

# December Monthly Current Affairs Magazine

## Answer Keys

1. Consider the following statements with respect to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:

1. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. As per the provisions of the law the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India.
3. The act Provides for a provision that nothing contained in the Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted in 1960 to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. As per the provisions of the law the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India.

Post the removal of Article 370 the given act is applicable even to Jammu and Kashmir.

The act however makes a provision under "Saving as respects manner of killing prescribed by religion": Nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community.

2. Which of the following statement regarding Chile is wrong?

- a. Chile lies between the Andes to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east.
- b. Chile borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast.
- c. The arid Atacama Desert in northern Chile contains great mineral wealth, principally copper and lithium.
- d. Chile is located along a highly seismic and volcanic zone, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Chile lies between the Andes to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Chile borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast and Argentina to the east. Chile is located along a highly seismic and volcanic zone, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, due to the subduction of the Nazca and Antarctic plates into the South American plate.

3 Consider the following statements regarding SPARSH (Social Innovation programme for Products: Affordable & Relevant to Societal Health):

1. The programme is initiated by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.
2. The scheme intends to create a pool of social innovators in the biotech arena who will identify the specific needs and gaps in healthcare.
3. The social innovators will be provided financial and technical support for developing market-based solutions that have potential to bring cost effective health care breakthroughs to vulnerable populations in particular.

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

- a. 1 and 2
- b. 2 and 3

- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. 1 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

SPARSH objectives:

- Identify and provide support to cutting edge innovations towards affordable product development that can bring significant social impact and address challenges of inclusive growth.
- Provide support in form of impact funding of biotech product innovations (with social goals) that can be scaled.
- Create and foster a pool of social innovators in the field of biotech and provide a platform to share the best practices, understand intricacies of business models in social innovation and network.

4. Which of the following statement/s are wrong?

1. An avalanche is an event that occurs when a cohesive slab of snow lying upon a weaker layer of snow fractures and slides down a steep slope.
2. Presently there are no methods to mitigate or prevent avalanches.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Preventive measures are employed in areas where avalanches pose a significant threat to people, such as ski resorts, mountain towns, roads, and railways.

There are several ways to prevent avalanches and lessen their power and develop preventative measures to reduce the likelihood and size of avalanches by disrupting the structure of the snowpack, while passive measures reinforce and stabilize the snowpack in situ.

The simplest active measure is repeatedly traveling on a snowpack as snow accumulates; this can be by means of boot-packing, ski-cutting, or machine grooming.

Explosives are used extensively to prevent avalanches, by triggering smaller avalanches that break down instabilities in the snowpack, and removing overburden that can result in larger avalanches.

Passive preventive systems such as snow fences and light walls can be used to direct the placement of snow. Snow builds up around the fence, especially the side that faces the prevailing winds.

To mitigate the effect of avalanches the construction of artificial barriers can be very effective in reducing avalanche damage.

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever.
2. It is endemic to South India.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever endemic to South India. The disease is caused by a virus belonging to the family Flaviviridae, (which also includes yellow fever and dengue fever) which are transmitted by monkeys.
- A variety of animals are thought to be reservoir hosts for the disease, including porcupines, rats, squirrels, mice, and shrews. The vector for disease transmission is Haemaphysalis spinigera, a forest tick. Humans contract infection from the bite of nymphs of the tick.

6. Which of the following statements are wrong?

- a) In India, the power to grant pardon is entrusted to the President and the Governors under Article 72 and Article 161 of the Constitution
- b) There is a six-month time limit given by the Constitution of India for Mercy Plea.
- c) Supreme Court in Kehar Singh v Union of India, 1988 has held that the grant of pardon by the President is an act of grace and, therefore, cannot be claimed as a matter of right.
- d) President can pardon the death sentence but the Governor has no power to pardon the death sentence.

Answer: b

Explanation:

There is no time limit given in the Constitution of India for Mercy Plea.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The European Economic Area (EEA) agreement enables the extension of the European Union single market to non-EU member parties.
  2. European Economic Area (EEA), consists of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and three countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) namely Iceland, Switzerland and Norway.
- Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

It consists of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and three countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (all except Switzerland, namely: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)

8. Arrange the following national parks starting with the most eastwardly located moving westward.

1. Gulf of Mannar
2. Anshi
3. Balphakram
4. Betla

Options:

- a. 1,4,2,3
- b. 3,4,1,2
- c. 3,1,4,2
- d. 2,1,4,3

Answer: b

Explanation:

1. Balphakram In Meghalaya
2. Betla in Jharkhand
3. Gulf of Mannar off the coast of Tamil Nadu
4. Anshi in Karnataka

9. Consider the following statements with respect to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. National Human Rights Commission of India is a statutory body.
2. NHRC has the powers of a civil court.
3. The chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

National Human Rights Commission is a statutory body responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

The National Human Rights Commission was established in the year 1993 by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 passed by the Parliament.

