this scheme.

Under Saubhagya free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme would be identified using SECC 2011 data.

However, un-electrified households not covered under SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through the electricity bill.

The electricity connections to un-electrified households include provision of service line cable, energy meter including pre-paid/smart meter, single point wiring. LED lamps and associated accessories in line with technical specifications and construction standards.

Context: Recently the scheme was seen in news as Assam Government said that they would be providing electricity to all by the end of 2018.

Related Schemes: UDAY, UJALA schemes of Power Industry.

Ans 12) (b)

Explanation

NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION

STATEMENT 1 is correct: 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.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It is a scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: The mission focuses on Social and Behavioural change. The community Based events envisaged to improve linkages between community and front line workers and by wide public participation convert this into Jan Andolan to make “New India” as “Suposhit Bharat”.

Context: Recently the scheme was in news and also it is a very important scheme. Recently Rashtriya Poshan Maah was organized in the month of September under the program.

Related Topic: Beti Padhao Beti Bachao scheme.

Ans 13) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a comprehensive nutritional welfare scheme for the children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Reducing the stunting to 25% by 2025 is one of the objectives of the scheme. Hence statement 2 is correct.

POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It aims to achieve an improvement in the nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women, and Lactating Mothers in a time-bound manner during the next three years beginning 2017-18.

It 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. Although the target to reduce Stunting is at least 2% p.a., Mission would strive to achieve the reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

Context: The Mission is directly related to the Nutritional standards reflecting in the Global Hunger Index.

Related Topics: Global Hunger Index and India's position in it.

Ans 14) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is not correct: Only workers with a salary below Rs. 21000 and others with higher salary is not eligible for the benefit. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2 is not correct: It covers all states of India, except Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Employees' State Insurance Corporation of India is an integrated social security system tailored to provide social protection to workers, immediate dependent or family, in the organized sector, in contingencies, such as sickness, maternity, and death or disablement due to an employment injury or occupational hazard. It can also be made applicable to other workers by a notification of the Central or State Government.

Persons receiving salary above Rs. 21000 is not eligible under the ESIC. It covers all states of India, except Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram.

Context: ESIC won the ISSA Good Practice Award.

Related Topics: Employee Provident Fund Organization and ISSA Good Practice Award.

Ans 15) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a private company with 51% share with FICCI. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It also facilitates investments from India to foreign countries. Hence statement 2 is correct.

'Invest India' is India's official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation. It is a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, set up in 2010 for prospective overseas investors and to those aspiring Indian investors desiring to invest in foreign locations, and acts as a structured

mechanism to attract investment.

It is set up as a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (35% equity), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) (51% equity), and State Governments of India (0.5% each). Hence it is a private company.

It provides sector-specific and state-specific information to a foreign investor, assists in expediting regulatory approvals, and offers hand-holding services. Its mandate also includes assisting Indian investors to make informed choices about investment opportunities overseas.

Context: Invest India wins UN Investment Promotion Award for promoting renewable energy investment.

Related Topics: India Brand Equity Foundation.

Ans 16) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is not correct: It is developed by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is provided totally free of cost. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Jaipur Foot is produced by BMVSS. Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) is the world's largest organization rehabilitating over 1.55 million disabled. BMVSS provides all its assistance, including artificial limbs, calipers and other aids and appliances totally free of charge.

The below-knee prosthesis of BMVSS has been designed indigenously. The shank is fabricated from locally manufactured, durable, high-quality, high-density polyethylene pipes (HDPE). The socket design used is either total contact, which is vacuum-formed using a polypropylene sheet, or open-ended, using HDPE. This custom-made shank/socket is fitted with the Jaipur Foot.

A functional below-knee prosthesis looks like a normal limb, allowing for the range of movement required for normal human locomotion. The total contact socket provides better sensory feedback to the wearer and prevents edema.

Context: Collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs in 'India for Humanity' initiative.

Related Topics: Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation.

Ans 17) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It helps to strengthen the fishing infrastructure, both the marine and inland. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is not correct: It gets its fund from loaning entities like NABARD, NCDC and Commercial Banks in addition to budgetary support. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund is formed to improve the infrastructure facilities of the fishing sector in the country. The fund size is estimated to be around Rs 7,522 crore, out of which around Rs 5,266.40 crore would be raised by the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs), Rs 1,316.6 crore through beneficiary's contribution and Rs 939.48 crore through budgetary support from the central government. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and all scheduled Banks shall be the nodal Loaning Entities.

The fund will help to achieve the following:

1. Creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and Inland fisheries sectors.
2. To augment fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonnes by 2020 set under the Blue Revolution, and to achieve sustainable growth of 8% -9% thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about 20 MMT by 2022-23.
3. Employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakh fishers/fishermen/fisherfolk and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
4. To attract private investment in the creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
5. Adoption of new technologies.

Context: Formation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development fund.

Ans 18) (d)

Explanation:

Bharat net is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas. It was envisaged as an information superhighway through the creation of a robust middle-mile infrastructure for reaching broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats. It is a project of national importance to establish, by 2017, a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on-demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households and on-demand capacity to all institutions, to realize the vision of Digital India, in partnership with States and the private sector.

It is implemented by Central public sector units like BSNL, Railtel and Powergrid Corporation of India Limited.

The entire project is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which was set up for improving telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country. The objective is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet and other services to rural India.

Context: Inauguration of the corporate office to Bharat Broadband Network Limited.

Related Topics: Digital India and Universal Service Obligation Fund.

Ans 19) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It regulates both the Insolvency agencies and Professionals. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is responsible for the implementation of insolvency laws of both corporations and individuals. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Context: IBBI notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Regulations, 2018.

Related Topics: Information Utilities, Insolvency Agencies, and Insolvency Professionals.

Ans 20) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It reduces the logistics cost thereby increasing the manufacturing competitiveness. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Development of the coastal community is one of the components of the project. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Sagarmala project aims for a port-led development of the economy. It plans to utilize the cost-effectiveness of water transport. It will reduce the logistics cost in India and hence will help to increase the competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing sector.

