

TARGET PRELIMS 2019

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150+ Questions with Explanations, Context and Related Topics



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ECONOMY

Q1. Consider the following statements about 'White Label ATMs (WLAs)':

1. It is set up, owned and operated by scheduled commercial banks.
2. The operators of these White Label ATMs (WLAs) are permitted to charge bank customers directly.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about 'Brown label ATMs':

1. The hardware of ATMs is owned by sponsor bank., but cash management and network connectivity is provided by the service provider.
2. Logo of the sponsor bank is not displayed on brown label ATM kiosk premises but the logo of Operator is displayed on brown label ATM kiosk premises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)':

1. It is a scheduled commercial bank under the provision of RBI Act 1934.
2. It is completely owned by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank 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

Q4. Q4. With reference to digital payment System in India, Consider the following statements about

Cheque Truncation System (CTS):

1. It increases the flow of the physical cheques issued by a drawer to the drawee branch.
2. It decreases the fear of loss of cheques in transit.

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 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)':

1. It is India's first sovereign wealth fund.
2. It is completely owned by the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) is planning to inject liquidity in Indian Economy through foreign exchange swap auction. In this Context, Consider the following statements about foreign exchange swap auction:

1. It is one of the examples of Open Market Operations.
2. Under this, a bank would purchase US dollars from the RBI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Q7. Which of the following bank is not categorized as Domestic Systemically Important Bank?

- a) The State Bank of India
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Punjab National Bank

Q8. Consider the following organizations:

1. International Labour Organization (ILO)
2. World Bank
3. The International Monetary Fund

Which of the above organizations have jointly released the report titled 'Exports to Jobs: Boosting the Gains from Trade in South Asia'?

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) 1, 2, and 3 only

Q9. Which of the following organization releases 'India Inequality Report – Mind the Gap: The State of Employment in India'?

- a) Oxfam India
- b) The International Monetary Fund
- c) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- d) World Bank

Q10. Which of the following organization releases Energy Transition Index (ETI) report?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) The International Monetary Fund
- c) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- d) World Bank

Q11. Which of the following are the components of India's First Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport?

- 1. National Common Mobility Card (NCCM)
- 2. SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System)
- 3. SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate)

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) 1, 2, and 3 only

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'National Common Mobility Card (NCCM)':

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Railways.

2. The NCCM card is issuable as a prepaid and debit card and not as credit RuPay card. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q13. Recently the USA has decided to withdraw the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits provided to India and few other developing countries. In this Context, Consider the following statements about the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP):

1. It is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries.

2. Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause Under WTO (World Trade Organization) is also known as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

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

Q14. Consider the following statements about 'Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)'

1. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) are an example of cooperative society but not of private companies.

2. Minimum 5 hectare of land ownership is required by farmers for formation of Farmer

Producer Organization (FPO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about 'Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Country':

1. It depicts the state of economic activity from the producers' side or supply side.

2. It is the sum of private consumption, gross investment in the economy, government investment, government spending and total foreign trade (sum of exports and imports).

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. Consider the following statements about 'Gross value added (GVA)':

1. It depicts the state of economic activity from the consumers' side or demand perspective.

2. It is sum of Gross Domestic Product and taxes on Products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q17. Consider the following statements about 'World Trade Organization':

1. WTO was established in 1945 and it replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

2. It aims to increase international trade by slashing trade barriers.

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. Consider the following statements about 'International Monetary Fund':

1. The IMF provides loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems.

2. The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF.

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 'Gold Monetization Scheme, 2015':

1. It is intended to mobilize gold held by households and institutions of the country and facilitate its use for productive purposes.
2. All Scheduled Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks are eligible to implement 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

Q20. Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) is released by

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Trade Organization

Q21. Consider the following statements about 'Mutual Funds':

1. It is a type of financial vehicle made up of a pool of money collected from many investors to invest in securities.
2. Mutual Funds are regulated only by RBI.

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 best describes 'Monetary Policy'?

- a) It is the means by which a government adjusts its spending levels and tax rates to monitor and influence a nation's economy.
- b) It is the set of principles on the basis of which one determines who it will lend money to or gives credit.
- c) It involves the management of money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives.
- d) None of the above

Q23. Consider the following statements about 'Unified Payment Interface':

1. UPI allows a customer to pay directly from a bank account to different merchants, both online and offline.
2. For every transaction one needs to type credit/debit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.

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 is a part of Capital Account of India?

1. Commercial borrowings
2. Loans
3. Investment income
4. Unilateral transfers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Q25. Consider the following statements about Small Finance Banks:

1. They are private financial institution with the objective of financial inclusion by providing basic banking services like accepting deposits and lending to the unbanked sections.
2. They were proposed by the Nachiket Mor Committee of RBI.

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. Which of the following statements is correct about E-way bill or Electronic-way bill?

- a) It is a document introduced under the GST regime that needs to be generated after transporting or shipping goods.
- b) It is required for transporting or shipping goods worth more than INR 5,00,000 within state only.
- c) It is required for transporting or shipping goods worth more than INR 5,00,000 within state or inter-state.
- d) It is a document introduced under the GST regime that needs to be generated before transporting or shipping goods worth more than INR 50,000 within state or inter-state.

Q27. With reference to the 'Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority', consider the following statements:

1. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority has been constituted under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The Investor Education and Protection Fund has been set up under the Ministry of Human Resource Development for promotion of investor awareness and protection of investor interests.

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 the Financial Sector Assessment Programme for India:

1. It recommended strengthening the capital base of the public sector banks in India.
2. It is jointly released by the Reserve Bank of India and the International Monetary Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q29. The Ways and Means Advances (WMA) of the Reserve Bank of India meets the needs of

- a) Short term Credit
- b) Medium-term Credit
- c) Long term Credit
- d) All forms of Credit

Q30. Core industries form a major part of the manufacturing activities in India. Arrange the following industries in ascending order of their weight in the Index of Industrial Production.

- a) Electricity - Coal - Refinery Products - Steel
- b) Refinery Products - Electricity - Steel - Coal
- c) Coal - Steel - Electricity - Refinery Products
- d) Electricity - Steel - Coal - Refinery Products

1. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as "White Label ATMs" (WLAs) are set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities. It is not set up, owned and operated by scheduled commercial banks.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The operators of these White Label ATMs (WLAs) are not permitted to charge bank customer directly. The operators are entitled to receive a fee from the banks for the use of ATM resources by the bank's customers and are not permitted to charge bank customer directly.

White Label ATMs (WLAs):

- Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called "White Label ATMs" (WLAs). They provide banking services to the customers of banks in India, based on the cards (debit/credit/prepaid) issued by banks.
- Non-bank entities that set up, own and operate ATMs are called "White Label ATM Operators" (WLAO). The WLAO's role is confined to acquisition of transactions of all banks' customers by establishing technical connectivity with the existing authorized, shared ATM Network Operators / Card Payment Network Operators.
- Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited (TCPSL) is the first company authorized by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open White Label ATMs in the country. It got launched under the brand name 'Indicash' on 27 June 2013.

Context: Recently, RBI has eased business guidelines for White Label ATMs (WLAs) to enhance their viability.

Related Topic: Difference between White label ATM and Brown Label ATM.

2. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as hardware is owned by the service provider, but cash management and network connectivity is provided by sponsor bank.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Logo of sponsor bank is displayed on brown label ATM kiosk premises but the logo of Operator is not displayed on brown label ATM kiosk premises.

Brown label ATMs:

- Brown Label ATM is sharing cost concept. In Brown Label, ATM hardware is owned by service provider, but cash management and network connectivity is provided by sponsor bank.
- Features and functions of Brown Label ATM are same as that of normal ATM Machine.
- This machine contains Logo of sponsor bank.
- Brown Label ATM is cost effective solution for the banks.

Context: Recently, RBI has eased business guidelines for White Label ATMs (WLAs) to enhance their viability.

Related Topic: Difference between White label ATM and Brown Label ATM.

3. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is not a scheduled commercial bank under the provision of RBI Act 1934.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It is not completely owned by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India.

- The ten core promoter banks are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank N. A., and HSBC. In 2016 the shareholding was broad-based to 56 member banks to include more banks representing all sectors.

Context: Recently NPCI has taken many initiatives to promote financial Inclusion.

Related Topic: National Financial Switch (NFS) and Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it decrease or stops the flow of the physical cheques issued by a drawer to the drawee branch.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it decrease fear of loss of cheques in transit. As Cheques is transferred in Electronic Form.

Cheque Truncation System (CTS)

- The physical instrument is truncated at some point en route to the drawee branch and an electronic image of the cheque is sent to the drawee branch along with the relevant information like the MICR fields, date of presentation, presenting banks, etc.
- This would eliminate the need to move the physical instruments across branches, except in exceptional circumstances, resulting in an effective reduction in the time required for payment of cheques, the associated cost of transit and delays in processing, etc., thus speeding up the process of collection or realization of cheques.

Context: Recently NPCI has taken many initiatives to promote financial Inclusion.

Related Topic: National Financial Switch (NFS) and Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund. .

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It is not completely owned by the Government of India.

In October 2017, NIIF signed the first investment agreement worth \$1 billion with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).After this partnership agreement, ADIA became the first international institutional investor in NIIF's Master Fund and a shareholder in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd along with Government of India who became 49% shareholder. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) such as HDFC group, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Life, and Axis bank are also contributors in NIIF's Master Fund.

Context: National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has been adopting various approaches to mobilize resources for funding infrastructure projects.

Related Topic: Category II Alternative Investment Fund; quasi-sovereign wealth fund;

6. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is not the examples of Open Market Operations (OMO). OMOs refer to a central bank's buying and selling of government securities in the 'open market'.

On the other hand, in swap transaction, only authorised dealers, mainly banks, will be allowed to deposit US dollars in exchange for rupees. So there is no buying and selling of government securities.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as, Under the swap, a bank would sell US dollars to the RBI.

Context: The RBI is set to inject long-term liquidity worth \$5 billion into the system through foreign exchange swap auction with banks for 3 years.

Related Topic: Concept of Open Market Operations; Role of OMO in controlling the Inflation.

7. Answer: D

Explanation:

Out of the four options given, Punjab National Bank is not categorized as Domestic Systemically Important Bank. So OPTION d) is correct.

Domestic Systemically Important Bank:

- Inclusion in D-SIB indicates that failure of any of these banks would have a cascading effect on Indian financial system.
- Inclusion in the list gives additional comfort to investors that these banks won't be allowed to fail and therefore, borrowing costs of these banks from the markets are cheaper than their peers

Context: The Reserve Bank said SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank will have to comply with additional capital requirement norms by April 1, 2019, as the banks continue to remain 'too big to fail' lenders, referred to as D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Bank).

Related Topic: Capital Adequacy Ratio;

8. Answer: A

Explanation:

The report titled 'Exports to Jobs: Boosting the Gains from Trade in South Asia' has been jointly released by the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The report analyses the effect changes in exports will have on local employment and wages by looking at the combined data from household-level or worker-level surveys with trade data.

Context: The report titled 'Exports to Jobs: Boosting the Gains from Trade in South Asia' has been jointly released by the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Related Topic: Different Report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank;

9. Answer: A

Explanation:

Oxfam India releases the 'India Inequality Report' – Mind the Gap: The State of Employment in India. The second edition of Oxfam India's 'India Inequality Report' – Mind the Gap: The State of Employment in India– approaches structural inequalities in India's vast labor market with a particular focus drawn on gender disparities within it.

Context: Recently Oxfam India releases the 'India Inequality Report' – Mind the Gap: The State of Employment in India.

10. Answer: A

Explanation:

World Economic Forum releases Energy Transition Index (ETI) report.

Energy Transition Index (ETI)

- Energy Transition Index (ETI) measures economies in two ways. Firstly, each economy is assessed for its energy "system performance". This takes into account three criteria regarded as critical for transitioning to the future, namely: security and access, environmental sustainability and economic growth and development.
- The latter measures economic impact to households, industry and export revenues.

Context: Recently World Economic Forum (WEF) releases Energy Transition Index (ETI) report.

Related Topic: Reports releases by World Economic Forum (WEF)

11. Answer: D

Explanation:

- India's First Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport consisting of NCMC Card, SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate) is based on NCMC Standards. So OPTION d) is correct.
- The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model i.e. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) is the first of its kind in India.

National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

- These are bank issued cards on Debit/Credit/Prepaid card product platform. The customer may use this single card for payments across all segments including metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking, smart city and retail. The stored value on card supports offline transaction across all travel needs with minimal financial risk to involved stakeholders. The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications e.g. monthly passes, season tickets etc

12. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It was launched by the Ministry Of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The NCMC card is issuable as a prepaid, debit, or credit RuPay card from partnered banks such as the State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank, and others. So it is issuable as credit RuPay Card.

Context: In order to ensure seamless travel across metros and other transport systems, the Ministry Of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC).

Related Topic: One Nation, One Card initiative by Ministry Of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

13. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries (also known as preference receiving

countries or beneficiary countries). It is a preferential arrangement in the sense that it allows concessional low/zero tariff imports from developing countries.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause Under WTO (World Trade Organization) is different from Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Most Favored Nation (MFN)

- Under the normal trade laws, the WTO members must give equal preferences to trade partners. There should not be any discrimination between countries. This trade rule under the WTO is called the Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause. The MFN instructs non-discrimination that any favorable treatment to a particular country.

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

- At the same time, the WTO allows members to give special and differential treatment to developing countries (like zero tariff imports). This is an exemption for MFN. The MSP given by developed countries including the US is an exception to MFN.

Context: The US government has announced that it intends to terminate India's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Related Topic: Concept of Most Favored Nation (MFN);

14. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) are an example of cooperative society as well as private companies.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as landless farmers can also form Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO).

Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) is an entity formed by primary producers, viz. farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen. An FPO can be a Producer Company, a Cooperative Society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members.

The main aim of an FPO is to ensure better income for the producers through an organization of their own. Small producers do not have the large marketable surplus individually (both inputs and produce) to get the benefit of economies of scale. Besides, in agricultural marketing, there is a long chain of intermediaries who very often work non-transparently leading to the situation where the producer receives only a small part of the value that the ultimate consumer pays.

15. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it gives the economic output from the consumers' side.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it is the sum of private consumption, gross investment in the economy, government investment, government spending and Net foreign trade (difference between exports and imports)

Context: There is news that the new method can be adopted for GDP Calculation.

Related Topic: Difference between GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and Gross Value Added (GVA).

16. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Gross value added (GVA) gives a picture of the state of economic

activity from the producers' side or supply side.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as 'Gross value added (GVA) is the sum of GDP and Subsidies minus Taxes on Products.

Context: New method of GVA (Gross Value added) can be adopted.

Related Topic: Difference between GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and Gross Value Added (GVA).

17. Answer: B

Explanation:

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: WTO was established in 1995 and it replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It aims to increase international trade by slashing trade barriers and providing a platform for the negotiation of trade and related issues.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. The WTO has many roles: it operates a global system of trade rules, it acts as a forum for negotiating trade agreements, it settles trade disputes between its members and it supports the needs of developing countries.

WTO is not a part of United Nations.

Context: Recently there was news that 'EU drags India to WTO over ICT products' levies'.