It must be headed by a retired chief justice of India. The chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Rabies is a viral disease that causes inflammation of the brain
2. Funds are provided under the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for the procurement of Anti- Rabies vaccine (ARV).
3. In India, dogs are responsible for most of the cases of human rabies.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Rabies is an acute viral disease that causes fatal encephalomyelitis in virtually all the warm-blooded animals including humans. It causes inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals.
- Under the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) funds are not provided for the procurement of Anti- Rabies vaccine (ARV). Funds under NRCP are only provided for training, surveillance, laboratory strengthening and advocacy, etc. However, for rabies vaccination all the states/UTs have been communicated to include Anti- Rabies vaccine (ARV) and Anti Rabies serum (ARS) under essential drug list and to undertake the procurement of ARV and ARS under National Free Drug service initiative under National Health Mission.
- In India, dogs are responsible for about 97% of human rabies, followed by cats (2%), and others (1%)

11. Consider the following statements:

1. Hand-in-hand is a joint training exercise between India and China.
2. It is an annual exercise that has been carried out every year since its inception in 2007.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Hand in hand (HiH) is a joint training exercise between India and China. Due to a 72 days long standoff between the two armies in Doklam, there was no joint exercise in 2017. The joint HiH exercise is one of the important confidence-building measures between the two largest armies in the world. The HiH for the first time was held in Kunming (China) in 2007, followed by the second edition at Belgaum in 2008. However, due to diplomatic spats over stapled visa and other matters, there was no drill in 2009-2010. This was later re-started in 2013 at Miaoergang in China, followed by the next one in Pune in 2016.

12. Consider the following statements with respect to River Amur:

1. The Amur River forms a border between Russia and China.
2. The river originates in Russia.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Amur River originates near the sacred mountain of BurkanKaldun in North-eastern Mongolia, the birthplace of Genghis Khan. It forms a border between the Russian Far East and North-eastern China.

13. Consider the following statements:

1. Regolith is present on the Earth, the Moon, Mars, some asteroids, and other terrestrial planets and moons.
2. The composition of the Regolith can strongly influence water composition through the presence of salts and acid-generating materials.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Regolith is a layer of loose, heterogeneous material covering solid rock. It includes dust, soil, broken rock, and other related materials. Regolith is present on the Earth, the Moon, Mars, some asteroids, and other terrestrial planets and moons. In some areas of the Earth, Regolith is essentially absent, whereas in others, it is hundreds of meters in

thickness. The Regolith is the zone through which aquifers are recharged and through which aquifer discharge occurs. Many aquifers, such as alluvial aquifers, occur entirely within Regolith. The composition of the Regolith can also strongly influence water composition through the presence of salts and acid-generating materials.

14. Which of the following is the most suitable explanation of “Torrefaction”?

- a) It is a thermal process to convert biomass into a coal-like material, which has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass.
- b) It is the use of living micro-organisms to degrade the environmental contaminants into less toxic forms.
- c) It is the concentration of a toxin, in the tissues of tolerant organisms at successively higher levels in a food chain.
- d) It is the process used to separate the components or substances from a liquid mixture by using selective boiling and condensation.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Torrefaction is a thermal process to convert biomass into a coal-like material, which has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass. Torrefied biomass is more brittle, making grinding easier and less energy intensive.

15. Which of the following is INCORRECT with respect to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act?

- 1. A Fugitive Economic Offender is a person who has an arrest warrant issued in respect of a scheduled offence and who has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution.
- 2. A person can be named an offender under this for involvement in economic offences involving Rs. 1000 crore or more.
- 3. The person who is declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender cannot challenge the proclamation in the court of law.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

A person can be named an offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more. Section 17 of the FEO act provides from the challenge of the proclamation in the High Court within 30 days

16. Consider the following statements with respect to Light Combat Aircraft Tejas:

- 1. The LCA Tejas is a lightweight, multi-role supersonic aircraft developed as a joint venture between Russia and India.
- 2. It can carry air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision guided and standoff weaponry.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:



The Light Combat Aircraft Tejas is an indigenous lightweight, multi-role supersonic aircraft developed in both fighter and trainer versions. The Tejas is designed to carry a plethora of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided and standoff weaponry. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme began in the 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters. In 2003, the LCA was officially named "Tejas". The Tejas is an Indian single-engine, delta wing, multirole light fighter designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

17. Consider the following statements with respect to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR):

1. SAFAR is an initiative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city.
2. SAFAR is operationalized by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).
3. In addition to regular air quality it will measure Black carbon, Mercury, sun's UV-Index (UVI).