Components of Sagarmala Programme are:

1. Port Modernization & New Port Development: Debottlenecking and capacity expansion of existing ports and development of new Greenfield ports.
2. Port Connectivity Enhancement: Enhancing the connectivity of the ports to the hinterland, optimizing cost and time of cargo movement through multi-modal logistics solutions including domestic waterways (inland water transport and coastal shipping).
3. Port-linked Industrialization: Developing port-proximate industrial clusters and Coastal Economic Zones to reduce logistics cost and time of EXIM and domestic cargo.
4. Coastal Community Development: Promoting sustainable development of coastal communities through skill development & livelihood generation activities, fisheries development, coastal tourism etc.

Context: Investment proposal in the state of Maharashtra.

Related Topics: Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Ans 21) (a)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Retired Chief Justice of India is appointed as the chairperson of NHRC. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is not correct: Chairperson of NCPDR is a special invitee to the council. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

The National Human Rights Commission is a statutory (and not a constitutional) body. It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament, namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The commission is the watchdog of human rights in the country, that is, the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

The retired chief justice of India will be appointed as the chairperson and members should be serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of the high court and two persons having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights. In addition to these full-time members, the commission also has four ex-officio members—the chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, the National Commission for SCs, the National Commission for STs and the National Commission for Women.

The chairperson of the National Commission for Child Rights is a special invitee to the Council.

Context: NHRC Silver Jubilee.

Related Topics: State Human Rights Commission.

Ans 22) (a)**Explanation:**

SATAT, the initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs. It promotes entrepreneurship in compressed biogas manufacturing. It has the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers.

Context: Inauguration of SATAT.

Related Topics: GOBAR-DHAN Scheme

Ans 23) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a central sector scheme. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It provides a supply chain solution. Hence statement 2 is correct.

SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) is a central sector scheme. It is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation or Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

It is a comprehensive package which will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to the retail outlet. It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of processed foods.

Context: Ministry of Food Processing Industries restricted the scheme only to the mega food parks.

Related Topics: Hub and Spoke model and Mega Food Parks.

And 24) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It provides living aids devices to senior citizens by ALMCO. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is funded by senior citizens welfare fund which is formed by the unclaimed amounts in provident funds. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana is a scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category. This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund". The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency - Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age-related disability/infirmity viz. Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and Locomotor disability will be provided with such assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmity manifested. The Scheme is expected to benefit 5,20,000 Senior Citizens across the country.

Context: Distribution of assistance devices.

Related Topics: Senior citizens welfare fund

Ans 25) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1: It is poverty eradication and women empowerment scheme of Kerala. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It was recognized as a State Rural Livelihood Mission under NRLM of Ministry of Rural Development. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Kudumbashree is the poverty eradication and women empowerment programme implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) of the Government of Kerala. The name Kudumbashree in the Malayalam language means 'prosperity of the family'. Kudumbashree has a three-tier structure for its women community network, with Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) at the lowest level, Area Development Societies (ADS) at the middle level, and Community Development Societies (CDS) at the local government level.

In 2011, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India recognized Kudumbashree as the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). It is arguably one of the largest women's networks in the world. While the community network is formed around the central themes of poverty eradication and women empowerment, its main features include democratic leadership and support structures formed from the 'Kudumbashree family'.

Context: Constructive role in Kerala Flood Rehabilitation process.

Related Topics: Reason for the Kerala Flood.

Ans 26) (d)**Explanation:**

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a Conditional Cash Transfers scheme of West Bengal government that seeks to improve the status and wellbeing of girls, specifically those from socio-economically disadvantaged families. While Kanyashrees Annual Scholarship of Rs. 750/- is for girls who are between the ages of 13 and 18 years, the one-time grant of Rs. 25,000/- is for girls who are between the ages of 18 and 19.

The scheme has been recognized by the United Nations as best public service and awarded first prize to the Government of West Bengal.

Context: International Day of the Girl Child.

Related Topics: Women literacy rate among various states of India.

Ans 27) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is not correct: It provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations serving disabled persons. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It encourages voluntary action to help disabled people. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Scheme provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations to make available the whole range of services necessary for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including early intervention, development of daily living skills, education, skill-development oriented towards employability, training and awareness generation. Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities was revised and was renamed as the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS). The scheme is run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The objectives of the scheme are:

1. To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
2. To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the People with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights) Act of 1995

Context: Establishment of composite regional center at Jammu.

Related Topics: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

Ans 28) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It funds projects of women safety and security. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The proposal of projects can be made by both the Union and State Governments. Hence statement 2 is correct.

STATEMENT 3 is not correct: The fund is administered by the Ministry of Finance. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

Nirbhaya fund was formed to fund projects related to women's safety and security. The fund is administered by the department of economic affairs, ministry of finance. Ministry of women and child development is the nodal authority in appraising and recommending proposals of projects under the fund. All the Union ministries have to send their proposal to the ministry of women and child development for getting funding. In the case of the state governments, the proposal should be sent to the respective union ministry which will forward it to the ministry of women and child development. Recently Emergency Response Support System is launched under the Nirbhaya fund.

Context: The fund is not fully utilized by the states and the fund remains underutilized.

Related Topics: SHeBox and Panic buttons.

Ans 29) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a constitutional body that recommends the government on matters of taxation. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It contains representatives of States and UT with Union Finance Minister. Hence statement 2 is correct.

GST council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the union and state government on issues related to GST. The GST council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and the Union Minister of state in charge of revenue or finance, Ministers in charge of finance or taxation of all states, representatives from Delhi and Puducherry Government as its members. Representatives of the Union Territory governments also find a place in the GST council membership.

Context: Change in the tax rate of different commodities and services.

Related Topics: Goods and Service Tax Network.

Ans 30) (d)

Explanation:

e-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of Reserve Bank of India. E-Kuber provides the provision of a single current account for each bank across the country, with decentralized access to this account from anywhere-anytime using portal based services in a safe manner.

Core Banking Solutions (CBS) can be defined as a solution that enables banks to offer a multitude of customer-centric services on a 24x7 basis from a single location, supporting retail as well as corporate banking activities, as well as all possible delivery channels existing and proposed.

It marked a paradigm shift as it made a bank's particular branch customers, now bank customers as they can access their accounts from any branch for defined purposes. It links all branches of a bank and offers opportunities for information management, better customer service, and improved risk management.

Context: Digital technology developments in the financial sector.

Related Topics: Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

Ans 31) (c)

Explanation:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$150 million loan agreement in New Delhi to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh, the First Multi-Skills Park in India, to enhance the quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) System in the State and create a more skilled workforce.