Related Topics: World Bank

18. Answer: C

Explanation

International Monetary Fund

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The International Monetary Fund, or IMF, promotes international financial stability and monetary cooperation. It also facilitates international trade, promotes employment and sustainable economic growth, and helps to reduce global poverty. Providing loans to member countries that are experiencing actual or potential balance-of-payments problems is a core responsibility of the IMF.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The IMF issues an international reserve asset known as Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, that can supplement the official reserves of member countries. IMF members can voluntarily exchange SDRs for currencies among themselves.

- Member quotas are the primary source of IMF financial resources. A member's quota broadly reflects its size and position in the world economy.
- The IMF was conceived in July 1944 at the United Nations Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, United States. The 44 countries in attendance sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation and avoid repeating the competitive currency devaluations that contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- It also provides periodic assessments of global prospects in its World Economic Outlook, of financial markets in its Global Financial Stability Report, of public finance developments in its Fiscal Monitor, and of external positions of the largest economies in its External Sector Report, in addition to a series of regional economic outlooks.

Context: IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath revealed details about the global growth at the release of the World Economic Outlook 2019 April report, at the start of the World Bank IMF Spring Meetings.

Related Topics: World Bank

19. Answer: A

Explanation

GOLD MONETIZATION SCHEME

STATEMENT 1 is correct: GMS, which modifies the existing 'Gold Deposit Scheme' (GDS) and 'Gold Metal Loan Scheme' (GML), is intended to mobilise gold held by households and institutions of the country and facilitate its use for productive purposes, and in the long run, to reduce the country's reliance on the import of gold.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: All Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding RRBs will be eligible to implement the Scheme.

Context: India's gold reserves increase marginally in February: WGC

Related Topics: World Gold Council

20. Answer: A

Explanation

Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR):

- The Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) is a semiannual report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing. It is released twice per year, in April and October.
- The GFSR focuses on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances, that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging-market countries.
- It emphasizes the ramifications of financial and economic imbalances that are highlighted in one of the IMF's other publications, the World Economic Outlook.

Details of Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) 2019

- The level of capitalisation of some banks, particularly government-owned banks should be bolstered.
- This is also one of the recommendations of the Financial Sector Assessment Program for India that took place fairly recently.
- Average price-to-book ratios for Indian banks improving somewhat and the institutional mechanisms for resolution and recognition of [non-performing loans] NPLs are, of course, extremely important. The authorities should continue working along these lines.
- Portfolio flows to emerging markets are influenced by benchmark-driven investors — 70% of country allocations of investment funds are impacted by benchmark indices, the report said.

Context: IMF head of Monetary and Capital Markets Tobias Adrian, at the release of the multilateral institution's April 2019 Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) as part of the World Bank IMF Spring Meetings said that there continues to be a high stock of non-performing assets (NPAs) in India, and there has been some progression.

Related Topics: World Trade Organization

21. Answer: A

Explanation

Mutual Funds

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Mutual Funds is a type of financial vehicle made up of a pool of money collected from many investors to invest in securities such as stocks, bonds, money market instruments, and other assets.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: Along with SEBI, mutual funds are regulated by RBI, Companies Act, Stock exchange, Indian Trust Act and Ministry of Finance.

Context: Recently there was a news that 'Mutual funds' FMP investments worth Rs. 1,400 cr. at risk'.

Related Topics: Angel Tax

22. Answer: C

Explanation

Monetary Policy: Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central bank. It involves the management of money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity.

Fiscal Policy: Fiscal policy is the means by which a government adjusts its spending levels and tax rates to monitor and influence a nation's economy.

Credit Policy: A firm's credit policy is the set of principles on the basis of which it determines who it will lend money to or gives credit (the ability to pay for goods or services at a later date).

Context: Observing that the global financial crisis has exposed several limitations of conventional and unconventional monetary policy tools, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said monetary economics in emerging markets needs a rethink.

Related Topics: Tools of Monetary Policy

23. Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Unified Payment Interface is a payment system that allows money transfer between any two bank accounts both online and offline

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: UPI allows a customer to pay directly from a bank account to different merchants without the hassle of typing credit/debit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.

The new interface is built on the same infrastructure as the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), which is currently used by banks for real-time transfer of cash. Though the transaction limit for IMPS is Rs.2 lakh per transaction, for UPI the limit has been set at Rs.1 lakh.

Context: Payments made on the UPI platform saw a remarkable growth of over 400% in the April to March period, from a little more than ₹27,000 crore in April 2018 to ₹35 lakh crore in March 2019.

Related Topics: QR Code

24. Answer: B

Explanation

CAPITAL ACCOUNT: The capital account is a record of the inflows and outflows of capital that directly affect a nation's foreign assets and liabilities. It is concerned with all international trade transactions between citizens of one country and those in other countries.

The components of the capital account includes foreign investment and loans, banking and other forms of capital, as well as monetary movements or changes in the foreign exchange reserve. The capital account flow reflects factors such as commercial borrowings, banking, investments, loans, and capital.

CURRENT ACCOUNT: The current account deals with a country's short-term transactions or the difference between its savings and investments. These are also referred to as actual transactions (as they have a real impact on income), output and employment levels through the movement of goods and services in the economy.

The current account consists of visible trade (export and import of goods), invisible trade (export and import of services), unilateral transfers, and investment income (income from factors such as land or foreign shares). The credit and debit of foreign exchange from these transactions is also recorded in the balance of current account. The resulting balance of the current account is approximated as the sum total of balance of trade.

Context: Recently, RBI's Deputy Governor has argued in favour of revisiting India's policies with respect to Capital Account Liberalisation.

Related Topics: Balance of Payments

25. Answer: C

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: These are private financial institution for the objective of financial inclusion without any restriction in the area of operations, unlike the Regional Rural Banks or Local Area Banks.

- They can provide basic banking services like accepting deposits and lending to the unbanked sections such as small farmers, micro business enterprises, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.
- Some of the operational Small Finance Banks in India are: Ujjivan SFB, Janalakshmi SFB, Equitas SFB, AU SFB, and Capital SFB.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: They were proposed by the Nachiket Mor Committee of RBI, as one of the differentiated banking system for credit outreach and announced in the annual Budget of 2014.

Context: Recently data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) show that the small finance bank sector has been seeing remarkable growth in credit disbursement as well as deposits.

Related Topics: Payments Banks

26. Answer: D

Explanation:

E-way bill or Electronic-way bill

- E-way bill or Electronic-way bill is a document introduced under the GST regime that needs to be generated before transporting or shipping goods worth more than INR 50,000 within state or inter-state.
- It was rolled out on April 1, 2018, for moving goods from one state to another however for intra-state movement of goods it was rolled out in a phased manner.
- The physical copy of e-way bill must be present with the transporter or the person in charge of the conveyance and should include information such as goods, recipient, consignor and transporter.
- Upon generation of the E-Way Bill, on the common portal, a unique E-Way Bill number called 'EBN' is made available to the supplier, the recipient and the transporter.
- The portal has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Context: Recently the Finance Ministry has introduced changes in the e-way bill system to crack down on GST evaders.

Related Topic: GST

27. Answer: A

Explanation:

Only statement 1 is correct

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority has been constituted under the provisions of Companies Act, 2013. The IEPF fund has been set up under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for promotion of investor awareness and protection of investor interests.

- Unclaimed dividend, refund of application money, matured company deposits and debentures, and interest on them are moved to the IEPF fund if not claimed within seven years.
- The IEPF is monitored by a trust, which decides how the money will be utilised for specific activities of investor awareness and education.
- Investors can claim unpaid amounts from the company before they are credited to the IEPF account by following the procedure prescribed by the company.

28. Answer: A

Explanation:

ONLY statement 1 is correct

The Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) is a joint program of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Launched in 1999 in the wake of the Asian financial crisis, the program brings together Bank and Fund expertise to help countries reduce the likelihood and severity of financial sector crises. The FSAP provides a comprehensive framework through which assessors and authorities in participating countries can identify financial system vulnerabilities and develop appropriate policy responses. In its recent report, it recommended the increase in the capital base of the public sector banks.

Context: Release of Assessment for India.

Related Topic: Financial Stability Report by Reserve Bank of India.

29. Answer: A

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India gives temporary loan facilities to the center and state governments as a banker to the government. This temporary loan facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA). This facility can be availed by the government if it needs immediate cash from the RBI. The WMA is to be vacated after 90 days. The interest rate for WMA is currently charged at the repo rate. The limits for WMA are mutually decided by the RBI and the Government of India.

Under the WMA scheme for the State Governments, there are two types of WMA – Special and Normal WMA. Special WMA is extended against the collateral (mortgaging) of the government securities held by the State Government. After the exhaustion of the special WMA limit, the State Government is provided a normal WMA. The normal WMA limits are based on a three-year average of actual revenue and capital expenditure of the state. The withdrawal above the WMA limit is considered an overdraft.

The rate of interest of WMA is linked to the Repo Rate. Surplus balances of State Governments are invested in Government of India 14-day Intermediate Treasury bills in accordance with the instructions of the State Governments.

Context: RBI decided the limit of WMA with the consultation with the Government of India.

Related Topics: Ad Hoc treasury bills.

30. Answer: B

Explanation:

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The Core industries and their weight in IIP are as follows:

1. Coal production (weight: 10.33per cent)
2. Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98per cent)
3. The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88per cent)
4. Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04per cent)
5. Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 percent)
6. Steel production (weight: 17.92per cent)
7. Cement production (weight: 5.37per cent)
8. Electricity generation (weight: 19.85per cent)

Context: Index of eight core industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Related Topics: Change in the share of core industries in the IIP.

POLITY

Q1. Which of the following voters can exercise his/her franchise through postal Ballots?

1. People on election duty
2. Armed forces personnel
3. Electors subject to preventive detention.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about 'Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system':

1. VVPAT allows voters to see a printed slip for 7 seconds showing the serial number name and symbol of the chosen candidate.
2. VVPAT verification in all polling booths of every constituency is mandatory.

Which of the following 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 political symbol of different political Party:

1. Two or more recognized political parties cannot have the same symbol.
2. State Election Commission has the power to recognize political parties and allot symbols to different political parties.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about 'Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006':

1. It recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupation of forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.
2. The Act also provides for diversion of forest land for public utility facilities managed by the Government, such as schools, dispensaries etc.

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 statements is incorrect about 'Model Code of Conduct' for political parties during elections?

- a) It is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates.
- b) The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.
- c) The MCC is enforceable by law.
- d) MCC states that criticism of political parties must be limited to their policies and programmes, past record and work.

Q6. According to Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013), Which among the following are the members of the 'Selection Committee' for the selection of Chairperson and the members of the Lokpal?

1. Prime Minister
2. Speaker of the Lok Sabha
3. The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha
4. Chief Justice of India
5. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Q7. Which among the following statements about 'Electronic Voting Machine' is not correct?

- a) An EVM is designed with two units: the control unit and the balloting unit.
- b) A list of candidate's names and/or symbols will be available on the machine with a blue button next to it.
- c) It makes the process of counting of votes much faster than the conventional system.
- d) EVMs in India was first used in 2014 General Elections to the Parliament.

Q8. Which of the following statements about 'Electoral Bonds' is/are correct?

1. The electoral bonds are available at every public sector bank for 10 days each in the months designated by the government from time to time.
2. It can be purchased by any person whether he is Indian citizen or not.

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

Q9. Which of the following statements about 'Central Information Commission' is/are correct:

1. The Commission has certain powers and functions which relates to adjudication in second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI etc.
2. The Central Information Commission has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

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. Consider the following statements about 'Official Secrets Act':

1. It provides the framework for dealing with espionage, sedition, and other potential threats to the integrity of the nation.
2. The law is only applicable to the government servants.

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. Which of the statement is incorrect about money bill?

- a) Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills.
- b) If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.
- c) Money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha
- d) Money bill can be introduced by any member of the Lok Sabha.

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'election Commission':

1. The president appoints the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.
2. Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from his office either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens and make our

democracy work for the people in real sense.

2. RTI Act, mandates that the government cannot refuse information if disclosure in public interest overshadows certain "protected interests".

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q14. Which of the following statements is not correct about the electoral bonds?

- a) It has no maximum limit for donation.
- b) It cannot be purchased using foreign currencies.
- c) It can be purchased only in specified State Bank of India branches.
- d) It is valid for only for a period of 30 days from the day of issue.

Q15. Consider the following statements about the Model Code of Conduct in the election process:

1. It was first implemented in the assembly elections of Kerala in 1960.
2. It is legally binding on all political parties and candidates during the election season.

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. Consider the following statements about the NewGen Mobility Summit:

1. It aims to transform transportation systems smarter and environment-friendly.
2. It was organized by the International Centre for Automotive Technology under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

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 'University Grants Commission':

1. The UGC is a statutory body established for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India.

2. It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognized universities and colleges.

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. 'Sendai Framework', sometimes seen in the news is

- a) A 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk.
- b) A set of 17 goals which call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- c) An agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance.
- d) None of the above



1. Answer: D

Explanation

As per guidelines set by Election Commission of India, service voters can exercise his/her franchise through postal ballot or through a proxy voter duly appointed by him.

Voters having service qualification are known as Service Voters i.e. they are –

- members of the Armed Forces of the Union
- member of a force to which provisions of the Army Act 1950 have been made applicable
- member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state; or
- a person employed under the Government of India, serving outside India

There's a facility for officers on poll duty laid down by the Election Commission. The officers can either use Election Duty Certificate (EDC) or choose to vote via postal ballot.

As per Rule 18 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the electors under preventive detention are entitled to cast their votes by post."Rule 21(1) of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, provides that the appropriate government shall intimate to Returning Officers, the names of the electors subjected to preventive detention with their address, electoral roll numbers and places of detention, within 15 days of calling an election.

2. Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: VVPAT allows voters to see a printed slip for 7 seconds showing the serial number, name and symbol of the chosen candidate. It allows the voter to verify and confirm that the vote has gone to the candidate of his choice.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: As per the recent ruling of the Supreme Court:

In case of general elections, VVPAT slips of five EVMs in each Assembly segment of a Parliamentary Constituency would be subject to physical counting.

In State Assembly elections, the VVPAT verification would extend to five random EVMs in each Assembly constituency.

Context: The Supreme Court increased voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) verification to five random Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in each Assembly segment/constituency.

Related Topics: EVMs

3. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect .Two or more recognised political parties can have the same symbol provided they are not contenders in the same States/UT. For example: Federal Party of Manipur and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) use 'Rising Sun' as their symbol.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect. The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols. It aims to Provide for specification, reservation, choice and allotment of symbols at elections in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies for the recognition of political parties.

Context: Recently the Delhi High Court upheld the Election Commission of India's allotment of the 'Two Leaves' symbol to the AIADMK party following a dispute between the two rival factions of the party.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been enacted to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation of forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Act also provides for diversion of forest land for public utility facilities managed by the Government, such as schools, dispensaries, fair price shops, electricity and telecommunication lines, water tanks, etc. with the recommendation of Gram Sabhas.

This Act not only recognizes the rights to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood, but also grants several other rights to ensure their control over forest resources which, inter-alia, include right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce, community rights such as nistar; habitat rights for primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities; right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.

Context: Recently there was an article 'The arrogance of the ignorant' which relates to the Supreme Court judgement that over 1.12 million households from 17 States, who have had their claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, are to be evicted by the State governments before July 27.

Related Topics: Schedule 5 and 6 of the constitution

5. Answer: C

Explanation

Model Code of Conduct

- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures.
- The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.
- The MCC contains eight provisions dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, party in power, and election manifestos.
- The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

According to the Model Code of Conduct, Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.