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) is an initiative introduced by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city, by measuring the overall pollution level and the location-specific air quality of the city.

SAFAR was indigenously developed and is operationalized by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

In addition to regular air quality and weather parameters like Carbon Monoxide, Particulate Matter -PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, Nitrogen Oxides, Sulfur Dioxide and Ozone, it will measure Black carbon, Mercury, sun's UV-Index (UVI) and PM<sub>1</sub> in real time.

It can also provide the measurement of online automatic ultrafine particles Mercury and PM<sub>1</sub>, both of which have direct relevance to human health. It will also monitor the existence of harmful pollutants like Xylene, Toluene and Benzene.

It was indigenously developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

18. Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraks Han Abhiyan (PM-AASHA):

1. PM-AASHA aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers
2. The expenditure and losses due to procurement under PM-AASHA will be borne by the respective state governments.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri AnnadataAaySanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.

The Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers and is comprised of Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme

(PPPS). In Price Support Scheme (PSS), physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with a proactive role of State governments.

The expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by the Centre.

19. Consider the following statements with respect to Cyber Swachhta Kendra:

1. Cyber Swachhta Kendra is a part of the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
2. It was set up to create a secure cyber space by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users.
3. It is being operated by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The "Cyber SwachhtaKendra " (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) is a part of the Government of India's Digital India initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to create a secure cyber space by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users so as to prevent further infections. The Cyber Swachhta Kendra is set up in accordance with the objectives of the "National Cyber Security Policy", which envisages creating a secure cyber eco system in the country. This centre is being operated by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under provisions of Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Money laundering is the process of concealing the origins of money obtained illegally by passing it through a complex sequence of commercial transactions.
2. Three stages involved in Money laundering are placement, refining and integration.
3. Establishment of shell companies is a form of money laundering.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Money laundering is the illegal process of concealing the origins of money obtained illegally by passing it through a complex sequence of banking transfers or commercial transactions. It involves three stages i.e, placement, layering and integration. Establishment of shell companies is a form of money laundering.

21.Consider the following statements with respect to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

1. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund is an Indian-government backed entity established to provide short-term capital to India's infrastructure sector.
2. It was set up as an alternative investment fund (AIF).
3. The government of India's contribution to the AIFs under the NIIF scheme is 49% of the total commitment.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only



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

Answer: c

Explanation:

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund is an Indian-government backed entity established to provide long-term capital to India's infrastructure sector. It was set up as an alternative investment fund (AIF) and is being operationalized by establishing three Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) under the SEBI Regulations. The government of India's contribution to the AIFs under the NIIF scheme is 49% of the total commitment.

22. Consider the following statements with respect to "Nirbhaya Fund":

- 1. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund for the safety and security of women.
- 2. It is administered by of the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Nirbhaya Fund Framework provides for a non-lapsable corpus fund for the safety and security of women to be administered by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of India. Further, it provides for an Empowered Committee (EC) of officers chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) to appraise and recommend proposals to be funded under this framework.

23. Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kisan SammanNidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme:

- 1. Under the scheme, eligible landholding farmer families will be provided direct income support of three equal installments of Rs. 6,000 per year.
- 2. The income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers.
- 3. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SammanNidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.

It is a Central Sector Scheme.

Under this programme, landholding farmer families, having cultivable land up to 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year. This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal instalments of Rs. 2,000 each.

24. Which of the following is/are NOT the books authored by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

1. The Annihilation of Caste
2. The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and its Solution
3. State and Minorities
4. Pakistan or Partition of India

Choose the correct option:

- a. 2 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

All the books stated in the question were authored by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

25. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India:

1. It is a statutory public body constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
  2. It cannot take suomotu cognisance of any case and can look into only those cases recommended by suitable authorities.
  3. The chairperson is always a person, who has been the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a statutory public body constituted on 12th October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- The NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "Rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants".
- It can take suomotu cognisance and order investigation.
- The NHRC consists of:
  - A Chairperson, who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
  - One member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
  - One member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court.
  - Three Members, out of which at least one shall be a woman to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.
  - In addition, the Chairpersons of National Commissions (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Minorities, Backward Classes, Protection of Child Rights) and Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities serve as ex officio members.