It will be established in Bhopal will consist of core Advanced Training Institutes including the Center for Occupational Skills Acquisition and the Center for Advanced Agricultural Training as well as other support services focusing on entrepreneurship, training of trainers, and skill-related research. The campus will have training facilities focusing on skills for manufacturing, service, and advanced agricultural jobs, benefitting about 20,000 trainees and trainers. The Project will also help in modernizing 10 industrial training institutes across the state by renovating training infrastructure and upgrading skills courses to align with industry and market needs

Context: Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign \$ 150 Million Loan Agreement to support India's First Global Skills Park in the State of Madhya Pradesh

Related Topics: Skill India Mission and National Skill Development Authority.

Ans 32) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as the Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Under the Scheme, 1500 research projects will be awarded for 2 years to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making. It is not for 5 Year. The Government of India, in August 2018, had sanctioned the scheme "Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)" at a total cost of Rs. 414 Cr for implementation up to 31.03.2021. 'Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)' Scheme:

The broad objectives of the scheme are: To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society. To focus research on (11) broad thematic areas such as : State and Democracy, Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society, Employment, Skills and Rural transformation , Governance, Innovation and Public Policy, Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health and Environment, Science and Education, Social Media and Technology, Politics, Law and Economics. The sub-theme areas will be decided on the basis of Expert Groups' advice before notifying the scheme and calling for applications. To ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode. To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country, including all Universities (Central and State), private institutions with 12(B) status conferred by UGC.

Context: Launch of this scheme for supporting the social science research in the higher educational institutions

Related Topic: The Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR)

Ans 33) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as it will be financed via restructured higher education financing agency (HEFA), a non-banking financial company.

To step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions, major initiative named “Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022” with a total investment of ₹1,00,000-crore in the next four years,”

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It will step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions.

Context: Finance Minister announced a new initiative called Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)

Related Topic: Read about Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) scheme.

Ans 34) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as

HEFA has been set up on 31st May 2017 by the Central Government as a Non -Profit, Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC) for mobilizing extra-budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Govt.

In the existing arrangement, the entire principal portion is repaid by the institution over ten years, and the interest portion is serviced by the Government by providing additional grants to the institution.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It was set up for mobilizing extra-budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Government.

Context: Finance Minister announced a new initiative called Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE).

Related Topic: RISE Scheme.

Ans 35) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is systematically fostering a culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the major focus of this program is to prepare institute for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements Framework.

Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC)’ program

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India has established ‘MHRD’s Innovation Cell (MIC)’ to systematically foster the culture of Innovation amongst all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The primary mandate of MIC is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by supporting them to work with new ideas and transform them into prototypes while they are informative years.

MIC has envisioned encouraging creation of ‘Institution’s Innovation Council (IICs)’ across selected HEIs. A network of these IICs will be established to promote innovation in the Institution through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in the campuses.

Context: Union HRD Minister launched the ‘Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC)’ program under Innovation cell of MHRD in New Delhi.

Related Topic: Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), Diksha Portal

Ans 36) (b)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to “Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development” amongst students and faculties. It is not an initiative of The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship .

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It systematically ranks all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to “Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development” amongst students and faculties.

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to “Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development” amongst students and faculties.

ARIIA ranking will certainly inspire Indian institutions to reorient their mind-set and build ecosystems to encourage high quality research, innovation and entrepreneurship. More than quantity, ARIIA will focus on quality of innovations and will try to measure the real impact created by these innovations nationally and internationally.

Moreover, ARIIA will set the tone and direction for institutions for future development for making them globally competitive and at the forefront of innovation.

Context: Recently this framework was launched Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

Related Topic: Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis (ASMITA)

Ans 37) (c)**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC):

Under this scheme 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years to facilitate strong research collaboration between Indian research groups with the best in class faculty and renowned research groups in the leading universities of the world, in areas that are at the cutting edge of science or with direct social relevance to mankind, specifically India.

Context: Union HRD Minister launches the web portal of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) in New Delhi

Related Topic: Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

Ans 38) (a)**Explanation:**

The Marathon's focus is on identifying a problem and developing innovative solutions that align with the National Agenda of creating a New India by 2022. The innovative solutions should ideally focus on the 6 focus areas in alignment with National Agenda:

It will help schools leverage their technological resources made available as a part of ATL space and also encourage students to develop problem-solving, collaboration and creative skills.

The Tinkering Marathon envisages every ATL school to submit their best Innovation entries in the 6 focus areas identified by NITI Aayog.

So option (a) is right.

Context: Recently Atal Tinkering Marathon was held.

Related Topic: NITI Aayog.

Ans 39) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecasts and services.

'Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)' Scheme ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, which includes warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms, etc.

Each of these aspects is incorporated as nine sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme "ACROSS" and is implemented in an integrated manner through the aforesaid four institutes.

The ACROSS scheme consists of nine sub-programmes which are multi-disciplinary and multi institutional in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner through IMD, HIM, NCMRWF and INCOIS.

As the objective of the ACROSS scheme is to provide a reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society, the scheme will aim at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive R & D, and by adopting effective dissemination and communication strategies to ensure its timely reach to the end-user of all services like Agro-meteorological Services, Aviation service, Environmental monitoring services, Hydro-meteorological services, climate services, tourism, pilgrimage, mountaineering etc.

Context: There was news regarding continuation of the nine sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" during 2017-2020. So we should prepare these schemes in detail.

Related Topic: Different schemes like O-smart, sagarvani, gramini krishi mausam seva etc of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Ans 40) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Department of Border Management; Ministry of Home Affairs has been implementing the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with the essential infrastructure through convergence of different schemes and participatory approach

Border Area Development Programme

BADP was initiated in the border areas of the western region during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for ensuring balanced development of border areas through the development of infrastructure and promotion of a sense of security among the border population.

The programme now covers 394 border blocks of 111 border districts in 17 States, which includes 167 border blocks in 55 districts of 8 North East, States (including Sikkim), located along the international land border.

The States covered are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Under this programme priority is given to the areas closer to the border.

Context: There was news that Centre has released more than Rs. 113 crore to six Border States as part of its plan to ameliorate the problems of people living in isolated locations Under BADP.

Ans 41) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The NCDC has come up with this youth-friendly scheme for attracting youth to cooperative business ventures. It has created a dedicated fund with liberal features enabling youth to avail the scheme.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC.

Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC. It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.

The funding for the project will be up to 80 percent of the project cost for these special categories against 70 percent for others. The scheme envisages 2 percent less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible to avail of the scheme. It would encourage cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas. The scheme is expected to meet the needs of youth

Context: Union Agriculture Minister launched National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)'s new scheme 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme'.

Related Topic: National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) structure and function.



MISCELLANEOUS



Q1. 'UN Global Media Compact', recently seen in news is:

- a) Aimed at advancing awareness regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030.
- b) Aimed at making the profession of Media and Journalism more transparent.
- c) An organization to take the help of new technologies to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from earth.
- d) None of the above

Q2. 'Vorombe titan', recently seen in the news is

- a) A replica of the Titanic ship
- b) A spacecraft of NASA to explore Saturn's largest moon Titan
- c) An atomic watch used by ISRO in Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System to provide exact time and location
- d) World's largest bird which is extinct now

Q3. Match the following tribes:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Lepchas | a. Sikkim |
| 2. Tiwa | b. Karnataka |
| 3. Siddhis | c. Assam |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about 'Central Adoption Resource Agency':

- 1. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 2. It is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, 1993, ratified by the Government of India in 2003.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q5. 'Mobilize Your City' initiative, recently seen in news is

- a) Aimed at providing sanitation facilities in selected urban areas
- b) Aimed at mobilizing the masses against child pornography.
- c) Aimed at reducing Green House Gas emissions in selected city by implementing urban mobility plans
- d) An ambitious project of Ministry of Tourism to provide world class facilities in 12

tourist towns.

Q6. 'Solar Mamas' a group recently seen in news belongs to which region?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Nepal
- c) Australia
- d) Africa

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'Prahara Missile':

- 1. It is indigenously developed surface to air, short range tactical missile.
- 2. It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organization.
- 3. The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with advanced on board computer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. 'Cyclone 30', recently seen in news is

- a) The biggest cyclotron in India for medical application.
- b) The biggest cyclotron in World for medical application.
- c) A powerful typhoon that has slammed into western Japan
- d) It is a list of all big cyclones which struck the Indian coast in 2018

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative':

- 1. The report is an initiative of the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 2. According to the report, the proportional contribution of cancers to the total loss of health in India has decreased from 1990 to 2016.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q10. 'Bhaona form of Theatre' belongs to which state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Assam
- d) Bihar

Q11. Consider the following statements about

‘All India Pension Adalat’:

1. It is organized by the Ministry of Law and justice.
2. It helps in on the spot redressal of pensioner’s grievances.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q12. Consider the following statements about ‘Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics’:

1. It is a joint initiative of National Informatics Centre and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated.
2. It will aid in fast-tracking the adoption of advanced analytics in government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q13. ‘DigiVAARTA’, recently seen in news is

- a) An app launched by Government to educate citizens on digital payments.
- b) A program where all the central bank of the world was invited to prepare a strategy to avoid fraud in digital payments.
- c) A program where Union Minister of Electronics & IT meet all the stakeholders and discuss with them the cyber security.
- d) A program held by NITI Aayog to discuss various initiatives taken by Government to promote digital payments in India

Q14. Consider the following statements about ‘National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)’:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice.
2. NeVA is a device neutral and member centric application created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly.
3. NeVA will completely eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q15. ‘Locate Public Toilets on Google Maps’ is an initiative of which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Rural Development
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- d) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

Q16. Which of the following statements is/are correct about India’s first ‘Flood forecasting and Early Warning System’?

1. It has been launched by the state of Assam.
2. It has been launched with the financial assistance from the World Bank.
3. The ultrasonic sensors will send real-time data to a cloud-based dashboard.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q17. ‘Bogibeel Bridge’ is located in which of the following states?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Assam
- c) Nagaland
- d) None of the above

Q18. With reference to Nuclear Submarine of India, Consider the following statements about ‘INS Arihant’:

1. It is India’s first indigenously built nuclear-powered submarine.
2. It cannot stay underwater for longer periods undetected due to the presence of nuclear-powered pressurized water reactor (PWR)

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. India has achieved the longstanding goal to have a nuclear triad. What is meaning of Nuclear Triad?

- a) It is a three-pronged military force structure that consists of land-launched nuclear missiles, nuclear-missile-armed submarines and strategic aircraft with nuclear bombs and missiles.
- b) It is a three stage nuclear energy production plan of India.
- c) It is a technology for nuclear energy production from Thorium.
- d) It is a technology for nuclear energy production from Nuclear Fusion process.

Q20. Which one of the following is objective of ‘Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti’?

- a) It’s focus is on identifying a problem and developing innovative solutions that align with the National Agenda of creating a New India by 2022.

- b) It's focus is on promotion of gender education in Schools.
- c) It's focus is on promotion of innovation in higher education Institution.
- d) It's focus is to inculcate IP(Intellectual Property) culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Q21. RD Pradhan committee was related to:

- a) Analyse about Shortcomings of the Mumbai police during the attack of 26/11.
- b) Analyse about Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management policy of India.
- c) Analyse about Data Protection law of India.
- d) Analyse about issues in Border Management of India.

Q22. With reference to 'Aircraft of India', Consider the following statements about 'HTT-40':

- 1. It is an Indian training aircraft.
- 2. It was built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

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. With reference to 'Sustainable Development Goals', consider the following statements about 'Dubai Declaration':

- 1. It is detailed measures to boost funding for data and statistical analysis for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the 2030 SDGs.
- 2. It was adopted in the UN World Data Forum, 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q24 Consider the following statements about 'The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018':

- 1. It is released by the Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- 2. It highlights that the global burden of malnutrition is very low.

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. 'Global Education Monitoring Report 2019' is released by which organization?

- a) UNESCO
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Health Organization
- d) UNICEF

Q26. Consider the following statements about 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)':

- 1. It aims to reach each and every child under five years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunization programme.
- 2. It will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2022.

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. Consider the following statements about 'Restricted Area Permit (RAP)':

- 1. It is required for Indians to visit certain areas in India.
- 2. All of Andaman and Nicobar AND Parts of Sikkim are declared as Restricted Area.

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. Consider the following statements about 'World Energy Outlook, 2018':

- 1. It is released by The International Energy Agency (IEA).
- 2. It highlights that the share of electricity in global energy use is decreasing.

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. Which of the following organization was awarded Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in 2018?