Context: Recently, the Election Commission of India ruled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not violate the Model Code of Conduct by announcing through a nationally televised address the demonstration of India's capability to bring down an operational satellite.

Related Topics: Election Commission

6. Answer: B

Explanation

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)

- It seeks to establish the institution of the Lokpal at the Centre and the Lokayukta at the level of the State and thus seeks to provide a uniform vigilance and anti-corruption road map for the nation both at the Centre and at the States. The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government.
- The Lokpal to consist of a Chairperson with a maximum of 8 members of which 50% shall be judicial members.
- 50% of the members of the Lokpal shall come from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women.
- The selection of the Chairperson and the members of Lokpal shall be through a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court Judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist to be nominated by the President of India on the basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee.

Context: Recently Justice P.C. Ghose has been appointed as the first Lokpal of India.

Related Topics: Central Bureau of Investigation

7. Answer: D

Explanation:

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES

- Electronic Voting Machine (also known as EVM) is voting using electronic means to either aid or take care of the chores of casting and counting votes.
- How it works: An EVM is designed with two units: the control unit and the balloting unit. These units are joined together by a cable. The control unit of the EVM is kept with the presiding officer or the polling officer. The balloting unit is kept within the voting compartment for electors to cast their votes. This is done to ensure that the polling officer verifies your identity. With the EVM, instead of issuing a ballot paper, the polling officer will press the Ballot Button which enables the voter to cast their vote.
- A list of candidate's names and/or symbols will be available on the machine with a blue button next to it. The voter can press the button next to the candidate's name they wish to vote for.
- It makes the process of counting of votes much faster than the conventional system.
- The use of EVM started back in 1982 in the Kerala Assembly elections. Prior to this only ballot papers and ballot boxes were allowed.

Context: The issue concerning Electronic Voting Machines (EVM's) and VVPAT's are in the news considering the fact that the general elections are underway.

Related Topics: VVPAT

8. Answer: D

Explanation

ELECTORAL BONDS

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The electoral bonds are available at specified branches of the State

Bank of India (SBI) for 10 days each in the months designated by the government from time to time.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It can be purchased by only citizen of India or a body incorporated in India.

The bonds may be bought for any value, in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh or ₹1 crore. They can be bought by the donor with a KYC-compliant account. Donors can donate the bonds to their party of choice which can then be cashed in via the party's verified account within 15 days.

Every party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State election will be allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India. Electoral bond transactions can be made only via this account.

Context: The Election Commission of India, in an affidavit filed in the court, said the electoral bonds had made political funding opaque and would have “serious repercussions on transparency of political funding” owing to its anonymous nature.

Related Topics: Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951

9. Answer: C

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned in sections 18, 19, 20 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. These broadly relate to adjudication in second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI etc; imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Central Information Commission has been constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.

- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner hold office for a term of 5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They are not eligible for reappointment.

Context: The Centre has denied a Right to Information (RTI) request for details of the ongoing recruitment process for four vacancies in the Central Information Commission (CIC), despite a recent Supreme Court order mandating that such information be made public.

Related Topics: Right to Information Act.

10. Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Official Secrets Act was first enacted in 1923 and was retained after Independence. It provides the framework for dealing with espionage, sedition, and other potential threats to the integrity of the nation.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The law is applicable to government servants and citizens.

The law makes spying, sharing ‘secret’ information, unauthorised use of uniforms, withholding information, interference with the armed forces in prohibited/restricted areas, among others,

punishable offences. If guilty, a person may get up to 14 years' imprisonment, a fine, or both. The information could be any reference to a place belonging to or occupied by the government, documents, photographs, sketches, maps, plans, models, official codes or passwords.

Context: SC rejects Centre's plea to keep Rafale documents secret

Related Topics: Rafale Aircraft

11. Answer: D

Explanation:

MONEY BILL

- Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills.
- If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.
- 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.
- When a money bill is presented to the president, he may either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill but cannot return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses. Normally, the president gives his assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the Parliament with his prior permission.

Context: Recently The Honourable Supreme Court of India heard oral arguments in Revenue Bar Association (RBA) v. Union of India, in which the validity of the Finance Act of 2017, insofar as it affects the structure and functioning of various judicial tribunals, is under challenge.

Related Topics: Financial Bill

12. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The chief election commissioner is provided with the security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he can be removed by the president on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.

Context: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party leader N. Chandrababu Naidu met Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora on 13th April, 2019, and submitted a memorandum complaining that a large number of EVMs 'malfunctioned' during polling conducted on 11th April, 2019

Related Topics: Union Public Service Commission

13. Answer: C

Explanation:

- The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in real sense.

- Section 8 (2) of the RTI Act, mandates that the government cannot refuse information if disclosure in public interest overshadows certain “protected interests”.

Context: Recently there was an article in the news which says ‘Open up the Supreme Court’ and relates to RTI act.

Related Topics: Central Information Commission

14. Answer: d

Explanation:

Electoral Bond is a bearer Banking Instrument to be used for funding eligible Political Parties. An eligible Political Party is the one registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and 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. It has a minimum limit of Rs.1000 and no maximum limit on donation. It can be purchased only from specified SBI branches and by only Indian Rupees. The bond is valid for 15 days from the date of issue after which it will be invalid.

Context: Election commission report on electoral bonds to the Supreme Court of India.

Related Topics: Public funding of election in India.

15. Answer: A

Explanation:

ONLY statement 1 is correct

The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures. The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced until the date that results are announced. a form of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc. In the 1962 general elections to the Lok Sabha, the MCC was circulated to recognized parties, and state governments sought feedback from the parties.

The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

16. Answer: C

Explanation:

NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019 was conducted by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) at Manesar. The objective of the Summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future. This event will help in building a platform for bringing together all stakeholders in the automotive industry to understand global advancements in technologies.

ICAT Manesar is a division of NATRIP Implementation Society (NATIS) under the Department of Heavy Industries, Government of India. It provides services for testing, validation, design, and homologation of all categories of vehicles and has a mission to assist the automotive industry in adopting cutting edge technologies in vehicle evaluation and component development to ensure reliability, durability, and compliance to the current and future regulations in new generation mobility solutions.

Context: Organisation of the NewGen Mobility Summit by ICAT.

Related Topic: FAME - II program.

17. Answer: C

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The UGC, however, was established in November 1956 as a statutory body through an Act of Parliament for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognized universities and colleges.

Context: Universities are revising all of its undergraduate programmes along the lines of UGC's Learning Outcome based Curriculum Framework (LOCF), which is being opposed by some teachers particularly in Delhi University.

18. Answer: A

Explanation

SENDAI FRAMEWORK

- The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- It aims for the following outcome: The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

Context: India has pledged Rs 480 crore to setup global "Coalition for Disaster resilient Infrastructure".

ENVIRONMENT

Q1. Recently an oil spill disaster occurred in the Solomon Islands. In this Context, Consider the following statements about the Solomon Islands:

1. It is situated in the Indian Ocean.
2. It is under administrative Control of Australia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about 'Global Environment Outlook' Report:

1. It is released by The United Nations Development Programme.
2. The first publication of Global Environment Outlook was released in 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

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Standards & Labeling Program':

1. It is implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
2. Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines are not covered under this Program.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about 'Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)':

1. It is a non-statutory body working under the Ministry of Power.
2. It was created under the provisions of the The Electricity Act, 2003.

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 'India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)':

1. It was launched by The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It seeks to reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about 'UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)':

1. It is the legally binding framework set up to address the problem of desertification.
2. It was formed under the recommendation of United Nation Framework 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

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Maha Abhiyan (KUSUM)':

1. It is implemented by The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. The Scheme focuses on solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following pairs:

Protected Area **State**

1. Vaduvloor Bird sanctuary: Tamil Nadu
2. Satkosia Tiger Reserve : Uttar Pradesh
3. Kawal tiger reserve : Telangana

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

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

Q9. A wildlife Sanctuary located in the buffer zone of Kanha national park, Madhya Pradesh. It lies in the Southern region of Kanha tiger reserve, close to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh state borders. The Fauna at this sanctuary mainly consists of the Tiger, Leopard, Wild boar, Cheetal, Sambar, etc.

Which of the following wildlife Sanctuary is being referred to in the above passage?

- a) Phen Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Vaduvloor Bird sanctuary
- c) National Chambal Sanctuary
- d) Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary

Q10. Consider the following statements about IEA (International Energy Agency) Bio-energy Technology Collaboration Program(TCP):

1. India is not a member of this Organization.
 2. It aims to improve cooperation and information exchange between countries that have national programs in bioenergy research, development and deployment.
- 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

Q11. Consider the following statements about 'Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation':

1. It is situated in Gir National Park, Gujrat.
2. It is the Only facility in India where orphaned and/or injured wild animals of several species are hand-raised and/or treated and subsequently returned to the wild.

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

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'Kole Wetlands':

1. It is situated in the state of Tamil Nadu.
2. It is not a Ramsar site but IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity 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

Q13. Which of the following organization releases the report "Global Electric Vehicle Outlook":

- a) International Energy Agency.
- b) Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD)
- c) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Q14. Consider the following statements about "International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)"

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. India is a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q15. Consider the following statements about "Purple frog":

1. It is endemic to the Eastern Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q16. Consider the following pairs :

Wetland Sites : States

1. Ashtamudi Wetland : Tamil Nadu
2. Rudrasagar Lake : Tripura
3. Tsomoriri : Jammu and Kashmir

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

Q17. It is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir. It is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dachigam National Park is considered to be the last undisturbed home of this animal.

Which of the following animal is being referred to in the above passage?

- a) The Hangul Deer
- b) Indus Dolphin
- c) Sarus Crane
- d) Golden Langur

Q18. Which of the following organization has recently released the Face of Disasters 2019 report?

- a) Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)
- b) The United Nations Development Programme
- c) The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- d) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Q19. Consider the following statements about 'Coral Reefs':

1. Coral Reefs are formed by continuous deposition of calcium carbonate exo-skeleton by small marine organisms called Coral Polyps.
2. The coral polyps live in symbiotic relationship with highly colorful algae of Zooxanthellae family.

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. Which among the following factors may lead to coral bleaching?

- 1. Wide Temperature range
- 2. Solar Irradiance
- 3. Anthropogenic causes
- 4. Sedimentation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q21. Consider the following statements about 'Neelakurinji' flowers:

- 1. They blossom every 12 years in the hills of Munnar in Kerala.
- 2. It was last blossomed in the year 2010.

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 about 'Fly Ash' is/are correct?

- 1. It is a fine powder, which is the by-product of burning coal in thermal power plants.
- 2. Fly ash is a proven resource material for many applications of construction industries.

Select the correct code using the code given below:

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

Q23. Which of the following best describes 'Bharat Stage Norms', sometimes seen in the news?

- a) These are norms instituted by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment.
- b) These are the norms introduced by the government under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and deal with different stages of liquidation of the company.
- c) These are the guidelines prepared by NITI Aayog which every central government department must consider while formulating a public policy.
- d) None of the above

Q24. Consider the following statements about 'National Green Tribunal':

- 1. It is a constitutional body.
- 2. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.

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. National Green Tribunal adjudicates matters relating to which of the following Acts?

- 1. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- 2. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- 3. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- 4. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- 5. Forest Conservation Act
- 6. Biological Diversity Act

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- d) All of the above

Q26. Consider the following statements about 'Animal Welfare Board of India':

- 1. It is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 2. It provides grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ENVIRONMENT

1. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Solomon Islands is situated in the Pacific Ocean.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the Solomon Islands is a sovereign state consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania lying to the east of Papua New Guinea. It is not under the administrative Control of Australia.

Solomon Islands

- The Solomon Islands is a sovereign state consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania lying to the east of Papua New Guinea.
- The country takes its name from the Solomon Islands archipelago, which is a collection of Melanesian islands that also includes the North Solomon Islands (part of Papua New Guinea), but excludes outlying islands, such as Rennell and Bellona, and the Santa Cruz Islands.
- The Island is environmentally sensitive and culturally important geography which is home to a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The East Rennell Island which is the largest raised coral atoll in the world, according to UNESCO.

Context: Recently an oil spill disaster occurred in the Solomon Islands.

Related Topic: UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the Global Environment Outlook is released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The first publication of Global Environment Outlook was released in 1997 .

Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

- It is a series of reports on the environment issued periodically by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The GEO project was initiated in response to the environmental reporting requirements of UN Agenda 21 and to a UNEP Governing Council decision of May 1995 which requested the production of a new comprehensive global state of the environment report.
- Six GEO reports have been published to date: GEO-1 in 1997, GEO-2000 in 1999, GEO-3 in 2002, GEO-4 in 2007, GEO-5 in 2012 and GEO-6 in 2019.

Context: The sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the theme “Healthy Planet, Healthy People” was released recently

Related Topic: UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The United Nations Development Programme

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines are covered under this Program.

Standards & Labeling Program:

- Ministry of Power, Government of India expanded its ambitious Standards & Labeling (Star Rating) program for Energy Efficient for Appliances to cover the Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines (with revised parameters) in the country.
- The Star Labelling Programs has been formulated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. The program will now include these two appliances for grant of Star Rating in terms of their energy performance. Initially, the program for the above two appliances will be implemented on a voluntary basis and will be valid up to 31st December 2020.

Context: There was news that Star rating programme launched for Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines; expected to save over 3.0 Billion Units by 2030

Related Topic: National Energy Efficiency Strategy Plan 2031;

4. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is a statutory body under the (Ministry of Power, Government of India) established under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act 2001, to promote the efficient use of energy and its conservation.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was created under provisions of the Energy Conservation Act 2001, to promote the efficient use of energy and its conservation.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency

- It is an agency of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Power created in March 2002 under the provisions of the nation's 2001 Energy Conservation Act.
- The agency's function is to develop programs which will increase the conservation and efficient use of energy in India. The government has proposed to make it mandatory for certain appliances in India to have ratings by the BEE starting in January 2010.
- The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to "institutionalize" energy efficiency services, enable delivery mechanisms in the country and provide leadership to energy efficiency in all sectors of the country. The primary objective would be to reduce energy intensity in the economy.

Context: There was news that Star rating program launched for Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines; expected to save over 3.0 Billion Units by 2030

Related Topic: Energy Conservation Act of 2001.

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It was launched by The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It seeks to reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38.

India Cooling Action Plan:

- It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The thrust of the Plan (ICAP) is to look for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.
- It provides a 20-year perspective, with projections for cooling needs in 2037-38.

- Its goal is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.
- It seeks to reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38, (ii) reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38

Context: India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Related Topic: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

6. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is the legally binding framework set up to address the problem of desertification.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Convention, the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21. It was not formed under the recommendation of United Nation Framework on Climate Change.

Context: Recently, Ordos Declaration was signed in the summit of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which urges countries to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification.

Related Topic: Ordos Declaration; Agenda 21;

7. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is implemented by The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the Scheme focuses on solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps.

Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Maha Abhiyan (KUSUM):

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated a Scheme 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)'. The Scheme is currently under the process of seeking approval.

The proposal on KUSUM Scheme provides for:-

- (i) Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;
- (ii) Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
- (iii) solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

Context: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated a Scheme 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)'.

8. Answer: C

Explanation:

Pair 1 is correctly matched as Vaduvloor Bird sanctuary is in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched as Satkosia Tiger Reserve is in the state of Odisha.