26. Consider the following statements with regard to Election spending in India:

1. The law prescribes that the total election expenditure shall not exceed the maximum limit prescribed under Rule 90 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.
2. A uniform limit of Rs. 70 lakhs has been set for Lok sabha elections throughout India.
3. Expenditure beyond the cap would amount to a corrupt practice under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- There is no uniform limit on spending and varies from state to state. A candidate can spend upto Rs. 70 lakh, in the bigger states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka etc.
- The expenditure limit in smaller states & UTs like Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry is kept at Rs. 54 lakhs.
- Candidates have to keep a separate account and file the election expenses with the Election Commission of India under the law.
- All registered political parties have to submit a statement of their election expenditure to the Election Commission within 90 days of the completion of the Lok Sabha elections. While all candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the poll panel within 30 days of the completion of the elections.
- An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification for up to three years under Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

27. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

- 1. The Polar bears rely heavily on the sea ice environment for travelling, hunting, and reproductive cycles.
- 2. The diminishing sea ice cover owing to Global warming is an existential crisis for the Polar bears.
- 3. The Polar bears are listed as critically endangered under the IUCN red list.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- To date, global warming has been most pronounced in the Arctic, and this trend is projected to continue. Temperatures in the Arctic are rising at least twice as fast as the global average and sea ice cover is diminishing by nearly four per cent per decade. There are suggestions that before mid-century we could have a nearly ice-free Arctic in the summer.
- Polar bears dependence on sea ice makes them highly vulnerable to a changing climate. Polar bears rely heavily on the sea ice environment for traveling, hunting, mating, resting, and in some areas, maternal dens. In particular, they depend heavily on sea ice-dependent prey, such as ringed and bearded seals.
- The latest International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s "Red List" classifies polar bears as "vulnerable", meaning they are facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- Activists say climate change has prevented coastal ice from forming and in the absence of ice cover, the animals are forced to come ashore in search of food.

28. Which of the following cities lies on a latitude closest to the Tropic of Cancer?

- a. Ranchi
- b. Varanasi
- c. Kolkata

d. Gwalior

Answer: a

Explanation:

Map of India



29. Which of the following pairs is wrongly matched?

- a) Rumtek Monastery: Gangtok, Sikkim
- b) Namdroling Monastery: Pinjoor, Himachal Pradesh
- c) Ghum Monastery: Darjeeling, West Bengal
- d) Namgyal: Dharmashala, Himachal Pradesh

Answer: b

Explanation:

Namdroling Monastery: Karnataka

30. Consider the following statements with respect to The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:

- 1. The Act provides for the establishment of Special Courts for trial of offences under the Act
- 2. The POCSO Act is only applicable to child survivors and adult offenders. In case two children have sexual relations with each other, or in case a child perpetrates a sexual offence on an adult, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, will apply.

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

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

Answer: c

Self explanatory

31. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The pygmy hog is classified as critically endangered in the IUCN red list.
2. Wild populations of the Pygmy hog have been limited to only the Manas national park in Assam.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The pygmy hog (*Porcula salvania*) is critically endangered, previously spread across Bhutan, India and Nepal, but now only found in India (Assam). The current world population is about 150 individuals or fewer.
- The pygmy hog is the sole representative of *Porcula*, making the conservation of this critically endangered species even more important, as its extinction would result in the loss of a unique evolutionary branch of pigs. They used to be widespread in the tall, wet grasslands in the southern Himalayan foothills from Uttar Pradesh to Assam, through Nepal and north Bengal. However, human encroachment has largely destroyed the natural habitat of the pygmy hog by development, agriculture, domestic grazing, and deliberate fires. Only one viable population remains in the Manas National Park, but even there, threats due to livestock grazing, poaching, fire, and tigers persist.
- The pygmy hog is designated as a Schedule I species in India under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and offences against them invite heavy penalties.

32. Which of the following statements are wrong with respect to the monetary policy committee?

1. The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended by Finance Act (India), 2016 to constitute MPC.
2. The committee comprises seven members – three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India and The Governor of Reserve Bank of India as the chairperson ex officio of the committee.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended by Finance Act (India), 2016 to constitute MPC which will bring more transparency and accountability in fixing India's Monetary Policy.
- The Monetary Policy Committee of India is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India. The committee is answerable to the Government of India if the inflation exceeds the range prescribed for three consecutive months.
- The committee comprises six members – three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- The Governor of Reserve Bank of India is the chairperson ex officio of the committee. Decisions are taken by majority with the Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie. The current mandate of the committee is to maintain 4% annual inflation until 31 March 2021 with an upper tolerance of 6% and a lower tolerance of 2%.

33. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Lokpal?