- a) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- b) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- c) World Health Organization (WHO)
- d) United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Q30. 'Aipan', a traditional folk art, is from

which state?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Bihar
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujrat

Q31. In which state Hope Island is situated?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Gujrat
- d) Kerala

32. Mangi - Tungi which is called as a gateway to the state of enlightenment is located in:

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Bihar
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

33. Consider the following about the Bathukamma festival:

1. It is celebrated by the womenfolk with wildflowers occurring in the monsoon season.
2. It is considered as a cultural identity of Kerala.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

34. In order to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Northeast India, Experiencing Northeast Festival is conducted. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. It was organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.
2. It is the part of 'Destination North East' that showcases their culture under one roof to the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

35. Which of the following pairs about Geographical Indication (GI) tag are correctly matched?

Geographical Indications	State
1. Alphonso	- Maharashtra
2. Madur Kathi	- Kerala
3. Jeeraphool	- Chhattisgarh

Codes:

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

36. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Amlaka' refers to

- a) Temple architecture
- b) Marriage rituals of Royal families
- c) Dance style
- d) Harvest festival

37. The historical work of 'Chaurapanchasika' is associated with

- a) Temple Architecture
- b) Martial Art
- c) Ethnic Painting
- d) Art of storytelling

MISCELLANEOUS

Ans 1) (a)

Explanation

UN GLOBAL MEDIA COMPACT

The Compact is an initiative of the United Nations, in collaboration with the UN Foundation and with the support of Fleishman Hillard.

It is an initiative marking a new drive to advance awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Compact seeks to inspire media and entertainment companies around the world to leverage their resources and creative talent to advance the Goals.

Approach: United Nations Announces Global Media Compact

Related Topics: UN Sustainable Development Goals

Ans 2) (d)

Explanation

Vorombe titan

It is an extinct Madagascan species which was three metres tall and weighed up to 800 kg.

Recently, Vorombe Titan was named world's largest bird.

It is extinct now.

Context: Recently Elephant bird Vorombe titan named largest ever bird.

Ans 3) (d)

Explanation

Lepchas : Sikkim

Tiwa : Assam

Siddhis : Karnataka

LEPCHAS

They are also called the Rongkup meaning the children of God.

They are the aboriginal inhabitants of Sikkim and they are mostly settled in North Sikkim.

They have their own language called Lepcha.

TIWA (LALUNG)

It is an indigenous (tibeto-burman race) community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya (main region) and also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. They are recognized as a Scheduled Tribe within the state of Assam. Tiwa means "the people who were uplifted from below"

SIDDHIS

The Siddis tribe of Karnataka is an ethnic group. There is a 50,000 strong Siddi population across India, of which about 10,477 are located around Yellapur, Haliyal, Ankola, Joida, Mundgod and Sirsi taluks of Uttara Kannada district and in Khanapur of Belgaum district and Kalghatgi of Dharwad district.

Context: Recently the lepcha tribe was in the news in the article 'Reviving Lepcha'.

Related Topics: Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Adi, Nyishi, Angami, Bhutia, Kuki, Rengma, Bodo and Deori.

Ans 4) (b)

Explanation

Central Adoption Resource Agency

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by the Government of India in 2003. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

Context: Recently the agency was in the news as it allowed the live-in partners to adopt the children.

Related Topics: Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993

Ans 5) (c)

Explanation

MOBILIZE YOUR CITY

The MobiliseYourCity Partnership is a global and inclusive network of cities and countries as well as an umbrella brand of European development cooperation particularly related to the field of sustainable urban transport. The Partnership aims at assisting beneficiary partners – i.e. national and local governments – in their preparation of National Urban Mobility Policies and Investment Programs (NUMPs) and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs). It is a part of international initiative which is supported by the French and German governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties meeting in December, 2015. The MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities viz. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

Context: The initiative though launched in 2015 was in the news recently as India signed an MoU with France on Move Your City Program.

Ans 6) (d)

Explanation

SOLAR MAMAS

‘Solar Mamas’, a group of nearly 30 rural women solar engineers from six African countries who have been trained under India’s developmental support for harnessing solar energy. The ‘Solar Mamas’, who come from across Africa, are trained at Barefoot College in Rajasthan’s Tilonia village or the centre in Tanzania. Under Government of India-supported programmes, the college in Rajasthan has been promoting and training rural women solar engineers from Africa in household solar lighting systems.

Context: This group was recently seen in news when PM Modi visited Africa.

Related Topics: India-African Relations

Ans 7) (b)

Explanation

PRAHAR MISSILE

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is indigenously developed surface to surface short range tactical ballistic missile.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organization.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with advanced on board computer.

It has a strike range of 150 km, Prahaar has no parallel in the world in its range category. It fills the vital gap between multi-barrel rocket Pinaka and medium-range ballistic missile Prithvi. Unlike Prithvi, it can engage multiple targets in different directions.

Context: Recently India successfully test fires short-range tactical ballistic missile Prahaar.

Missiles are very important from exam's perspective.

Related Topics: Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme

Ans 8) (a)

Explanation:

CYCLONE 30

Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.

Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational.

It is placed at Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), a Department of Atomic Energy unit, Kolkata.

This facility will provide for affordable radioisotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals for the entire country especially for Eastern India and also have export potential for Germanium-68/Gallium-68 generator for in-situ production of Gallium-68 and Palladium-103 isotopes, used for breast cancer diagnosis and prostate cancer treatment, respectively.

Context: Recently seen in news and it is important as this is the biggest Cyclotron of India and it will have far reaching benefits.

Ans 9) (d)

Explanation

The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The report is a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, along with experts and stakeholders associated with over 100 Indian institutions.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: According to the report, the proportional contribution of cancers to the total loss of health in India has doubled from 1990 to 2016.

The State-wise disease burden showed that Punjab has been ranked at the top for the burden of ischemic heart disease, followed by Tamil Nadu, and vice-versa for diabetes. West Bengal topped with the largest number of stroke cases followed by Odisha, according to the comprehensive analysis of several major non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Kerala was ranked at the top for the burden of cancer, followed by Assam. Being overweight was found to be a major risk factor for diabetes doubled in every State of India from 1990 to 2016.

Context: The report was recently released.

Related Topics: Ayushman Bharat Scheme

Ans 10) (c)

Explanation

BHAONA

Bhaona is a traditional form of entertainment, always with religious messages, prevalent in Assam, India.