Pair 3 is correctly matched as Kawal tiger reserve is in the state of Telangana.

Vaduvvoor Bird sanctuary:

- Vaduvvoor Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary located in the town of Vaduvur in Tiruvarur District in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Vaduvur was located 22 KM away from Thanjavur on the Thanjavur-Mannargudi state highway. The irrigation tank receives water from November to April every year which attracts numerous foreign birds from Europe and America.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve

- It is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha, India covering an area of 988.30 km².
- It is located where the Mahanadi River passes through a 22 km long gorge in the Eastern Ghats Mountains.
- The tiger reserve is located in the Eastern Highlands moist deciduous forests ecoregion. The major plant communities are mixed deciduous forests including Sal (*Shorea robusta*), and riverine forest.
- Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary was created in 1976, with an area of 796 km². Satkosia Tiger Reserve was designated in 2007, and comprises the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary and the adjacent Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary

Related Topic: Key Features of Kawal tiger reserve.

9. Answer: A

Explanation:

The vaduvvoor Bird sanctuary is in the state of Tamil Nadu. So OPTION b) is not correct. Pheni Wildlife Sanctuary located in the buffer zone of Kanha national park, Madhya Pradesh. It lies in Southern region of Kanha tiger reserve, close to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh state borders. So the OPTION a) is correct.

Pheni Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is a popular buffer zone of Kanha national park, Madhya Pradesh.
- It lies in Southern region of Kanha tiger reserve, close to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh state borders.
- It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1983 by Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Fauna at this sanctuary mainly consists of the Tiger, Leopard, Wild boar, Cheetal, Sambar, etc

Related Topic: National Chambal Sanctuary; Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary;

10. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as India is a member of this Organization.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it aims to improve cooperation and information exchange between countries that have national programs in bioenergy research, development and deployment.

IEA (International Energy Agency) Bio-energy Technology Collaboration Program (TCP):

- The International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on Bioenergy (IEA Bioenergy TCP) is an international platform for co-operation among countries with the aim of improving cooperation and information exchange between countries that have national programs in bioenergy research, development and deployment.
- The primary goal of joining IEA Bioenergy TCP by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) is to facilitate the market introduction of advanced biofuels with an aim to bring down emissions and reduce crude imports.

- IEA Bioenergy TCP also provides a platform for international collaboration and information exchange in bioenergy research, technology development, demonstration, and policy analysis with a focus on overcoming the environmental, institutional, technological, social, and market barriers to the near-and long-term deployment of bioenergy technologies.

Context: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised about Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India joining IEA Bioenergy TCP as its 25th member on 25th January, 2019.

Related Topic: BioFuels policy of India.

11. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is situated in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it is the Only facility in India where orphaned and/or injured wild animals of several species are hand-raised and/or treated and subsequently returned to the wild.

Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation:

- It was established in 2002 with a primary aim to stabilize displaced animals and release them back into the wild.
- It is situated in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- It was founded by the Assam Forest Department and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) with support from WTI's partner, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
- It is recognized by the Centre Zoo Authority (CZA).
- It is a systematic and scientific initiative to deal with wild animals in distress where immediate human intervention is required for their survival.
- The CWRC has five different types of animal enclosures for primates, carnivores, ungulates, birds and turtles & tortoises.

Related Topic: Centre Zoo Authority (CZA).Wildlife Trust of India (WTI);

12. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is spread over 13,632 hectares in Thrissur and Malappuram districts of Kerala.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it is a Ramsar site and IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity Area).

Kole wetlands

- It is spread over 13,632 hectares in Thrissur and Malappuram districts of Kerala.
- It is a Ramsar site and IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity Area)
- The Kole fields account for more than 40% of the rice production in the State.
- It is situated in the Central Asian Flyway of migratory birds.
- The area contains subterranean habitats that are important habitats for some fresh water fish species which are endemic to southern Western Ghats.
- Mining & quarrying of sand and clay mining, granite quarry and Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources are some of the threats to the Kole wetlands.

Related Topic: Important Bird and Biodiversity Area; Ramsar site;

13. Answer: A

Explanation:

Global Electric Vehicle Outlook:

- The IEA (International Energy Agency) Global Electric Vehicle (EV) Outlook 2018 provides a comprehensive look at the state of EVs, charging infrastructure and policies around the globe today as well as a series of scenario outlooks to 2030.
- It is a leading global resource, promoting efforts to accelerate the deployment of EVs within countries and cities, with the aim of increasing energy security, improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, and tackling the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Related Topic: Reports Published by International Energy Agency.

14. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is not a specialized agency of the United Nations. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an informal partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as India is a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).
The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

- It is an informal partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
- It is an informal partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
- It was founded in 1994 by eight governments: Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- It is an informal group whose decisions are not binding on its members.

It was announced

1. at the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 1994
2. at the high level segment of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1995.

India is a member of ICRI.

Related Topic: Convention on Biological Diversity; U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development

15. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is endemic to the Western Ghats of India. It has been evolving independently for around 100 million years.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it is listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List.

Purple Frog

- It is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
- It has been evolving independently for around 100 million years.
- It is listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List.
- It is threatened by deforestation from expanding cultivation, in addition to consumption and harvesting by local communities.
- The tadpoles of this species are rheophilic, which means they thrive in running water.
- It was found that the speed with which water flows down the streams is one of the main factors that determine the presence and aggregation of these tadpoles.

16. Answer: B

Explanation

Pair 1 is not correctly matched as Ashtamudi Wetland is in the state of Kerala.

Pair 2 is correctly matched as Rudrasagar Lake wetland is in the state of Tripura.

Pair 3 is correctly matched as Tsomoriri is in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ashtamudi Lake (Ashtamudi Kayal),

- It is in the Kollam District of the Indian state of Kerala, is the most visited backwater and lake in the state. It possesses a unique wetland ecosystem and a large palm-shaped (also described as octopus-shaped) water body, second only in size to the Vembanad estuary ecosystem of the state. Ashtamudi means 'eight braids' (Ashta: 'eight'; mudi : 'hair braids') in the local Malayalam language.

Related Topics: Ramsar Sites in India;

17. Answer: A

Explanation:

Out of the four options given, The Hangul Deer is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir. It is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dachigam National Park is considered to be the last undisturbed home of this animal. So the OPTION a) is correct.

The Hangul Deer:

- The Hangul Deer or Kashmiri Stag is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir.
- It is the only sub-species of European red deer in India.
- The animal was classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Dachigam National Park in Srinagar is considered to be the last undisturbed home of the Kashmiri Stag.
- Similar in appearance to the European red deer, the Kashmir stag has a tiny white rump patch and a short dark tail.

Related Topic: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List. Dachigam National Park

18. Answer: A

Explanation:

The Face of Disasters 2019 report was recently published by Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) as part of its 25th anniversary, analyses past trends, looking at disasters from a broader perspective to capture their varied facets. Eight key areas have emerged that will be critical to consider as we look ahead.

In 2018, India witnessed nearly every type of natural hazard, except a major earthquake and related events. Floods, droughts, heat and cold waves, lightning strikes, cyclones and even hailstorms, a wide range of disasters impacted most of the country. Yet, only a few of these attracted national attention. This poses some critical questions and issues and also points to risks that lie ahead. At the core is the idea that disasters cannot be seen in isolation anymore.

19. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Coral Reefs are formed by continuous deposition of calcium carbonate exo-skeleton by small marine organisms called Coral Polyps.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The coral polyps live in symbiotic relationship with highly colorful algae of Zooxanthellae family. Due to the presence of algae, coral reefs are highly colorful and one of the most beautiful ecosystem on earth.

They are found all around the world in tropical and subtropical oceans. They are usually found in

shallow areas at a depth less than 150 feet. However, some coral reefs extend even deeper, up to about 450 feet.

They are second only to rainforests in biodiversity of species. It covers less than 0.2% of the oceans but they contain 25% of the marine fish species of the world.

Context: The Australian scientists have observed that the world's southernmost coral reef has been hit by bleaching this summer and warned that the rising sea temperatures from climate change were affecting even the most isolated ecosystems.

Related Topics: Tropical Rainforests

20. Answer: D

Explanation:

Causes of Coral Bleaching

As coral reef bleaching is a general response to stress, it can be induced by a variety of factors, alone or in combination. It is therefore difficult to unequivocally identify the causes for bleaching events. The following stressors have been implicated in coral reef bleaching events.

- Anthropogenic causes: may be due to chemical pollution (pesticides, cosmetics, etc), industrial pollution, mechanical damage, nutrient loading or sediment loading, Dredging, shipping, tourism, mining or collection, thermal pollution, intensive fishing, etc.
- Temperature (Major Cause) :Coral species live within a relatively narrow temperature margin, and anomalously low and high sea temperatures can induce coral bleaching.
- Solar Irradiance: Bleaching during the summer months, during seasonal temperature and irradiance maxima often occurs disproportionately in shallow-living corals and on the exposed summits of colonies. Solar radiation has been suspected to play a role in coral bleaching.
- Sedimentation: Relatively few instances of coral bleaching have been linked solely to sediment.
- Fresh Water Dilution, Inorganic Nutrients can also cause coral bleaching.

Context: The Australian scientists have observed that the world's southernmost coral reef has been hit by bleaching this summer and warned that the rising sea temperatures from climate change were affecting even the most isolated ecosystems.

Related Topics: Mangroves

21. Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Neelakurinji blossom every 12 years in the hills of Munnar in Kerala. Neelakurinji the flower, rarest of the rare, does not grow in any other part of the world.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It was last blossomed in the year 2018.

According to tribals, they used Neelakurinji bloom to calculate their age.

The flower, which has no smell or any medicinal value, can't be seen anywhere in the world other than Western Ghats.

This endangered species grow at a height of 30 to 60 cm on hills slopes at an altitude of 1300 to 2400 meters where there is no tree forest. The Eravikulam National Park is the main Neelakurinji flowering area and nearly 2,750 tourists are allowed every day.

Context: Wildlife experts say the recent large-scale wildfires on the grasslands where Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) blossomed widely in the year 2018, after a period of 12 years could have wiped out all the seeds of the endemic flowers from the area.

Related Topics: Western Ghats

22. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a fine powder, which is the by-product of burning coal in thermal power plants. Fly ash includes substantial amounts of oxides of silica, aluminum and calcium. Element like Arsenic, Boron, Chromium, lead etc. are also found in trace concentrations.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Fly ash is a proven resource material for many applications of construction industries and currently is being utilized in manufacturing of portland cement, bricks/blocks/tiles manufacturing, road embankment construction and low-lying area development, etc. Flyash bricks have been found to show better strength.

Context: Various fly ash brick manufacturing units in the country have been closed due to difficulty in procurement of fly ash.

Related Topics: ASH TRACK Application

23. Answer: A

Explanation:

Bharat Stage Norms

- These are norms instituted by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles.
- To bring them into force, the Central Pollution Control Board sets timelines and standards which have to be followed by automakers.
- BS norms are based on European emission norms which, for example, are referred to in a similar manner like 'Euro 4' and 'Euro 6'.

Context: Supply of Bharat Stage-VI grade petrol and diesel has begun in cities adjoining the national capital recently.

Related Topics: Difference between BS V and BS VI

24. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The National Green Tribunal has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. Hence it is a statutory body and not a constitutional body..

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. It was established for 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 and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Context: Recently, National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a Central Monitoring Committee to prepare and enforce a national plan for reducing polluted river stretches across the country.

Related Topics: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

25. Answer: D

Explanation:

The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for 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 and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

It adjudicates matters relating to following Acts:

- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- Forest Conservation Act
- Biological Diversity Act

Context: Recently, National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a Central Monitoring Committee to prepare and enforce a national plan for reducing polluted river stretches across the country.

Related Topics: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

26. Answer: B

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country. It was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Its main functions are ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues.

The Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.

Context: Recently the Central Government has transferred administrative control and matters concerning cow shelters, Prevention of cruelty to animals and its governing laws, from MoEF&CC to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q1. 'Mission Shakti.', sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- It is an anti-satellite missile test carried out by India.
- It is a naval exercise between India And France.
- It is an Anti-Piracy Operation conducted by the Indian Coast Guard.
- It is a naval exercise between India And Sri Lanka

Q2. Recently India had carried out a successful anti-satellite missile test (ASAT). In this context, consider the following statements about the "Outer Space Treaty of 1967":

- It allows countries for placing any object carrying nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction into orbit around the Earth.
- India is not a signatory to the Outer Space Treaty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Which of the following scheme was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to address the lower enrolment ratio of girl students in science and engineering colleges?

- UDAAN
- IMPRESS Scheme
- SWAYAM
- ARPIT initiative

Q4. Recently India has launched 'PSLV-C45' rocket. In this Context, Consider the following statements about 'PSLV-C45' rocket:

- With the help of this rocket, India second time injected satellites into three different orbits.
- 4th and last stage of the rocket functions as a satellite itself for some time instead of turning into Junks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. Recently with the help of 'PSLV-C45' rocket, ISRO has placed 'EMISAT' satellites in the designated orbits. In this Context, Consider the following statements about

'EMISAT' satellites:

- It is placed in sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- It is India's first Electronic Intelligence Satellite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about Indian multi-wavelength space observatory 'AstroSat':

- It is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory.
- It enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Recently, CERN has approved a new experiment named 'FASER' (Forward Search Experiment). In this context, consider the following statements about FASER:

- The experiment is designed to look for light and weakly interacting particles at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).
- The experiment is related to detection of the gravitational Waves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE):

- It was launched by Indian Space Agency, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization).
- It will help scientists understand and ultimately forecast the vast space weather system around our planet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9. Recently, the GRAPES-3 experiment was seen in the news is related to:

- It is designed to study cosmic rays.
- It is an Anti Tank Missile developed by DRDO.

- c) It is Supersonic ballistic Missile developed by DRDO.
d) It is a new variety of Grapes developed by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)

Q10. Consider the following statements about 'International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor' (ITER):

1. It is an international nuclear fission research and engineering megaproject.
2. Both India and Pakistan are part of this 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

Q11. Recently Cabinet approved continuation of National AIDS Control Programme-IV (NACP-IV). In this context, consider the following statements about National AIDS Control Programme-IV (NACP-IV):

1. It's primary objective is to reduce new infections by 100 percent from 2007 baseline of NACP III.
2. It aims at zero infection, zero stigmas, and zero death.

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

Q12. Consider the following statements about 'Graphene'

1. It is a double layer (monolayer) of carbon atoms, tightly bound in a hexagonal honeycomb lattice.
2. It is an allotrope of Sulphur.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q13. Consider the following statements World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. It was created to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.

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

Q14. Recently the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for accession of India to the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements. These agreements are related to:

- a) World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) international classification systems.
- b) Stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- c) Stop the illegal trade of endangered species.
- d) Decrease the maternal mortality rate in developing countries.

Q15. Consider the following statements about schemes "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA):

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones.

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. Consider the following statements about 'Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter'

1. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
2. It has observed water molecules moving around the dayside of the moon.

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

Q17. In the context of Sun's photosphere, Consider the following statements about Sunspots:

1. In Sun's photosphere, Sunspots are those areas which are darker than the surrounding areas.
2. These are the regions with a higher surface temperature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q18. Consider the following statements about ISRO's satellite 'EMISAT', recently seen in news:

1. It is country's first electronic surveillance satellite.

2. It can intercept signals broadcasted by communication systems, radars, and other electronic systems.

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. 'Mission Shakti', recently seen in the news is

- a) An anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test
- b) A direct online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs to showcase products
- c) A skill development programme for women
- d) India's second lunar mission

Q20. Which of the following statements about 'Black holes' is/are correct?