1. Lokpal is established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013.
2. The serving Prime Minister does not come under the ambit of Lokpal.

3. It is only involved in investigating and inquiry into complaints and not with the subsequent prosecution process.
4. Indian public servants working abroad shall not come under the ambit of Lokpal.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The serving PM also comes under the ambit of Lokpal except with some safeguards. The Lokpal, however, cannot inquire into any corruption charge against the Prime Minister if the allegations are related to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy, and space, unless a full Bench of the Lokpal, consisting of its chair and all members, considers the initiation of a probe, and at least two-thirds of the members approve it. Such a hearing should be held in camera, and if the complaint is dismissed, the records shall not be published or made available to anyone.
- The Act mandates the setting up of a special wing to prosecute public servants for corruption.
- Indian public servants working abroad shall also come under the ambit of Lokpal.

34. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Elephant corridors are narrow strips of land that connect two large habitats.
- 2. Elephant herds are in the habit of migrating across large areas annually.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Elephant corridors are narrow strips of land that connect two large habitats. In a 2017 study, Delhi-based non-profit, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), in collaboration with "Project Elephant" and UK-based non-profit "Elephant Family", has identified 101 elephant corridors in India.
- Cattle grazing, coffee and tea plantations, private tourist resorts, electric fences, expansion of agricultural fields, vehicular traffic especially during night hours and human settlements along elephant corridors pose a greater threat for the free movement of elephant herds that are in the habit of migrating across 350-500 sq km annually.
- Increasingly fragmented landscapes are driving the giant mammals more frequently into human-dominated areas, giving rise to more man-animal conflicts, experts have found. Maintaining elephant corridors is therefore of crucial importance to both elephant and human habitats.
- Elephant corridors are crucial to reduce animal fatalities due to accidents and other reasons. So fragmentation of forests makes it all the more important to preserve migratory corridors.
- The movement of elephants is essential to ensure that their populations are genetically viable. It also helps to regenerate forests on which other species, including tigers, depend.

35. Which of the following pairs is wrongly matched?

- a) Rudrasagar Lake: Tripura
- b) Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
- c) Hokera wetland: Himachal Pradesh
- d) DeeporBeel: Assam



Answer: c

Explanation:

Hokera wetland: Jammu and Kashmir

Ramsar sites in India and their locations.

36. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection.
2. There is no specific treatment for dengue.
3. The female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue.

Options:

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

Answer: b

37. Consider the following statements:

1. Citizenship signifies the relationship between an individual and the government.
2. The provisions relating to citizenship are dealt with in Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution of India.
3. The Constitution of India provides for a single citizenship for the entire country.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Citizenship signifies the relationship between the individual and the state.

38. The factors considered in the formulation of the Human Development Index involves:

1. White Island in New Zealand.
2. Island of Santa Maria along the Atlantic coast.
3. Barren Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Whakaari/White Island is an active volcano. The Azores archipelago is located near the triple junction of the Eurasian, American and African plates on the Atlantic Ocean. Just in this archipelago, there are 26 active volcanoes, 8 of which

are underwater. Only the island of Santa Maria doesn't have any active volcanos, but the rest have volcanic structures that may erupt at any given time; however, there have been no signs of any activity for many years. Barren Island located in the Andaman Sea is an active volcano.

39. The basic dimensions of human development as measured by the Human Development Index are:

1. Life expectancy
2. Education
3. Per capita income (PCI)
4. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistical tool used to measure a country's overall achievement in its social and economic dimensions. The social and economic dimensions of a country are based on the health of people, their level of educational attainment and their standard of living. The HDI measures average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development — life expectancy, education and per capita income.

40. Consider the following statements with respect to Jal Jeevan Mission:

1. The mission aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.
2. One of the chief objectives of the Mission is the cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced in 2019. The chief objective of the Mission is to provide piped water supply to all rural and urban households by 2024. The mission also aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

41. Consider the following statements:

1. The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 contains a provision allowing for Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) to be tried as adults under certain circumstances.
2. The Juvenile Justice Act defines a child as someone who is under the age of 14.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 contains a provision allowing for Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) to be tried as adults under certain circumstances. The Act defines a child as someone who is under the age of 18. "Child in Conflict with Law" has been defined under Section 2 (13) of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 as a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offence.

42. Consider the following statements:

1. Western disturbance is an extra tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region.
2. Western disturbance brings winter rain to the north-eastern parts of the Indian subcontinent.
3. The western disturbances are highly beneficial for the standing rabi crops.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

A Western Disturbance is an extra tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the north-western parts of the Indian subcontinent. It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies. The western disturbances affect weather conditions during the winter season and give occasional rainfall which is highly beneficial for the standing rabi crops, (wheat, barley, mustard, gram, lentil, etc.).

43. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ease of Doing Business Report measures the performance of countries across 10 different parameters.
2. Ease of Doing Business Report is published by the World Bank.
3. In India, the Ease of Doing Business Index is calculated based on the data from all the Metro cities.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Ease of Doing Business Report is published annually by the World Bank. The Ease of Doing Business Report measures the performance of countries across 10 different parameters. These parameters include dealing with construction permits; starting a business; enforcing contracts; trading across borders; getting electricity connection; getting credits; registering property; paying taxes; resolving insolvency, and protecting minor investors. In India, the Index is calculated based on the data from Delhi and Mumbai.

44. Consider the following statements with respect to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):

1. CCPI is an instrument designed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. As per CCPI 2020, the U.S.A is classified as the worst-performing country.
3. India ranks among the top 10 in CCPI 2020.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an instrument designed by the German environmental and development organisation German watch e.V. to enhance transparency in international climate politics. The CCPI 2020 is released by three international NGOs – German watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network. As per CCPI 2020, the U.S.A is classified as the worst-performing country, replacing Saudi Arabia. India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in CCPI.

45. Consider the following statements with respect to Leopard (*Panthera pardus*):

- 1. It is listed at par with Tigers under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.
- 2. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- 3. It is a nocturnal animal.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Indian leopard is one of the big cats occurring on the Indian subcontinent, apart from the Asiatic lion, Bengal tiger, snow leopard and clouded leopard. The leopard is the smallest of the big cats. It is a nocturnal animal. Leopard has been recently uplisted from the Near Threatened to Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List. It is listed at par with Tigers under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.

46. Consider the following statements with respect to ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

- 1. PSLV can launch satellites into the low earth orbits only
- 2. Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission and the space recovery mission were launched on PSLV.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has launched satellites into low earth orbit, polar orbit and GTO (geosynchronous transfer orbit). Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission and the space recovery mission were launched on PSLV.

47. Consider the following statements with respect to International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- 1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is an independent judicial body and is not associated with the United Nations.
- 2. It is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office.
- 3. It is situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the United Nations. Established in 1946 to replace the Permanent Court of International Justice, the ICJ mainly operates under the statute of its predecessor, which is included in the UN Charter. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA). It is situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

48. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Odisha is home to 50% of the world's total population of Olive Ridleys and about 90% of the Indian population of sea turtles.
- 2. Rushikulya rookery is a major nesting site for the Olive Ridleys along the Indian coast.
- 3. Olive Ridleys are mostly carnivorous but occasionally consume algae and seaweed.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Odisha is home to 50% of the world's total population of Olive Ridleys and about 90% of the Indian population of sea turtles. These turtles get their name from the olive-colored carapace, which is heart-shaped and rounded. Rushikulya rookery is a major nesting site for the Olive Ridleys along the Indian coast. Their synchronised nesting in mass numbers is called Arribadas. They are mostly carnivorous and feed on jellyfish, snails, crabs, and shrimp. They occasionally consume algae and seaweed. They are classified as Vulnerable — IUCN Red List.

49. Consider the following statements:

- 1. GST Council is a joint forum for the Centre and the States.
- 2. Prime Minister is the Chairman of the GST Council.
- 3. The GST Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on the important issues related to GST.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

GST Council is a joint forum for the Centre and the States. The Union Finance Minister will be the Chairperson of the GST Council. Article 279A (4) specifies that the Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on the important issues related to GST, such as whether the goods and services will be subject or exempted from the Goods and Services Tax.

50. Which of the following ancient dance forms finds place in 'MachupalliKaifiat'?

- a. Bharatanatyam
- b. Kathakali
- c. Kuchipudi
- d. Odissi

Answer: c

Explanation:

MachupalliKaifiat, dated 1506 AD, records a performance of Kuchipudibhagavatulu in the presence of King Veeranarasimharayalu. Written by traveller McKenzie, the document describes how Kuchipudi artistes observed the torture of people by the chieftain of their village for extracting taxes from them.

51. Consider the following statements with respect to Inner Line Permit (ILP):

- 1. ILP is issued by the central government.
- 2. ILP is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states.
- 3. ILP can solely be issued for travel purposes.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It can be issued for travel purposes solely. The ILP is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states. An ILP is issued by the state government concerned.

52. An economy is said to be experiencing 'stagflation' when:

- 1. Economic growth stagnates or slows down.
- 2. General prices in the economy rise.
- 3. General prices in the economy fall.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Stagflation is a condition of slow economic growth and relatively high unemployment, or economic stagnation, accompanied by rising prices, or inflation. It can also be defined as inflation and a decline in the gross domestic product (GDP).