It is a creation of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva, written in the early 16th century. These plays are known as 'Ankiya Nats' and their staging is known as 'bhaona'. Bhaona is a performing art form. It is a simple drama which shows the victory of truth at the climax, generally using fictitious or mythological kings, queens, etc.

Context: Festivals are usually asked in culture part of the exam. Bhaona was recently seen in the news.

Related Topic: Koodiyattam, Bhand Paather, Yakshagana.

Ans 11) (b)

Explanation

ALL INDIA PENSION ADALAT

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is organised by the Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It helps in on the spot redressal of pensioner's grievances.

This has given the right of 'Ease of Living' to the pensioner.

It is convened with the objective of bringing on a common table the aggrieved pensioner, the concerned department, the bank or CGHS representative, wherever relevant, so that such cases can be settled across the table within the framework of extant rules.

Context: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space inaugurated the 'Pension Adalat'.

Ans 12) (c)

Explanation

Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The National Informatics Centre (NIC), in a joint initiative with National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS) has set up CEDA.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) will aid in fast-tracking the adoption of advanced analytics in government.

The Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) has been created to support government departments to unlock the hidden potential of the data that they are generating as a part of the governance processes, and use it to improve the overall governance.

It aims at providing following services to Government:-

Data Quality Assurance Services

Custom-built Data Analytics Solutions

Develop reusable assets

Knowledge Management

Capacity Building and Self Service Analytics

Change Management

Approach: Recently IT Minister inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics .Data has been in focus for the past few years and a question related to this is very likely.

Related Topic: Block chain technology, Big Data

Ans 13) (a)

Explanation

DigiVAARTA

DigiVaarta was launched with the express intention of spreading awareness on DigiDhan, and also to spread the popularity of BHIM's barcode-based merchant payment mode with merchants and traders at large.

This launch has two components –

An SMS application which operates from NIC's SMS Gateway on a special Short-code service allotted for this purpose by DoT with the number "14444". Citizens will receive SMS messages which are pre-approved by experts and the response messages will be made available for further action, analysis and research. The Government proposes initially to pay for the citizen's response so as to promote citizen's engagement and make the awareness program completely free for the citizen.

A Mobile application version of DigiVaarta, which can be accessed and used by smartphone users. This app can perform many more functions beyond chat, offers audio-video tutorials etc.

The initiative aims to enable citizen government dialogue and engage citizens in educational and outreach programmes.

DigiVaarta has been launched to spread awareness amongst the common public on digital payment topics such as BHIM, Aadhar Enabled Payment Systems (AePS), Bharat QR, and Security Do's and Don'ts to begin with.

Context: Recently Government launched DigiVAARTA.

Related Topics: Block chain technology

Ans 14) (d)

Explanation

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It has been launched by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: NeVA is a device neutral and member centric application created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers laid, committee reports etc. in their hand held devices/ tablets and equip all Legislatures/ Departments to handle it efficiently.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: NeVA will completely eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data. Through the cloud technology (Meghraj), data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time. Further, live webcasting of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TVs is also available on this application. Doordarshan has already been enabled with provision to incorporate similar facility in respect of State Legislatures.

NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme.

NeVA is on the pattern of Central Sponsored Scheme i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs. The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). In order to promote the rolling out NeVA, the MoPA has consulted all State Governments.

Context: Recently Two-day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) was held. Digital India has been the goal of the government so the news is important.

Ans 15) (b)

Explanation

Locate Public Toilets on Google Maps

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM – U), has partnered with Google to launch the Loo Review campaign to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.

This campaign is part of a feature which allows all citizens to locate public toilets in their cities on Google Maps, Search and the Assistant and also provide feedback on the same. 500+ cities in India with more than 30,000 toilets with the name of "SBM Toilet" are currently live on Google Maps. The joint campaign to be run throughout October and November 2018 is an effort to increase the awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India.

Approach: A flagship Programme of Government 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', any development in this direction is important from exam point of view. Recently this unique initiative was launched.

Related Topics: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Ans 16) (c)

Explanation

Flood forecasting and Early Warning System

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It has been launched by the state of West Bengal. The Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a flood forecasting and early warning system (FFEWS) for Kolkata City to help city officials and citizens act decisively to minimize damage before and during disasters.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It has been launched with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded the design and implementation of the FFEWS through a \$1 million technical assistance to KMC from its Urban Climate Change

Resilience Trust Fund under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility.

STATEMENT 3 is correct: The ultrasonic sensors fixed at key points across the city such as hot-spots identified as vulnerable to inundation during flood events, canals, pumping stations, traffic junctions, and schools, will send real-time data to a cloud-based dashboard.

Related Topics: National Disaster Management Authority

Ans 17) (b)

Explanation

BOGIBEEL BRIDGE

Bogibeel bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra river in the north eastern Indian state of Assam between Dhemaji district and Dibrugarh district. Bogibeel river bridge is the longest rail-cum-road bridge in India. It is the 5th longest bridge in India after Bhupen Hazarika Setu, Dibang River Bridge, Mahatma Gandhi Setu and Bandra-Worli Sea Link. The bridge is located just over 20 km away from the Assam- Arunachal Pradesh border and acts as an alternative to the Kolia Bhomora Setu, Tezpur in providing connectivity to nearly five million people residing in Upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Due to its location, the bridge is of strategic importance to India as it will significantly enhance India's ability to transport troops and supplies to its border with Tibet in Arunachal Pradesh.

Context: The bridge is very important from a strategic point of view. It was a long standing project which was completed recently and it also received a lot of popularity.

Ans 18) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as INS Arihant is India's first indigenously built nuclear-powered submarine. It was jointly developed by the Indian Navy, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam. Russian designers assisted in building the vessel.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Arihant will be able to stay underwater for long periods undetected due to the nuclear-powered 80MW pressurized water reactor (PWR). The PWR was developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre with assistance from a Russian design team.

Conventional diesel-electric submarines have to ascend to the surface each day to eject carbon dioxide produced by the generator. Nuclear-powered submarines, on the other hand, can stay underwater for long durations without being detected.

Context: Recently there was news that INS Arihant completed its first deterrence patrol.

Related Topic: Nuclear Submarine class of India.