- 1. A black hole is an area of such immense gravity that nothing, not even light can escape from it.
- 2. Most black holes form from the remnants of a large star that dies in a supernova explosion.

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

Q21. Consider the following statements about 'Dhanush artillery guns':

- 1. It is indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organization.
- 2. It is an upgrade of the Swedish Bofors gun.

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. Consider the following statements about 'The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)':

- 1. It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- 2. It has regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q23. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Small black holes have masses 5 to 20 times the mass of the sun.
- 2. There exists a super massive black hole at the centre of Milky Way galaxy.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

Q24. With reference to the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), consider the following statements:

1. DART mission will be the first ever space mission to demonstrate asteroid deflection by a kinetic impactor.

2. The DART Mission is being developed under the auspices of European Space Agency Planetary Defense Coordination 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

Q25. With reference to the newly discovered Earth-sized planet — HD 21749c, consider the following statements:

1. It is discovered by NASA's Transiting Exoplanets Survey Satellite (TESS).

2. It orbits HD 21749, a K4.5 dwarf star located 53 light-years away in the constellation Reticulum.

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

Q26. In which region a research team from the United Kingdom, Russia, and China discovered an enormous population of oil-eating microbes?

- a) Mariana Trench
- b) Mid oceanic ridge
- c) Hawaii hotspot
- d) Western Ghat

Q27. With reference to the data obtained by NASA's Cassini spacecraft about Titan's hydrological cycle, consider the following statements:

1. In Titan's hydrological cycle, liquid hydrocarbons rain down from clouds, flow across its surface and evaporate back into the sky.

2. Evidence of Phantom lakes filled with water have been found in the northern polar region of Saturn's moon Titan.

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 'Haemophilia':

1. It is an inherited bleeding disorder where the blood doesn't clot properly.
2. A clotting factor is a protein in blood that controls bleeding.
3. Men with haemophilia will pass the gene on to their daughters but not their sons while women who carry the haemophilia gene can pass the haemophilia gene on to their sons and daughters.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Q29. With reference to 'BIRD LKA', consider the following statements:

1. It is the first satellite of Sri Lanka and also known as Raavana 1.
2. BIRD LKA is a low orbit cube research satellite launched by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) from Sriharikota Range.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Q30. With reference to Asian Tea Alliance, consider the following statement:

1. It is a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries.
2. Indian Tea Association is also a member of this alliance.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Q31. With reference to the state-of-the-art warship development in India, consider the following statements:

1. INS Imphal is a guided missile destroyer.
2. Under Project 15B a contract for four destroyers has been signed and INS Imphal is

first to be developed under the 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

Q32. Consider the following statements:

1. RTS, S is the first, and to date the only vaccine that has demonstrated it can significantly reduce malaria in children.
2. Recently the Government of India has launched the world's first malaria vaccine in a landmark pilot 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

Q33. Consider the following statements about 'Chandrayaan 2':

1. It has three modules namely Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan).
2. It will be launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

1. Answer: A**Explanation:**

Anti-satellite missile test (ASAT), is the technological capability to hit and destroy satellites in space through missiles launched from the ground. India has recently conducted an anti-satellite missile test and it was named as Mission Shakti. So the OPTION a) is correct.

Objective of ASATs:

- The technology is aimed at destroying, if necessary, satellites owned by enemy countries.
- It can thus cripple enemy infrastructure without causing any threat to human lives.

Mission Shakti

- There are a large number of satellites currently in space, many of which have outlived their utility and orbiting aimlessly.
- One such satellite was chosen for India's present test.
- A missile was launched from Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Island launch complex near Balasore in Odisha.
- It struck a predetermined target which was a redundant Indian satellite that was orbiting at a distance of 300 km from the Earth's surface.
- As per official sources, the satellite that had been knocked out was Microsat R, a micro-satellite launched by ISRO in January, 2019.

Context: Recently India had carried out a successful anti-satellite missile test (ASAT), Mission Shakti.

Related Topic: Outer Space Treaty of 1967;

2. Answer: D**Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It prohibits countries from placing into orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction. .

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as India is signatory to the Outer Space Treaty.

So the OPTION d) is correct.

Outer Space Treaty of 1967:

- It is a treaty that forms the basis of international space law.
- The Outer Space Treaty represents the basic legal framework of international space law. Among its principles, it bars states party to the treaty from placing weapons of mass destruction in Earth orbit, installing them on the Moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise stationing them in outer space.
- It exclusively limits the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes and expressly prohibits their use for testing weapons of any kind, conducting military maneuvers, or establishing military bases, installations, and fortifications (Article IV).
- However, the treaty does not prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in orbit and thus some highly destructive attack strategies such as kinetic bombardment are still potentially allowable

Context: Recently India had carried out a successful anti-satellite missile test (ASAT), Mission Shakti.

Related Topic: The Space Liability Convention of 1972; The Registration Convention of 1976;

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

- Udaan is a project launched by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) under the guidance of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), to address the low enrolment of girl students in prestigious engineering institutions and the teaching gap between school education & engineering entrance examination.
- The effort is to enrich the teaching & learning of Science and Mathematics at School level by addressing the three dimensions of education - curriculum design, transaction and assessments.

Context: Many Schemes are launched by the Central Government to improve the Girls enrollment in Higher Education.

Related Topic: KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing) Scheme; SWAYAM;

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as, With the help of ' PSLV-C45 'rocket, India first time injected satellites into three different orbits.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as 4th and last stage of the rocket function as a satellite itself for some time instead of turning into Junks.

PSLV-C45:

- The PSLV-C45 is the 47th mission of the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) program. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C45 was launched on 1 April 2019 with a payload of 29 satellites, including one for electronic intelligence, along with 28 customer satellites from other countries.
- The specialty of this mission is that for the first time PSLV will launch satellites in Three different orbits.
- Another distinguishing feature of the project is for the first time, PSLV with four strap-on configuration has been identified for this mission.
- Till now, PSLV has been in either two or six strap-on configuration or without any strap-ons. Third uniqueness in this mission as it is the first PSLV fourth stage (PS4) that uses solar panels to support payloads hosted on it

Context: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched the PSLV-C45 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).

Related Topic: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV); Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) ;

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as EMISAT' satellites are placed in sun-synchronous polar orbit.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is India's first Electronic Intelligence Satellite.

EMISAT' satellites:

- EMISAT is a satellite built around ISRO's Mini Satellite-2 bus weighing about 436 kg. The satellite was successfully placed in its intended sun-synchronous polar orbit of 748 km height by PSLV-C45 on April 01, 2019. The satellite is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement.

Context: Recently with the help of 'PSLV-C45' rocket, ISRO has placed 'EMISAT' satellites in the designated orbits.

Related Topic: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV); Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)

6. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as AstroSat is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

7. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The experiment designed to look for light and weakly interacting particles at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

- FASER, or the Forward Search Experiment, will complement CERN's ongoing physics programme, extending its discovery potential to several new particles, the lab said in a statement.
- Some of these sought-after particles are associated with dark matter, which is a hypothesised kind of matter that does not interact with the electromagnetic force and consequently cannot be directly detected using emitted light.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The experiment is related to study about particles related to Dark Matter. It is not related to the study of gravitational waves.

Context: CERN announces new experiments to search for dark matter.

Related Topic: Large Hadron Collider (LHC); The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).

8. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It was launched by American Space Agency NASA.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it will help scientists understand and, ultimately, forecast the vast space weather system around our planet.

Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE)

- The Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) mission will cost \$42 million and is planned to launch in August 2022, attached to the exterior of the Earth-orbiting International Space Station (ISS).
- From its space station perch, AWE will focus on colourful bands of light in Earth's atmosphere, called airglow, to determine what combination of forces drive space weather in the upper atmosphere.

Context: NASA has selected a \$42 million mission that will help scientists understand and, ultimately, forecast the vast space weather system around our planet.

Related Topic: International Space Station.

9. Answer: A

Explanation:

Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3 (GRAPES-3) is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector. So OPTION a) is correct.

GRAPES-3 experiment

- The GRAPES-3 experiment (or Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3) located at Ooty in India started as a collaboration of the Indian Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the Japanese Osaka City University, and now also includes the Japanese Nagoya Women's University.
- GRAPES-3 is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector. It aims to probe acceleration of cosmic rays in the following four astrophysical settings.

Context: For the first time in the world, researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in Ooty recently measured the electrical potential, size and height of a thundercloud simultaneously.

Related Topic: Astronomical Observatory of India.

10. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It is an international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject.

- ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is an international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject, which will be the world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment.
- It is an experimental tokamak nuclear fusion reactor that is being built next to the Cadarache facility in Saint-Paul-lès-Durance, in Provence, southern France.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Pakistan is not part of this megaproject. The project is funded and run by seven member entities—the European Union, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Korea, and the United States.

Context: China plans to complete the construction of the artificial sun this year, achieving an ion temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius

Related Topic: Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor — an "artificial sun".

11. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as National AIDS Control Programme-IV (NACP-IV) 's primary objective is to reduce new infection by 50 percent from 2007 baseline of NACP III .

STATEMENT 2 is correct as National AIDS Control Programme-IV's primary objective is zero infection, zero stigmas, and zero death.

Context: Recently Cabinet approved the continuation of National AIDS Control Programme-IV (NACP-IV) beyond the 12th Five Year Plan for a period of three years from 2017 to 2020.

Related Topic: National AIDS Control Organization (NACO);

12. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it has a single layer of carbon atoms tightly bound in a hexagonal honeycomb lattice.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it is an allotrope of carbon.

Context: Researchers at Delhi's National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) have designed a low-pressure chemical vapor deposition (LPCVD) device that allows high quality, single-layer graphene to be grown.

Related Topic: Allotropes of Carbon.

13. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It was created to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.

Context: Recently the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for Accession of India to the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements, related to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) international classification systems.

Related Topic: World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO); Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements;

14. Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for Accession of India to the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements. These agreements are related to World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) international classification systems. So OPTION a) is correct.

Context: Recently the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for Accession of India to the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements.

Related Topic: Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements;

15. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as It was launched by ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones.

16. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as. Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter was launched by NASA. It is a robotic mission that set out to map the moon's surface.

STATEMENT 2 is correct, NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) has observed water molecules moving around the dayside of Moon.LRO's recent finding could help us learn about accessibility of water that can be used by humans in future lunar missions.

17. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct. Sunspots are temporary phenomena on the Sun's photosphere that appear as spots darker than the surrounding areas. They are regions of reduced surface temperature caused by concentrations of magnetic field flux that inhibit convection.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect. Sunspots are darker, cooler areas on the surface of the sun in a region called the photosphere. The photosphere has a temperature of 5,800 degrees Kelvin. Sunspots have temperatures of about 3,800 degrees K.

18. Answer: C

Explanation

EMISAT

STATEMENT 1 is correct: EMISAT is an advanced electronic intelligence (ELINT) satellite jointly developed by ISRO-DRDO. It is country's first electronic surveillance satellite.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The main capability of EMISAT is in signal intelligence — intercepting signals broadcasted by communication systems, radars, and other electronic systems. The Ka-band frequency that EMISAT is sensitive to, allows the 436-kg EMISAT — India's newest spy in the sky — to scan through ice, rain, coastal zones, land masses, forests and wave heights with ease.

EMISAT is modelled after a famous Israeli spy satellite called SARAL (Satellite with ARGOS and ALtika). Both these satellites have the SSB-2 bus protocol — the core component for their sharp electronic surveillance capabilities across the length and width of a large country like India.

EMISAT also has a special altimeter (a radar altitude measuring device) called 'AltiKa' that works in the Ka-band microwave region of the spectrum. The electronic surveillance payload of EMISAT was developed under a DRDO's project called KAUTILYA.

Context: Recently there was news that The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the country's first electronic surveillance satellite, EMISAT, from Sriharikota in coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Related Topics: Difference between PSLV and GSLV

19. Answer: A

Explanation

MISSION SHAKTI

- DRDO-developed anti-satellite system A-SAT successfully destroyed a live satellite in the Low Earth Orbit. With this test, dubbed as Mission Shakti, India is only the fourth country after the U.S., Russia and China to have the technology.

Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Weapons: They are missile-based systems to attack moving satellites.

Low-Earth Orbit satellites: These are satellites roughly at an altitude of 2,000 kilometres from the earth and that's the region where majority of satellites are concentrated.

Context: Recently India conducted the test dubbed as 'Mission Shakti'.

Related Topics: Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme

20. Answer: C

Explanation

BLACK HOLES

STATEMENT 1 is correct: A black hole is an area of such immense gravity that nothing, not even light can escape from it.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Most black holes form from the remnants of a large star that dies in a supernova explosion. (Smaller stars become dense neutron stars, which are not massive enough to trap light.)

Black holes can form in many ways though, and large black holes can have tens to millions of times the mass of our sun trapped in a point smaller than the tip of a pin! Some black holes trap more and more material as their mass increases.

Context: An international research team including researchers from Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune has ruled out the possibility of primordial black holes being a major constituent of dark matter. This finding disproves a theoretical claim of Prof Stephen Hawking.

Related Topics: Dark Matter

21. Answer: B

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is the indigenously developed by The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

STATEMENT 2 is correct: Dhanush is the indigenously upgraded gun of the Swedish Bofors gun procured in the 1980s.

- Dhanush is a 155 mm, 45-calibre towed artillery gun with a range of 36 km and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialised ammunition.
- It is an upgrade of the existing 155mm, 39 calibre Bofors FH 77 gun.
- In army parlance, it is classified as 'medium artillery'.
- The gun is fitted with inertial navigation system with global positioning system- (GPS) based gun recording and auto-laying, an enhanced tactical computer for onboard ballistic computations, an onboard muzzle velocity recording, an automated gun sighting system equipped with camera, thermal imaging and laser range finder.
- It is one of the "Make in India" marvels.

Context: The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over the first batch of six Dhanush artillery guns to the Army.

Related Topics: Ordnance Factory Board

22. Answer: C

Explanation

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 correct: it has regulatory control over 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: In a move that would give end users more protection while using a medical device, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), India's top drug advisory body, has recommended that the Health Ministry should notify all medical devices under the drug laws.

Related Topics: the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

23. Answer: C

Explanation:

Small black holes are called stellar-mass black holes. They have masses similar to those of larger stars — about five to 20 times the mass of the sun. The other kind is supermassive black holes, which are millions to billions of times more massive than the sun. Supermassive black holes are found at the centre of most galaxies, including our own Milky Way. The one in Milky Way is called Sagittarius A.

Context: An international research team including researchers from Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune has ruled out the possibility of primordial black holes being a major constituent of dark matter. This finding disproves a theoretical claim of Prof Stephen Hawking.

24. Answer: A

Explanation:

ONLY statement 1 is correct

NASA's DART mission will be the first ever space mission to demonstrate asteroid deflection by a kinetic impactor. In Fall of 2022, DART is planned to intercept the secondary member of the Didymos system, a binary Near-Earth Asteroid system with characteristics of great interest to NASA's overall planetary defense efforts.

25. Answer: C

Explanation:

NASA's Transiting Exoplanets Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered its first Earth-sized planet — HD 21749c.

The newly-discovered planet orbits HD 21749, a K4.5 dwarf star located 53 light-years away in the constellation Reticulum.

The planet is only 10% smaller than Earth and is likely a rocky though uninhabitable world, as it circles its parent star in just 7.8 days — a relatively tight orbit that would generate surface temperatures on the planet of up to 800 degrees Fahrenheit (427 degrees Celsius).

26. Answer: A

Explanation:

A research team from the United Kingdom, Russia, and China discovered an enormous population of oil-eating microbes (Oil-Eating Bacteria) in the Deepest Part Of The World's Ocean ' Mariana Trench' which is located in the Western Pacific Ocean, approximately 200 miles east of the Mariana Islands.

27. Answer: A

Explanation:

Data obtained by NASA's Cassini spacecraft about Saturn's moon Titan, The findings represented evidence about Titan's hydrological cycle, with liquid hydrocarbons raining down from clouds, flowing across its surface and evaporating back into the sky. This is comparable to Earth's water cycle.

The scientists also described "phantom lakes" prime lakeside property in the northern polar region

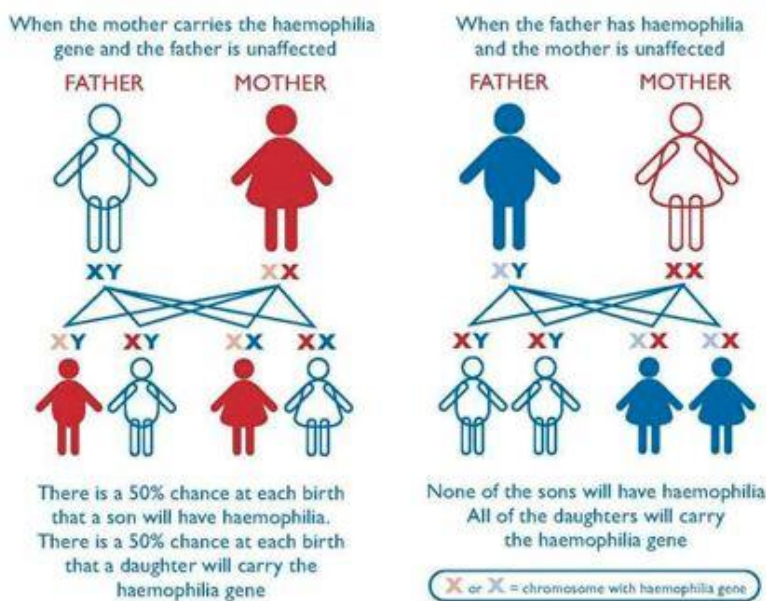
of Saturn's moon Titan that during wintertime appeared to be wide but shallow ponds — perhaps only a few inches deep — but evaporated or drained into the surface by springtime, a process taking seven years on Titan.

28. Answer: D

Explanation:

Haemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder where the blood doesn't clot properly. It is caused when blood does not have enough clotting factor. A clotting factor is a protein in blood that controls bleeding.

The haemophilia gene is passed down from parent to child through generations. Men with haemophilia will pass the gene on to their daughters but not their sons. Women who carry the haemophilia gene can pass the haemophilia gene on to their sons and daughters. Sons with the gene will have haemophilia.



29. Answer: A

Explanation:

Raavana 1 also known as BIRD LKA is a Sri Lankan low orbit cube research satellite and first satellite of Sri Lanka. The satellite was launched as part of Cygnus NG-11 by the United States on 17 April 2019.

30. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou in China.

The members of the alliance are the Indian Tea Association, China Tea Marketing Association, Indonesian Tea Marketing Association, Sri Lanka Tea Board and Japan Tea Association

31. Answer: A

Explanation:

Only statement 1 is correct

INS Imphal is a guided missile destroyer the third state-of-the-art warship built as part of Project 15B

Project 15B, is a contract for four destroyers has been signed which is aimed at adding state-of-the-art warships to the naval fleet.

The Navy had launched INS Vishakhapatnam, the first Project 15B ship, in April 2015, while the second ship, INS Mormugao, was launched in September 2016.

With a launch weight of 3037 tonnes, the INS Imphal, like the other ships under the project, has been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi. Each warship spans 163 metres in length and 17.4 metres at beam, and displaces 7300 tonnes.

32. Answer: A**Explanation:**

Only statement 1 is correct

RTS,S is the first, and to date the only vaccine that has demonstrated it can significantly reduce malaria in children. In clinical trials, the vaccine was found to prevent approximately 4 in 10 malaria cases, including 3 in 10 cases of life-threatening severe malaria.

Malawi's launch of the world's first malaria vaccine today in a landmark pilot programme. The country is the first of three in Africa in which the vaccine, known as RTS,S, will be made available to children up to 2 years of age; Ghana and Kenya will introduce the vaccine in the coming weeks.

33. Answer: C**Explanation**

STATEMENT 1 is correct: Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission, has three modules namely Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan).

STATEMENT 2 is correct: It will be launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10).

It will be ISRO's first inter-planetary mission to land a rover on any celestial body. • The mission will attempt to soft land a rover 600km from the lunar south pole. Only three countries have ever soft-landed on the moon— the United States, the U.S.S.R. and China.

Context: ISRO is planning to launch Chandrayaan-2 mission by mid-July 2019.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

Q1. Recently U.S. A (United States of America) backed Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. In this Context, Consider the following statements about the Golan Heights:

1. It is a disputed territory between Israel and Palestine.
2. The Golan Heights borders Israel, Lebanon, and Turkey.

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

2. A territory occupied by Israel in 1967 through the Six Day War. Up to 1967, these were part of Syria. Syria tried to regain that particular territory in the 1973 through Middle East war, but was thwarted. Israel and Syria signed an armistice in 1974 for that particular area.

In the above Passage, Which territory is referred?

- a) Golan Heights
- b) Gaza Strip
- c) Jerusalem
- d) Ramallah

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'International Criminal Court':

1. It is an independent judicial body distinct from the United Nation Organization.
2. India is a founding member of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about 'World Health Organization':

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations Organization.
2. It is a member of United Nations Development Group.

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. The 'Kafala system' sometimes seen in the news is related to:

a) It is a public beheading, probably the common method of execution in Saudi Arabia.

b) It is a vast canal system created for irrigation and water supply, in arid regions of the earliest civilizations such as ancient Assyria, Israel/Judah, Egypt.

c) It is used to monitor migrant laborers, working primarily in the construction and domestic sectors, in Saudi Arabia.

d) It is a tax system for corporations and individuals in the United Arab Emirates.

Q6. Which organization of United Nation has launched a new initiative 'Triple billion targets'?

- a) The World Health Organization
- b) The International Monetary Fund
- c) The World Bank
- d) The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Q7. 'Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)', recently seen in the news is

- a) Iran's elite military force
- b) A Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military organization in Afghanistan
- c) A militant organization that emerged as an offshoot of al Qaeda in 2014.
- d) The main armed service of the Kurdish Supreme Committee in Syria.

Q8. 'Good Friday Agreement', sometimes seen in news is

- a) An agreement signed between the Western allies and Germany at the end of World War I.
- b) A preliminary framework agreement reached in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 (the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany) and the European Union.
- c) An agreement which established the European Union common market.
- d) A peace agreement between the British and Irish governments

Q9. 'Umbrella Revolution', recently seen in the news

- a) Was a political movement that emerged during the Hong Kong democracy protests of 2014.
- b) Was Pro-Democracy Protests in Myanmar
- c) Was protests that broke out in the Maldives in 2011 against the government's mismanagement of the economy
- d) Was a popular pro-democratic uprising in South Korea

Q10. Consider the following statements about

'Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)' :

1. It is the first legally binding international agreement to regulate the global trade in conventional arms.

2. India has also ratified this 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

Q11. Which of the following countries are part of 'Asian Tea Alliance (ATA)'?

- 1. India
- 2. China
- 3. Indonesia
- 4. Sri Lanka
- 5. Japan

Select the correct code using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) All of the above

Q12. Which of the following countries are a part of the 'Lithium Triangle', sometimes seen in the news?

- a) India, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- b) Japan, Australia and New Zealand
- c) Chile, Argentina and Bolivia
- d) Chile, Argentina and Peru

Q13. Consider the following statements about 'International Solar Alliance':

1. It is an initiative jointly launched by India and Japan in 2015 on the sidelines of COP-21 of UNFCCC in Paris.

2. The membership is open to those solar resource-rich States, which lie fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

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 'Arab League'

1. Arab League is a voluntary association of countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking or where Arabic is an official language.

2. It has 22 members including Palestine, which the League regards as an independent state.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q15. Recently which of the following country has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India?

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

Q16. Military exercise Bold Kurukshetra was the joint initiative between India and which of the given country?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Indonesia
- c) Singapore
- d) Thailand

Q17. Consider the following statements about the International Arms Trade Treaty:

1. It aims to regulate international trade in conventional arms among the signatories of the treaty.

2. India is not a signatory to the arms trade 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

Q18. Which of the following African Countries has boundaries with the Mediterranean Sea?

- 1. Libya
- 2. Eritrea
- 3. Algeria
- 4. Tunisia

Codes:

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

Q19. Which of the following is the correct description of the '1267 Committee'?

- a) ISIL and Al-Qaida sanction committee
- b) North Korea sanction committee
- c) Iran sanction committee
- d) Nuclear Non-Proliferation committee

1. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Golan Heights is a disputed area between Israel and Syria.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the Golan Heights borders Israel, Lebanon and Jordan. The Golan Heights does not border Turkey.

Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights is a hilly 1,200 square kilometer plateau that overlooks Lebanon and borders Jordan.
- Since the 1967 Six-Day War, the western two-thirds of the Golan Heights has been occupied and administered by Israel, whereas the eastern third remains under control of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Construction of Israeli settlements began in the remainder of the territory held by Israel, which was under military administration until Israel passed the Golan Heights Law extending Israeli civil law and administration throughout the territory in 1981

Context: Recently U.S. A (United States of America) backed Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Related Topic: Location of Lebanon; Druze Community.

2. Answer: A

Explanation:

Out of the four options given, Golan Heights is a disputed territory between Israel and Syria.

Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights were part of Syria until 1967, when Israel captured most of the area in the Six Day War, occupying it and annexing it in 1981. That unilateral annexation was not recognized internationally, and Syria demands the return of the territory.
- Syria tried to regain the Heights in the 1973 Middle East war, but was thwarted. Israel and Syria signed an armistice in 1974 and the Golan had been relatively quiet since.
- In 2000, Israel and Syria held their highest-level talks over a possible return of the Golan and a peace agreement. But the negotiations collapsed and subsequent talks also failed.

Context: Recently U.S. A (United States of America) backed Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Related Topic: Six Day War; Gaza Strip;

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as International Criminal Court is an independent judicial body distinct from the United Nation Organisation. It is not part of the United Nation Organization.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as India is not a founding member of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

International Criminal Court

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.
- As a court of last resort, it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts. Governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute, the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.

Context: Malaysia acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, becoming the 123rd State Party.

Related Topic: The International Court of Justice (ICJ);

4. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as the World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations Organisation.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It is a member of United Nations Development Group .

Context: WHO announced the most wide-ranging reforms in the Organization's history to modernize and strengthen the institution to play its role more effectively and efficiently as the world's leading authority on public health.

Related Topic: Different organisation of United Nation Organisation(UNO) like UNICEF,IMF, and World Bank.

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

The kafala system (also spelled "kefala system", Arabic: الكفالة نظام *nizām al-kafāla*, meaning "sponsorship system") is a system used to monitor migrant laborers, working primarily in the construction and domestic sectors, in Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

6. Answer: A

Explanation:

WHO today announced the most wide-ranging reforms in the Organization's history to modernize and strengthen the institution to play its role more effectively and efficiently as the world's leading authority on public health.

The changes are designed to support countries in achieving the ambitious "triple billion" targets that are at the heart of WHO's strategic plan for the next five years: one billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage (UHC); one billion more people better protected from health emergencies; and one billion more people enjoying better health and well-being.

Context: WHO announced the most wide-ranging reforms in the Organization's history to modernize and strengthen the institution to play its role more effectively and efficiently as the world's leading authority on public health. WHO announced triple billion targets Scheme?

Related Topic: Different organization of United Nation Organization (UNO) like UNICEF, IMF, and World Bank.

7. Answer: A

Explanation

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was formed after the 1979 Islamic revolution with a mission to defend the clerical regime.
- It is a military unit originally set up as security for Iran's clerical rulers.
- It has grown to be the country's most powerful security organization, with nearly unchecked political influence and interests in business, real estate and other areas of the economy.

Context: U.S. designates Iran's elite military unit as a 'terrorist organisation'

Related Topics: Taliban

8. Answer: D

Explanation

The Belfast Agreement is also known as the Good Friday Agreement, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998. It was a peace agreement between the British and Irish governments, and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

It is, however, a fragile peace, comprising complex intertwined agreements between first, most of Northern Ireland's political parties; and second, the British and Irish governments to manage the relationship between Britain and Ireland, and between Northern Ireland and the rest of Britain.

Context: Recently there was an article in the news 'Brexit and the fragility of the U.K.' This article focuses largely on the history of the U.K. with a special focus on Ireland and Scotland, factoring in the impasse over Brexit.

Related Topics: Brexit

9. Answer: A

Explanation

The Umbrella Revolution

- In 1997, when China assumed control of Hong Kong from Britain, the city residents were promised universal suffrage by 2017.
- China backtracked on this promise when it published a white paper in 2014, and only allowed pro-Beijing candidates to contest the city elections. There were also attempts to change the liberal curriculum in Hong Kong.
- In the wake of these unpopular measures, large scale pro-democracy protests kicked off, and between 1-1.5 lakh Hong Kongers occupied streets and government buildings for three months in 2014.

Context: Recently there was an article 'What Umbrella Revolution convictions mean for status of Hong Kong'

Related Topics: 8888 Uprising

10. Answer: A

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is the first legally binding international agreement to regulate the global trade in conventional arms by establishing common international standards for member countries.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: It has 102 states parties (Lebanon joined last month) and an additional 34 signatories, including the United States, which signed but did not formally ratify the treaty.

Countries who neither signed nor ratified included Russia, China, India, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

- It regulates ammunition or munitions fired, launched, or delivered by the conventional arms covered under the treaty.
- It requires states to monitor their arms exports, and to ensure their weapons sales do not break existing arms embargoes.
- Nations also need to ensure the weapons they export do not end up being used for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or terrorist acts. If they do find out the arms will be used for any of these, they need to stop the transfer.

Context: US President has announced that he will withdraw his country from the International Arms Trade Treaty.

11. Answer: D

Explanation

- Asian Tea Alliance is an outcome of the signing of a memorandum of understanding in December 2018 between the Indian Tea Association and China Tea Marketing Association.
- Participating countries: India, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Japan.
- It will work towards enhancing tea trade, promoting tea globally, and creating a sustainability agenda for the future of Asian tea.

Context: Recently the Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou, China.

Related Topics: Climatic Condition suitable for Tea

12. Answer: C

Explanation

It has been estimated that South America's Lithium Triangle hosts about 54% of the world's lithium resources. 'Lithium Triangle' in South America consists of Chile, Argentina and Bolivia. With the impending advent of the widespread use of electric cars, trucks plus the millions of rechargeable consumer electronic devices that utilize lithium ion batteries, it is no wonder that numerous exploration companies have turned their attention to the vast Lithium Triangle in Argentina, Chile and Bolivia.