Ans 19) (a)

Explanation:

Option (a) is right As

A nuclear triad is a three-pronged military force structure that consists of land-launched nuclear missiles, nuclear-missile-armed submarines and strategic aircraft with nuclear bombs and missiles.

Specifically, these components are land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic bombers.

The purpose of having this three-branched nuclear capability is to significantly reduce the possibility that an enemy could destroy all of a nation's nuclear forces in a first-strike attack. This, in turn, ensures a credible threat of a second strike, and thus increases a nation's nuclear deterrence.

The main theory of creating the nuclear triad was to spread the assortment of weapons across various platforms, making military forces more likely to survive an attack and able to respond to a first strike successfully.

Context: India has recently achieved the nuclear triad.

Related Topic: Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) of India.

Ans 20) (d)

Explanation:

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti has been instituted by the Department of Defence Production as a part of the ongoing initiatives to enhance self-reliance in defence.

The mission aims to provide a boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry.

The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.

The end objective of the programme is to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Context: Launch of Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

Related Topic: IPR policy of India.

Ans 21) (a)

Explanation:

RD Pradhan committee

To analyse about the Shortcomings of the Mumbai police during the attack of 26/11.

The aim of the commission was to analyse how far the existing procedures, instruments and administrative culture are to be blamed for what are perceived as lapses.

The committee noted that the failure of the Mumbai Police to react to the 26/11 terror attack was because of their lack of experience in dealing with a direct commando attack such as 2001 Parliament attack.

Context: Recently a Report was submitted by RD Pradhan committee

Related Topic: Naxalism

Ans 22) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as HTT-40 is an Indian training aircraft. It will replace the Indian Air Force's retired HPT-32 Deepak as a basic trainer.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It was built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

HTT-40

The HTT-40 will be an all-metal tandem seat aircraft powered by a 1,100 hp (820 kW) turboprop engines. In early 2012 the company forecast building 106 examples.

By the middle of 2012 the aircraft's future was in doubt as the Indian Air Force ordered 75 Pilatus PC-7 Mk IIs to fill the role envisioned for the HTT-40.

In September 2012 the Air Force indicated that it had formally rejected the HTT-40 for service based on its cost per aircraft being double that of the PC-7 Mk II,

Context: HTT-40, the indigenously-built basic trainer aircraft, cleared a challenging milestone — its first spin test

Ans 23) (c)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Dubai Declaration is detailed measures to boost funding for data and statistical analysis for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the 2030 SDGs.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as 2018 UN World Data Forum in Dubai concluded with the adoption of the Dubai Declaration that detailed measures to boost funding for data and statistical analysis for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the 2030 SDGs.

Context: UN World Data Forum in Dubai concluded with the adoption of the Dubai Declaration.

Related Topic: The function of UN World Data Forum.

Ans 24) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It highlights that the global burden of malnutrition is unacceptably high and now affects every country in the world. So global burden of malnutrition is very high.

Context: New Report of Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018'.

Related Topic: Functions of World Health Organization (WHO).

Ans 25) (a)

Explanation:

Global Education Monitoring Report 2019 was released by UNESCO.

Global Education Monitoring Report 2019

The 2019 GEM Report continues its assessment of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education and its ten targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda.

Its main focus is on the theme of migration and displacement. It presents evidence on the implications of different types of migration and displacement for education systems but also the impact that reforming education curricula and approaches to pedagogy and teacher preparation can have on addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by migration and displacement.

It gives voice to experiences in host and home communities.

Context: Release of Global Education Monitoring Report 2019.

Related Topic: Functions of UNESCO.

Ans 26) (d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunization programme.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush

It will cover low performing areas in the selected districts and urban areas. Special attention will be given to unserved/low coverage pockets in sub-centre and urban slums with migratory population. The focus is also on the urban settlements and cities identified under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). Intensified Mission Indradhanush will have inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination, action-based review mechanism and intensified monitoring and accountability framework for effective implementation of targeted rapid interventions to improve the routine immunization coverage.

Context: Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was featured in British Magazine as one of the best practices.

Related Topic: Mission Indradhanush .

Ans 27) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order 1963 states that a Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is required for non-Indians to visit certain areas in India. Indian citizens do not need special permission to visit Restricted Areas.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as As of 2009, RAP are required for all visits to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and parts of the state of Sikkim.

Context: Restricted Area Permit (RAP) can be imposed in North Sentinel Island where an American was killed by members of the Sentinelese tribe

Related Topic: Protected Area Permit.

Ans 28) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is released by The International Energy Agency (IEA).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The share of electricity in global energy use is growing while the rise of low-carbon technologies is prompting a major transformation in the way electricity is generated. Electricity is the special focus of the 2018 edition.

World Energy Outlook, 2018

The World Energy Outlook 2018 examines future patterns of a changing global energy system at a time of increasing uncertainties and finds that major transformations are underway for the global energy sector, from growing electrification to the expansion of renewables, upheavals in oil production and globalization of natural gas markets.

Across all regions and fuels, policy choices made by governments will determine the shape of the energy system of the future

Context: The release of World Energy Outlook, 2018.

Related Topic: The function of The International Energy Agency (IEA).

Ans 29) (a)

Explanation:

Delhi-based environment think-tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), will be honored with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in 2018 for its work in environmental education and protection.

According to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been awarded the prize for its steady fast advocacy of measures to combat environmental deterioration and for its success in influencing public policies and programmes that have benefitted social and economic development in India.

Context: Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) will get Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in 2018.

Related Topic: The function of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Ans 30) (a)

Explanation:

Aipan

It is a traditional folk art in the state of Uttarakhand.

It is the traditional terracotta and white motifs drawn on floors and walls on ceremonial occasions. It consists of rhythmic geometrical patterns on terracotta painted base.

A tiny organization is trying to revive the domestic interest in this traditional folk art. Uttarakhand Aipan painting has its own unique identity which is always done on the empty walls and on the ground which is a symbol of fortune and fertility. The art form is used to decorate floors and walls at the Puja room (place of worship) and entrance of homes and practiced by many other communities of different regions.

Related Topic: folk art of Uttrakhand.

Ans 31) (b)

Explanation:

Hope Island is a part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, off the coast of Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It is relatively a young island, formed from the sediment outflow carried by the waters of the Koringa River, a tributary of the Godavari. It acts as a natural barrier for storm surges and provides tranquility to the ships anchored in Kakinada Bay which makes Kakinada Port one of the safest natural ports in the Eastern Coast of India. The northern tip of the island is called "Godavari Point", which overlooks the entry point into the Kakinada Bay and the Kakinada harbour.