Context: India is reaching out to the 'Lithium Triangle' in South America which consists of Chile, Argentina and Bolivia.

Related Topics: International Solar Alliance

13. Answer: B

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: It is an initiative jointly launched by India and France in 2015 on the sidelines of COP-21 of UNFCCC in Paris.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The membership is open to those solar resource-rich States, which lie fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, and are members of the United Nations.

International Solar Alliance (ISA) is conceived as a coalition of solar resource rich countries to address their special energy needs and will provide a platform to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps through a common, agreed approach.

Context: Recently, Bolivia became the 74th country to sign the framework agreement of the

International Solar Alliance (ISA).

14. Answer: C

Explanation:

The League of Arab States, or Arab League, is a voluntary association of countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking or where Arabic is an official language.

Its stated aims are to strengthen ties among the member states, coordinate their policies and direct them towards a common good.

It has 22 members including Palestine, which the League regards as an independent state.

The idea of the Arab League was mooted in 1942 by the British, who wanted to rally Arab countries against the Axis powers. However, the league did not take off until March 1945, just before the end of the Second World War.

15. Answer: C

Explanation:

Indonesia released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.

The stamp, designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta, featured a scene from the Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita

16. Answer: C

Explanation:

Bold Kurukshetra is the military exercise between the armed forces of India and Singapore. The 12th edition of joint military exercise between India and Singapore, BOLD KURUKSHETRA 2019, culminated on 11 April 2019 after an impressive closing ceremony held at Babina Military Station. The four-day long joint training focused on developing interoperability and conduct of joint tactical operations in mechanized warfare.

Context: Conduction of the 12th edition of the exercise.

Related Topics: Access to Changi Naval Base to Indian Navy.

17. Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

Arms Trade Treaty is an attempt to regulate the international trade of conventional weapons for the purpose of contributing to international and regional peace; reducing human suffering; and promoting co-operation, transparency, and responsible action by and among states. It regulates the international trade in conventional arms – from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft, and warships. India is not a signatory to the arms trade treaty.

Context: The USA withdrew from the Arms Trade Treaty.

Related Topic: Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

18. Answer: C

Explanation:

The Mediterranean sea is located to the north of the African continent. The countries that border the Mediterranean sea are Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. Eritrea is present in north-eastern Africa and it borders the Red Sea. Hence in the above entries, except Eritrea, all countries border the Mediterranean Sea.

Context: Libya stands at the brink of civil war.

Related Topics: Arab-spring and Libyan crisis.

19. Answer: A

Explanation:

Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities oversees the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council. The resolution 1267 (1999) and subsequent resolutions have all been adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and require all UN Member States to inter alia: freeze the assets of, prevent the entry into or transit through their territories by, and prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale and transfer of arms and military equipment to any individual or entity associated with Al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and/or the Taliban as designated by the Committee.

Context: Listing of Masood Azhar as International Terrorist.

Related Topics: 1718 sanctions committee

GOVT SCHEMES / MISCELLANOUES

Q1. Recently Pakistan has given its green signal for Sharda Peeth corridor. In this context, consider the following statements about ShardaPeeth corridor:

1. It is believed to be one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas, or a "Grand Shakti Peethas".
2. As a religious institution, it is one of the three famous tirthas, or holy sites, for Kashmiri Pandits.

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

Q2. Recently Kashi Vishwanath corridor project has been inaugurated by the union government. In this context, Consider the following statements about Kashi Vishwanath Temple:

1. It is situated on western banks of River Yamuna.
2. It is located in the state of Uttarakhand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Reko Diq Mine':

1. It is located in the Baluchistan, Pakistan.
2. It has the world's biggest reserve of Iron Ores.

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

Q4. "ICE STUPA", sometimes seen in the news, is related to:

- a) It is a water conservation technique adopted by Ladakhi people.
- b) It is one of the Buddhist monasteries situated in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- c) A new glacier found in the Antarctica.
- d) A new island found in the Bay Of Bengal.

Q5. Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indian-Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana':

1. The Scheme is implemented by The

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

2. It is for providing financial support to States for increasing forest cover.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about 'UNNATI Programme':

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

2. It is capacity development programme on nanosatellite development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about 'Transport and Marketing Assistance Scheme for Specified Agriculture Products':

1. The Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

2. Products exported from SEZ are covered under this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about 'Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)':

1. It is implemented throughout the country for effective flood management, erosion control, and anti-sea erosion.

2. Under this scheme, 100 percent fund will be provided by the Central Government for flood management components.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements about 'Pinaka Extended Range Rocket':

1. It was indigenously developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

2. Pinaka is guided extended range rockets can immobilize enemies from a 90 KiloMetre

(Km) distance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q10. Consider the following statements about 'Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)':

- 1. It was indigenously developed by ISRO.
- 2. It includes advanced features, including Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) seeker with integrated avionics.

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

Q11. Which of the following organization has released the report 'Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 Global Report':

- a) Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD)
- b) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c) World Bank
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Q12. Which of the following organizations have jointly released the report Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2018:

- a) Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)
- b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- c) World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD) and the World Bank

Q13. Which of the following organization has released the report Corporate Equality Index (CEI)?

- a) Human Rights Campaign Foundation
- b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- c) Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD)
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Q14. 'Sabooj Sathi' scheme launched by West Bengal Government aims to

- a) Empower the students, especially the girls and reduce dropouts in higher education.
- b) Give vocational training to school dropouts
- c) Make all the government documents

available online.

d) Provide cash benefits to the pregnant women to promote institutional delivery.

Q15. Consider the following statements with respect to Dhimsa:

- 1. It is a tribal dance form.
- 2. The dance originated in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

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. 'State of Global Air 2019', recently seen in news is published by

- a) Earthwatch
- b) United Nations Environment Programme
- c) Greenpeace
- d) Health Effects Institute (HEI)

Q17. Which of the following is not a west flowing river?

- a) Narmada
- b) Periyar
- c) Godavari
- d) Mahi

Q18. Which of the following best describes 'El Nino'?

- a) It is a part of a routine climate pattern that occurs when sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean rise to above-normal levels.
- b) It is a phenomenon when sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific drop to lower-than-normal levels.
- c) It is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean.
- d) None of the above

Q19. Consider the following statements about 'National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)':

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) which outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.
- 2. The parameters broadly cover Teaching Learning and Resources, Research Professional Practice & Collaborative Performance, Graduation Outcome, Outreach & Inclusivity, Perception.

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. Which of the statement is not correct about Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919?

- The government of India ordered an investigation of the incident and appointed the Hunter Commission.
- Rabindranath Tagore renounced his Knighthood title in protest of the massacre.
- The mob at Jallianwala Bagh was gathered to protest against the division of Bengal.
- The House of Lords praised General Dyer and gave him a sword inscribed with the motto "Saviour of the Punjab."

Q21. Identify the following:

- It requires hot and humid climate with temperature varying between 15°C and 28°C.
- Rainfall between 150 to 250 cm is favourable.
- Well drained, rich friable loam soil with humus and minerals are ideal for coffee cultivation.
- It is generally grown under shady trees.

Select the correct answer:

- Tea
- Coffee
- Sugarcane
- Wheat

Q22. Which of the following varieties of coffee have been given Geographical Indication Tag?

- Coorg Arabica
- Wayanad Robusta
- Chikmanglur Arabica
- Araku Valley Arabica
- Bababudangiris Arabica

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

Q23. Consider the following statements about 'South-West Monsoon':

- The monsoons advance quickly accompanied with a lot of thunder, lightning and heavy downpour. This sudden onset of rain is termed as monsoon burst.
- The Tamil Nadu coast remains relatively dry during the south-west monsoon period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q24. Match the following:

- ISOLINE A. imaginary lines joining regions with equal rainfall.
- ISOBAR B. imaginary lines joining regions with equal pressure.

3. ISOTHERM C. imaginary lines joining regions with equal temperature.

4. ISOHYET D. imaginary lines joining regions with equal rainfall or any other parameter.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1-A 2-B 3-C 4-D
- 1-B 2-A 3-D 4-C
- 1-C 2-B 3-D 4-A
- 1-D 2-B 3-C 4-A

Q25. Which statement is incorrect about festival 'Rongali Bihu'?

- It is a festival celebrated in the state of Gujarat and western India.
- It marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- During Rongali Bihu there are 7 pinnacle phases: 'Chot', 'Raati', 'Goru', 'Manuh', 'Kutum', 'Mela' and 'Chera'.
- It usually falls on 2 April week, historically signifying the time of harvest.

Q26. Consider the following pairs:

Volcano Name	Country
--------------	---------

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Stromboli | : Italy |
| 2. Fuji | : Japan |
| 3. Kilimanjaro | : Tanzania |
| 4. Mount Agung | : Indonesia |

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

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q27. With reference to World Press Freedom index 2019, consider the following statements:

- It is an annual report compiled by Reporters without Borders.
- India has slipped down two spots on the 2019 World Press Freedom Index as compared to 2018.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Q28. With reference to the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), consider the following statements:

- ABU is biggest broadcasting union in the world and is also a member of the World Broadcasters' Union.
- 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness held in Kathmandu,

Nepal.

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. Recently The Indian Council of Medical Research has launched the 'MERA India' in order to:

- a) Prioritise, plan and scale up research to eliminate Malaria from India by 2030
- b) Increase Usage and Production of Generic Drugs
- c) Build a consumer-focused integrated primary health care system
- d) To manage information related to health status.

Q30. Recently there was news on the commemoration of the Battle of Kangla Tongbi which is related to

- a) Anglo-Burmese War
- b) Second world War
- c) Third Anglo-Mysore War
- d) First Anglo-Afghan War

Q31. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- | Award | Country |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Amir Amanullah Khan Award | - Afghanistan |
| 2. Order of St. Andrew | - France |
| 3. Zayed Medal | - United Arab Emirates |

Codes:

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

Q32. Which of the following scripts are included in the Bharati Script?

- 1. Tamil
- 2. Malayalam
- 3. Gurmukhi
- 4. Gujarati
- 5. Urdu

Codes:

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

Q.33 Match the following festivals with their respective states in which they are celebrated:

- | Spring Festivals of India | Festival Region |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Chapchar kut | A) Nagaland |
| 2. Lai Haroba | B) Mizoram |
| 3. Aoleang Monyu | C) Manipur |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

1. Answer: C

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Sharada Peeth is one of 18 Maha Shakti Peethas, or "Grand Shakti Peethas" – highly revered temples throughout South Asia that commemorate the location of fallen body parts of the Hindu deity Sati.

STATEMENT 2 is correct As a religious institution, it is one of the three famous tirthas, or holy sites, for Kashmiri Pandits.

Sharada Peeth

- It is dedicated to the Hindu goddess of learning, Sharada.
- Between the 6th and 12th centuries CE, Sharada Peeth was one of the foremost temple universities of the Indian subcontinent, hosting scholars such as Kalhana, Adi Shankara, Vairotsana, Kumarajiva, and Thonmi Sambhota.
- As a religious institution, it is one of the three famous tirthas, or holy sites, for Kashmiri Pandits, the other two being the Martand Sun Temple and the Amarnath Temple.] Sharada Peeth is one of 18 Maha Shakti Peethas, or "Grand Shakti Peethas" – highly revered temples throughout South Asia that commemorate the location of fallen body parts of the Hindu deity Sati.

Context: Recently Pakistan has given its green signal for ShardaPeeth corridor;

Related Topic: The Kartarpur Corridor;

2. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is situated on western bank of River Ganga.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Kashi Vishvanath Temple

- It is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. The temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga, and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva temples.
- The main deity is known by the name Vishvanatha or Vishveshvara meaning Ruler of The Universe. Varanasi city is also called Kashi, and hence the temple is popularly called Kashi Vishvanath Temple. Its name originally was Vishveshvara (broken down Vishwa: Universe, Ish: Lord; Vara: Excellent) or Lord of the Universe.

Context: Recently Kashi Vishwanath corridor project has been inaugurated by the union government.

Related Topic: Kashi Vishwanath corridor;

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as it is located in the Baluchistan, Pakistan.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as RekoDiq Mine is one of the world's biggest untapped copper and gold deposits located in Baluchistan, Pakistan.

RekoDiq Mine:

- RekoDiq Mine is one of the world's biggest untapped copper and gold deposits located in Baluchistan, Pakistan.
- RekoDiq area is buried at the foot of an extinct volcano near the frontier with Iran and Afghanistan.
- It has estimated reserves of 5.9 billion tons of low-grade copper and gold reserves amounting to 41.5 million oz.

Related Topic: Geographical Location of Baluchistan, Pakistan.

4. Answer: A

Explanation:

Out of the four options given, ICE STUPA is a water conservation technique adopted by Ladakhi people.

Ice Stupa

- It is a form of glacier grafting technique that creates artificial glaciers, used for storing winter water (which otherwise would go unused) in the form of conical shaped ice heaps.
- During summer, when water is scarce, the Ice Stupa melts to increase water supply for crops. Ice Stupa was invented by Sonam Wangchuk in Ladakh (India) and the project is undertaken by the NGO Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh. Launched in October 2013, the test project started in January 2014 under the project name The Ice Stupa project. On 15 November 2016, Sonam Wangchuk was awarded the Rolex Awards for Enterprise for his work on Ice Stupa

Related Topic: Sonam Wangchuk;

5. Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Scheme is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as It is for providing financial support to Integrated Bio-ethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana:

- It is for providing financial support to Integrated Bio-ethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- It focuses to incentivize 2G Ethanol sector and support it by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.
- The ethanol produced by the scheme beneficiaries will be mandatorily supplied to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- This is to further enhance the blending percentage under the ethanol blending program.
- Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, will be the implementation Agency for the scheme.

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana";

Related Topic: Centre for High Technology (CHT).

6. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as UNNATI Programme was launched by ISRO (Indian Space Research

Organisation).

STATEMENT 2 is correct as UNISpace Nano-satellite Assembly and Training by ISRO (UNNATI) program is a capacity building program on nanosatellite development.

UNNATI Programme

- UNISpace Nano-satellite Assembly and Training by ISRO (UNNATI) programme is a capacity building programme on nanosatellite development.
- The UNNATI Programme is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50).
- The programme will be conducted for 3 years in 3 batches and will target to benefit 90 officials from 45 countries

Context: Recently, ISRO has launched the program UNNATI

Related Topic: Importance of Nano Satellite .

7. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as The Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce And Industry.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Products exported from SEZ are not covered under this scheme.

Transport and Marketing Assistance Scheme for Specified Agriculture Products:

- The "Transport and Marketing Assistance" (TMA) for specified agricultural products scheme aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce which is likely to mitigate the disadvantage of higher cost of transportation of export of specified agricultural products due to trans-shipment and to promote brand recognition for Indian agricultural products in the specified overseas markets.
- The scheme would be suitably included in the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)

Context: Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has notified a scheme for Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products

Related Topic: Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20);

8. Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as It is implemented throughout the country for effective flood management, erosion control, and anti-sea erosion.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the funding pattern for FM(Flood Management) Component for works in general category States will continue to be 50% (Centre): 50% (State) and for projects of North Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, the funding pattern will continue to be 70% (Centre) : 30% (State).

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)" for Flood Management Works in the entire country and River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs.3342.00 crores.

Related Topic: Flood Management Programme (FMP)" and "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA).

9. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it was indigenously developed by the DRDO.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Pinaka is guided extended range rockets can immobilize enemies from a 90 KiloMeter (Km) distance.

Pinaka Extended Range Rocket

- Pinaka is guided extended range rockets which can immobilize enemies from 90Km distance, developed indigenously by DRDO.
- Pinaka rocket launcher can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- Pinaka Mark I was extensively used by Indian Army in 1999 Kargil war to neutralize enemies on mountain tops.
- The initial version of the Pinaka rocket had a range of 40km before it was developed into Pinaka Mark II, which had an enhanced range of 70-80 km.
- Each Pinaka launcher has its own computer, allowing it to work independently and able to fire rockets in different directions, fire all rockets in one go or select few.

Context: India successfully tests two Pinaka guided extended-range rockets.

Related Topic: Pinaka Mark I; Pinaka Mark II .

10. Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it was indigenously developed by the DRDO.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as It includes advanced features, including Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) seeker with integrated avionics.

Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- Man-Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) incorporates advanced features, including Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) seeker with integrated avionics.
- MPATG has been indigenously developed by DRDO, which will enhance the hit and destruction capacity of the armed forces in short distance battle situations considerably.

Context: Recently, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously developed, low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile

Related Topic: Anti-tank Guided Missile System.

11. Answer: A

Explanation:

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 Global Report is prepared by the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD). So the OPTION a) is correct.

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 Global Report

- It is prepared by the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD).
- Sweden tops the chart by having low gender discrimination.
- According to it, gender-based discrimination, including female genital mutilation, reproductive rights, pay gaps, and gender violence, were estimated to cost \$6 trillion, or 7.5 percent of the global economy.
- Women also occupy less than a third of senior positions in the civil service on average.
- But they make up 75% of part-time workers in the public sector.

Context: Recently Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 Global Report was released by the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD).

Related Topic: Reports published by the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD).

12. Answer: B

Explanation:

Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index

- Global MPI 2018 Report is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- MPI is the product of the following factors
 1. Poverty rate as a percentage of the population.
 2. Intensity as the average share of deprivations that poor people experience.
- If someone is deprived in a third or more of 10 weighted indicators, the global index identifies them as “MPI poor”.
- According to the report Bihar was the poorest state in 2015-16, with more than half its population in poverty.
- The four poorest states of India according to the report are Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Context: Global MPI 2018 Report is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

Related Topic: Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) ;

13. Answer: A

Explanation:

Corporate Equality Index

- Human Rights Campaign Foundation released the Corporate Equality Index (CEI) annually.
- It is the national benchmarking tool on corporate policies and practices pertinent to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer employees.
- CEI rating criteria have three key pillars:
 1. Non-discrimination policies across business entities;
 2. Equitable benefits for LGBTQ workers and their families;
 3. Supporting an inclusive culture and corporate social responsibility

Context: Recently, the Corporate Equality Index (CEI) report was released by Human Rights Campaign Foundation

Related Topic: Reports released by the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD).

14. Answer: A

Explanation

Sabooj Sathi

Sabooj Sathi is a scheme of West Bengal government for distribution of bi-cycles to estimated 40 lakh students of class IX to XII studying in Govt. run and Govt. aided Schools and Madrashes.

The scheme was launched in September 2015.

The objective of the scheme is to empower the students, especially the girls and reduce drop outs

in higher education.

Utkarsh Bangla

Utkarsh Bangla Scheme was launched with an aim of providing vocational training to school dropouts.

Objective of the scheme is to give vocational training to school dropouts by providing training ranging from 400 to 1200 hours free of charge.

Context: Recently Two Bengal govt. schemes won UN awards.

Related Topics: Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

15. Answer: A

Explanation

Dhimsa dance

STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is a tribal dance form, is performed by the Porja caste women. A group of 15–20 women forms a circle and dance praising the deity for the welfare of their domestic life. They also dance at weddings since the women pray for a peaceful and happy married life.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The dance is originated in Koraput district in Odisha but has almost become an official dance of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Context: Recently there was news that ‘Candidates bank on folk dances to lure voters in tribal areas’ near Vishakhapatnam.

Related Topics: Classical Dance forms

16. Answer: D

Explanation

STATE OF GLOBAL AIR 2019

- State of Global Air 2019 is published by Health Effects Institute (HEI).
- According to State of Global Air 2019, “The current high level of air pollution has shortened the average lifespan of a South Asian child by two-and-a-half years while globally the reduction stands at 20 months.”
- It said, exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to over 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017.
- The report added that worldwide, air pollution was responsible for more deaths than many better-known risk factors such as malnutrition, alcohol abuse and physical inactivity.
- In India, air pollution is the third-highest cause of death among all health risks, ranking just above smoking; each year, more people globally die from air pollution related disease than from road traffic injuries or malaria.

Health Effects Institute (HEI)

HEI is a nonprofit corporation chartered in 1980 as an independent research organization to provide high-quality, impartial, and relevant science on the health effects of air pollution. HEI typically receives balanced funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the worldwide motor vehicle industry. Other public and private organizations periodically support special projects or certain research programs.

Context: State of Global Air 2019 was published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI).

Related Topics: United Nations Environment Programme

17. Answer: C

Explanation

Peninsular Rivers

- East Flowing: Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Subarnrekha etc.
- West Flowing: Narmada, Tapi, Sabarmati, Mahi, Periyar, pamba etc.

Periyar River: The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala, India, with a length of 244 km. The Periyar is known as the lifeline of Kerala; it is one of the few perennial rivers in the region. The Idukki Dam is located on the Periyar. The source of the Periyar lies high in the Western Ghats.

Context: The Periyar River, which provides drinking water to Kochi city and adjoining areas yet again turned black near the Pathalam Regulator cum Bridge.

Related Topics: Himalayan Rivers

18. Answer: A

Explanation

El Nino: It is a part of a routine climate pattern that occurs when sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean rise to above-normal levels.

La Nino: The opposite of El Niño, La Niña, is when sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific drop to lower-than-normal levels.

Indian Ocean Dipole: It is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean.

Context: The assessments from Skymet, has indicated that there is a prospect of an El Niño, often associated with drought conditions, taking hold.

Related Topics: Indian Monsoon

19. Answer: C

Explanation

National Institutional Ranking Framework

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India on 29th September, 2015. This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The parameters broadly cover Teaching Learning and Resources, Research Professional Practice & Collaborative Performance, Graduation Outcome, Outreach & Inclusivity, Perception.

The disciplines covered are Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Architecture, Law, Universities, Colleges.

Ranking of institutions 2019

In the fourth edition of India Rankings, a total of 3127 institutions have participated. Collectively they have submitted 4867 distinct profiles, under various disciplines/categories. This includes 1479 for overall ranking, 970 Engineering Institutions, 555 Management Institutions, 301 Pharmacy Institutions, 80 Law Institutions, 113 Medical Institutions, 65 Architecture Institutions and 1304 Colleges.

IIT-Madras topped the rankings in 2019.

Context: IIT-Madras tops Centre's higher education rankings

20. Answer: C

Explanation

Jallianwala Bagh massacre

- The mob at Jallianwala Bagh was gathered to protest against the arrest of their popular leaders, Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal.
- On the afternoon of April 13, a crowd of at least 10,000 men, women, and children gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh, which was nearly completely enclosed by walls and had only one exit.
- Dyer and his soldiers arrived and sealed off the exit. Without warning, the troops opened fire on the crowd, reportedly shooting hundreds of rounds until they ran out of ammunition.
- Rabindranath Tagore renounced his Knighthood title in protest of the massacre.
- The government of India ordered an investigation of the incident and appointed the Hunter Commission.
- Many condemned Dyer's actions—including Sir Winston Churchill, then secretary of war, in a speech to the House of Commons in 1920—but the House of Lords praised Dyer and gave him a sword inscribed with the motto "Saviour of the Punjab."

Context: Recently, British Prime Minister Theresa May, on the occasion of the centenary of the horrific Jallianwala Bagh massacre, said: "We deeply regret what happened and the suffering caused."

Related Topics: Champaran Satyagraha

21. Answer: B

Explanation

COFFEE

- Coffee needs hot and humid climate with temperature varying between 15°C and 28°C.
- It is generally grown under shady trees. Strong sunshine, high temperatures above 30°C, frost and snowfall are harmful for coffee cultivation.
- Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of berries.
- Rainfall between 150 to 250 cm is favourable for coffee cultivation.
- Well drained, rich friable loam soil with humus and minerals are ideal for coffee cultivation.
- Coffee also needs cheap and skilled labour.
- There are more than 100 species of coffee but only a few are grown commercially. In our country *Coffea robusta* (or *Coffea canephora*) and *Coffea arabica* are grown.

Context: India will plan and roll out a coffee consumption campaign on behalf of global coffee growers who have suffered huge financial losses on account of falling prices and soaring labour cost.

Related Topics: Tea and Sugarcane

22. Answer: D

Explanation

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has recently awarded this tag to — Coorg Arabica coffee from Karnataka, Wayanad Robusta coffee from Kerala, Chikmagalur Arabica from Karnataka, Araku Valley Arabica from Andhra Pradesh, and Bababudangiris Arabica coffee from Karnataka.

Context: The government said it has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to five varieties of Indian coffee including Coorg Arabica.

Related Topics: Geographical Indication (GI) tag

23. Answer: C

Explanation

STATEMENT 1 is correct: The monsoons advance quickly accompanied with a lot of thunder, lightning and heavy downpour. This sudden onset of rain is termed as monsoon burst. Sudden onset of South West Monsoons leads to significant fall in temperature [3° to 6°C]. The temperature remains less uniform throughout the rainy season. The temperature rises in September with the cease of south-west monsoons.

STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Tamil Nadu coast remains relatively dry during the south-west monsoon period because of

- rain shadow effect of the Arabian Sea current and
- Bay of Bengal current which flows parallel to the coast.

Context: Skymet has predicted a below average monsoon in 2019 on the back of a prospective El Nino that is often associated with less rainfall.

Related Topics: Isobar and Isotherm

24. Answer: D

Explanation

1. ISOLINE: imaginary lines joining regions with equal rainfall or any other parameter.
2. ISOBAR: imaginary lines joining regions with equal pressure.
3. ISOTHERM: imaginary lines joining regions with equal temperature.
4. ISOHYET: imaginary lines joining regions with equal rainfall.

Related Topic: Air circulation

25. Answer: A

Explanation

Rongali Bihu

- Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu also called Xaat Bihu is a festival celebrated in the state of Assam and northeastern India, and marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- It usually falls on 2 April week, historically signifying the time of harvest.
- The three primary types of Bihu are Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu, Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, and Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu.
- Each festival historically recognizes a different agricultural cycle of the paddy crops.
- During Rongali Bihu there are 7 pinnacle phases: 'Chot', 'Raati', 'Goru', 'Manuh', 'Kutum', 'Mela' and 'Chera'.

Related Topics: Sattriya Dance

26. Answer: D

Explanation:

All pairs are correctly matched.

Volcano Name		Country
Stromboli	:	Italy
Fuji	:	Japan

Kilimanjaro : Tanzania
Mount Agung : Indonesia

Mount Agung, a volcano on the island of Bali in Indonesia, erupted five times in late November 2017, causing thousands to evacuate, disrupting air travel and causing environmental damage. As of 27 November 2017, the alert level was at its highest and evacuation orders were in place.

Related Topics:

27. Answer: C

Explanation:

The 2019 World Press Freedom Index compiled annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) shows how hatred of journalists has degenerated into violence, contributing to an increase in fear. The World Press Freedom Index 2019, topped by Norway and India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries.

28. Answer: C

Explanation:

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) It is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political, professional association of broadcasting organisations, which assists development of broadcasting in the region. It was established in 1964, and has Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With over 272 members in 76 countries on four continents, ABU is biggest broadcasting union in the world.

5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness began from 25- 26 April 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

29. Answer: A

Explanation:

The Indian Council of Medical Research has launched the 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India' - a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control - in order to prioritise, plan and scale up research to eliminate the disease from India by 2030.

30. Answer: B

Explanation:

The Battle of Kangla Tongbi, considered one of the fiercest battles of World War II, was fought by Ordnance personnel of 221 Advance Ordnance Depot (AOD) on the night of 6/7 April 1944. Japanese forces had planned a three-pronged offensive to capture Imphal and the surrounding areas. In their attempt to extend their line of communication to Imphal, the 33rd Japanese Division cut in behind the 17th Indian Division at Tiddim (Myanmar) and establishing themselves firmly on the main Kohima – Manipur highway, started advancing towards Kangla Tongbi.

Context: Platinum Jubilee Commemoration of Battle of Kangla Tongbi.

Related Topics: Change of name of few islands of Andaman and Nicobar in memory of Subhash Chandra Bose.

31. Answer: D

Explanation:

Nations honor world leaders with their highest civilian awards in order to recognize the leader's contribution to the world and maintain a friendly relation between countries. Similarly, Prime Minister of India was bestowed with the highest civilian awards by various countries. Some of them are Amir Amanullah Khan Award by Afghanistan, Order of St. Andrew by Russia and Zayed Medal

by the United Arab Emirates.

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honored with the Zayed Medal by UAE.

Related Topics: Seoul Peace Prize.

32. Answer: C

Explanation:

A team at IIT Madras has, over the last decade, developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script. The team has now gone a step further since developing the script: it has developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual optical character recognition (OCR) scheme. The team has also created a finger-spelling method that can be used to generate a sign language for hearing-impaired persons.

The scripts that have been integrated include Devanagari, Bengali, Gurmukhi, Gujarati, Oriya, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil. English and Urdu have not been integrated so far.

The optical character recognition schemes involve first separating (or segmenting) the document into text and non-text. The text is then segmented into paragraphs, sentences words and letters. Each letter has to be recognized as a character in some recognizable format such as ASCII or Unicode. The letter has various components such as the basic consonant, consonant modifiers, vowels, etc. The scripts of Indian languages pose a problem for such a character recognition because the vowel and consonant-modifier components are attached to the main consonant part. This difficulty is removed in the Bharati script which can be easily read. In Bharati characters, these different components are segmentable by design.

Context: Release of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) by IIT Madras.

Related Topics: Classical Languages of India.

33 Answer: A

Explanation

Chapchar kut : Mizoram
Lai Haroba : Manipur
Aoleang : Nagaland

The Guinness World Records has acknowledged Konyak Dance as the "largest traditional dance", in which around 4,700 Konyak Naga women in their colourful traditional attire came together to perform largest "Traditional Konyak Dance". It was organised during the "Aoleang Monyu" festival of the Konyak tribe, which is celebrated in the first week of April every year to welcome the spring.

2018 RESULTS

11 Ranks in Top 50

28 Ranks in Top 100

183 Ranks in Final List



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Pujya Priyadarshni



RANK 16
Dhodmise Trupti Ankush



RANK 21
Rahul Jain



RANK 24
Anuraj Jain



RANK 31
Mainak Ghosh



RANK 32
Sameer Saurabh



RANK 33
Awhale Manisha Manikrao



RANK 36
Deepesh Kedia



RANK 39
Patil Hemanta Keshav



RANK 41
Alok Kumar



RANK 43
Akshay Agrawal



RANK 52
Prateek Singh



RANK 53
Sumit Kumar



RANK 56
Dileep Mishra



RANK 59
Chahat Bajpai



RANK 60
Anya Das



RANK 61
Girdhar

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