Related Topic: Islands of India.

Ans 32) (a)

Explanation:

Mangi-Tungi is a twin peak with a plateau in between located near Nasik, Maharashtra. It is a famous pilgrimage and sacred place in the Jainism religion. Recently the Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan or peace conference was inaugurated by the President of India at Mangi-Tungi. A 108 feet tall idol of Lord Rishabhdeva, first of Jain Teerthankar is located here.

Context: Inauguration of Peace Conference by the President of India.

Related Topics: Mahamastakabhisheka of Gomateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola.

Ans 33) (a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is a Floral festival during monsoon season celebrated by women. Hence statement 1 is correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is the cultural identity of Telangana. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Bathukamma is a colorful floral festival of Telangana and is celebrated by womenfolk with exotic flowers of the region. The festival has over the years become a symbol of Telangana culture and identity. Bathukamma comes during the latter half of monsoon, before the onset of winter. During the festival, the womenfolk normally get back to their parents' homes from their in-laws and breathe the fresh air of freedom to celebrate the colors of flowers.

The festival heralds the beauty of nature, the collective spirit of Telangana people, the indomitable spirit of womenfolk and also the ecological spirit of the agrarian people in preserving the natural resources in a festive way.

Context: celebration in the New South Wales Parliament in Sydney, Australia.

Related Topics: Pookalam of Kerala.

Ans 34) (b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is organized by the North Eastern Council. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

STATEMENT 2: It is the part of Destination North East. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The Experiencing Northeast festival is a part of Destination North East series is being organized by North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) in collaboration with India International Centre. The festival will showcase the vibrant strengths of North East India and display its art, handicrafts, handlooms, tourism, food, culture etc. There will be special performances daily by eminent cultural troupes, bands and artists from North East, including Nise Meruno, classical pianist and vocalist.

Context: Exposure of the rich cultural traditions of North-east India.

Ans 35) (c)

Explanation:

Madur Kathi: West Bengal

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin

and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In India, the GI is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry located in Chennai.

Context: Alphonso received the geographical indication tag.

Related Topics: Patents, Trademark, Copyrights, IC designs, and WIPO.

Ans 36) (a)

Explanation:

Amlaka, is a segmented or notched stone disk, usually with ridges on the rim, that sits on the top of a Hindu temple's shikhara or main tower. According to one interpretation, the amlaka represents a lotus, and thus the symbolic seat for the deity below. Another interpretation is that it symbolizes the sun, and is thus the gateway to the heavenly world. The amlaka itself is crowned with a kalasam from which a temple banner is often hung.

Context: Architectural styles of Temples in India.

Related Topics: Nagara (in North India), Dravida (in South India), Vesara style

Ans 37) (c)

Explanation:

Chaurapanchasika is a set of 50 verses written by a Kashmiri Pandit Bilhana in the 11th century. It is also known as Bilhana Panchasika and Sasikala Panchasika. The rich clientele patronized the paintings based on the verses of Chaurapanchasika. One of the notable collections is an 18 set folio of Bilhana –Panchasika, which came into Shri N C Mehta's collection through Padma Shri Muni Jinavijayaji. In this set, the verses are in black ink against a yellow background, while the pictures are in a lateral format and appear to have been separate and loose not bound in the form of a book or a portfolio. An example of the Chaurapanchasika miniature shows Champavati standing near a lotus pond

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

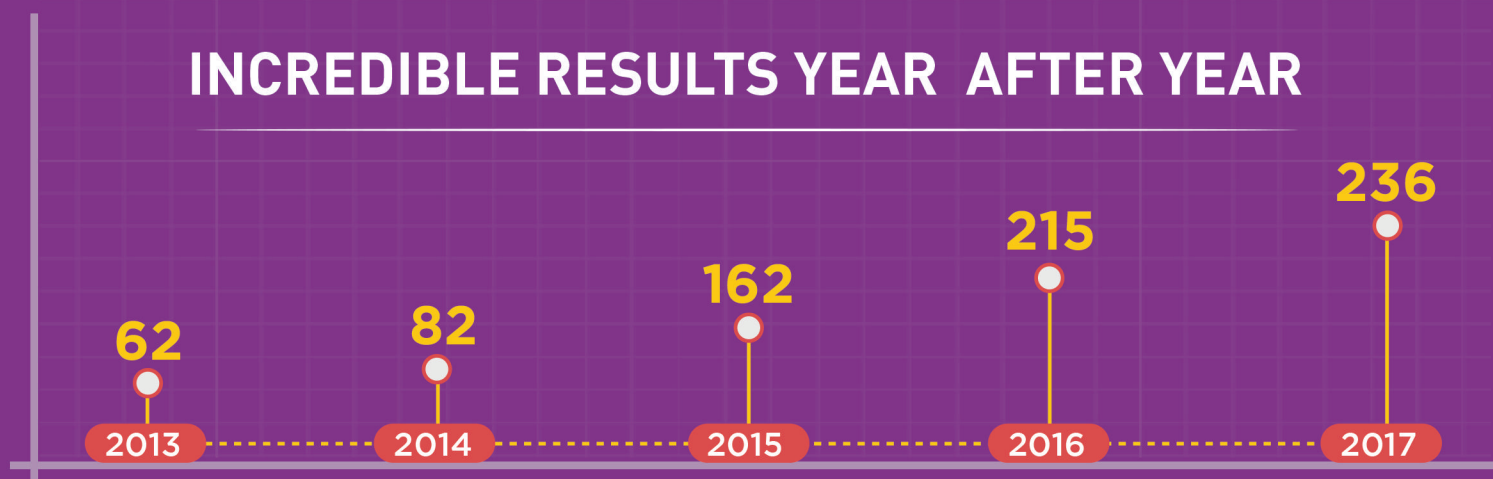


RANK 21
Varjeet
Walia



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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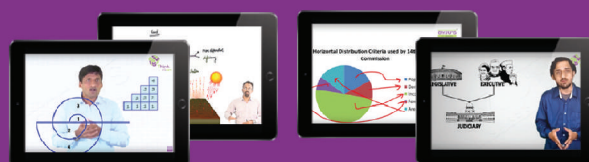
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