53. Which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Indian states of Assam and Mizoram are the only two states with which Tripura shares a border.
- 2. Tripura was a part of an independent princely state under the protectorate of the British Empire which joined the independent India in 1949.



Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Tripura is a state in north eastern India. It is bordered by Bangladesh to the north, south, and west, and the Indian states of Assam and Mizoram to the east.

54. Which of the following statements are wrong?

- 1. Article 371 appears in Part XXI of the Constitution, titled 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions'.
- 2. Article 371 was part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26 1950.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Articles 370 and 371 were part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950; Articles 371A through 371J were incorporated subsequently.
- Articles 371(A-J) were incorporated through amendments under Article 368, which lays down the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor.
- Article 371 deals with the case of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Article 371 of the Constitution, accords "special provisions" for 11 states, including six states of the Northeast.
- Articles 369 through 392 (including some that have been removed) appear in Part XXI of the Constitution, titled 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions'. Article 370 deals with 'Temporary Provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir'; Articles 371, 371A, 371B, 371C, 371D, 371E, 371F, 371G, 371H, and 371J define special provisions with regard to another state (or states).

55. Which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are regulated only by the RBI.
- 2. Deposits in UCBs are not covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Unlike commercial banks, Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are only partly regulated by the RBI. While their banking operations are regulated by the RBI, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control, and lending norms, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government.
- In the event UCBs fail, deposits with them are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India up to a sum of Rs.1 lakh per depositor, the same as for a commercial bank.

56. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The accessible India Campaign was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. Accessible India Campaign envisages improvements in built Environment Accessibility, Transportation System Accessibility and Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

57. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The National Ganga Council was constituted in 2016 to oversee the cleaning of the Ganga.
2. One of the Chief Ministers of the States through which the Ganga flows becomes the Chairman of the national Ganga council on a rotational basis.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga is an authority created in October 2016 under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, dissolving the National Ganga River Basin Authority. In this backdrop, National Ganga Council has been established as an authority and National Mission for Clean Ganga has been also converted into an authority.

The National Ganga Council will be overall responsible for the superintendence, direction, development and control of River Ganga and the entire River Basin (including financial and administrative matters) for the protection, prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in River Ganga and its rejuvenation to its natural and pristine condition and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water in the River Ganga and for matters connected therewith.

National Ganga Council works under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India.

58. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Train 18, is an Indigenous semi-high speed
2. It is an engine-less train consisting of electric self-propelling multiple units.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, is an Indian semi-high speed intercity electric multiple unit. It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative over a span of 18 months.

It does not consist of a separate engine coach but consists of electric self-propelling multiple units.

59. Which of the following statements are wrong?

1. Mahanadi basin stretches over the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha only
2. The Hirakud dam is built across the Mahanadi.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The catchment area of the basin extends over major parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The Mahanadi was notorious for its devastating floods for much of recorded history. Thus it was called 'the sorrow of Orissa'. However the construction of the Hirakud Dam has greatly altered the situation.

Mahanadi River passes through the Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha.

The major tributaries of Mahanadi include the Seonath, Ib, Hasdeo, Ong and Jonk.

60. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Inner line Permit system is applicable only to the three states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram.
2. The Protected area permit is required for the Non-Indians to visit Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Inner Line Permit (ILP) system:

Originally the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram had the ILP system. Recently Manipur too has come under the ILP system.

An ILP is required for certain parts of the Leh district in Jammu and Kashmir like Nubra valley, Khardung La, Pangong Tso, Tso Moriri, etc.

Protected Area Permit (PAP):

The Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958 states that a Protected Area Permit (PAP) is required for non-Indian citizens to visit certain areas in India.

Areas under PAP include All of Sikkim, Parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

Restricted Area Permit (RAP):

The Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order 1963 states that a Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is required for non-Indians to visit certain areas in India.

RAP is required for all visits to the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and parts of the state of Sikkim.

61. Which of the following pairs of martial arts and associated states is wrongly matched?

- a. Mukna: Bihar
- b. HuyenLanglon: Manipur

- c. Silambam: Tamil Nadu
- d. PaikaAkhada: Odisha

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Mukna is a form of folk wrestling from the north-east Indian state of Manipur. It is popular in Imphal, Thoubal and Bishnupur. The game is generally played on the last day of the Lai Haraoba festival and is an intrinsic part of the ceremonial functions.
- HuyenLanglon is an Indian martial art from Manipur. In the Meitei language, huyen means war while langlon or langlong can mean net, knowledge or art. HuyenLanglon consists of two main components: thang-ta (armed combat) and saritsarak (unarmed fighting). The primary weapons of HuyenLanglon are thang (sword) and ta (spear).
- Silambam is a weapon-based martial art of India, more specifically from Tamilakam in the Indian subcontinent.
- Paikaakhada is a martial art found in Odisha.

62. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. Citizenship is listed under the union list of the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. Article 256 of the Constitution states that the executive power of every State shall be so exercised as to ensure compliance with the laws made by Parliament.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Part XI of the Constitution, which governs the relationship between the Centre and the states, says categorically that states are bound to implement the laws passed by Parliament.
- Article 256 of the Constitution makes it a state's obligation to ensure compliance with central laws.
- Article 249 empowers Parliament to make laws even on state subjects in the national interest.
- Under Articles 251 and 254, the Centre is to prevail over the states in the event of any inconsistency between central and state legislations.
- The governor can recommend President's rule under Article 356, advising that the state cannot be run in keeping with the Constitution's provisions.

63. Which of the following is wrongly matched?

- a. Araku Valley Arabica coffee: Andhra Pradesh
- b. Kani shawl: Jammu and Kashmir
- c. Muga silk: Assam
- d. Toda embroidery: Madhya Pradesh

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Toda embroidery is associated with Tamil Nadu. The Toda embroidery, also locally known as "pukhoor", is an artwork among the Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. It is made exclusively by women.

64. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act is applicable only for the biological mothers and not those who are adopting a child.

2. The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act makes crèche facility mandatory for every establishment employing 10 or more employees.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a 'maternity benefit' – i.e. full paid absence from work – to take care for her child. The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more employees.
- The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act has increased the duration of paid maternity leave available for women employees from the existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- Maternity leave of 12 weeks is to be available to mothers adopting a child below the age of three months from the date of adoption as well as to the "commissioning mothers". The commissioning mother has been defined as a biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo planted in any other woman.
- The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act makes crèche facility mandatory for every establishment employing 50 or more employees. Women employees would be permitted to visit the crèche 4 times during the day (including rest intervals).

65. Consider the following statements with respect to the Citizenship Amendment Act:

- 1. The Act gives eligibility for Indian citizenship to illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan.
- 2. The Act does not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Act gives eligibility for Indian citizenship to illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Act does not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

66. Consider the following statements with respect to Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR):

- 1. LiDAR is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances
- 2. Topographic LiDAR typically uses a near-infrared laser to map the land, while bathymetric LiDAR uses water-penetrating green light to measure seafloor and riverbed elevation.
- 3. LiDAR can be used for monitoring pollution.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances to the Earth. LiDAR can be used for monitoring pollution. Topographic LiDAR typically uses a near-infrared laser to map the land, while bathymetric LiDAR uses water-penetrating green light to also measure seafloor and riverbed elevation.

67. Consider the following statements with respect to NIRVIK:

1. The aim of the scheme is to ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters.
  2. The scheme was introduced by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC).
  3. The insurance cover guaranteed under the scheme will cover up to 90 percent of the principal and interest.
- Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) introduced 'NIRVIK' scheme to ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters. Under the new 'NIRVIK' scheme, which is also called the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS), the insurance cover guaranteed will cover up to 90 percent of the principal and interest. The insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.

68. "SURYA KIRAN" is a joint military training exercise between:

- a) India – China
- b) India – Nepal
- c) India – Sri Lanka
- d) India – Bangladesh

Answer: b

Explanation:

Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a bilateral annual military exercise. The joint military training exercise is held between India and Nepal.

69. Consider the following statements:

1. Solar Eclipse can only occur on a Full Moon day.
2. In case of a Solar Eclipse, the Moon passes between Earth and Sun and the Moon's shadow happens to fall upon Earth's surface.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three celestial bodies are aligned. A solar eclipse is a phenomenon that happens when the moon comes in the way of the sun's light. The moon's shadow casts itself on Earth, blocking out the sun's light (as seen from Earth).

70. "Red Octagon" recently seen in news is:



- a) A warning symbol employed in packaged foods.
- b) A major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.
- c) An autonomous territory in northwest China that is home to Turkic Uyghur people.
- d) None of the above.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Red Octagon is a warning symbol employed in packaged foods in Chile and Peru. It has a number and the name of the food component within that indicates how widely off the RDA a particular ingredient is. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has concluded that, in India, all of the popular snacks and fast foods should display a 'Red Octagon' on the front of the pack.

71. Consider the following statements with respect to Maternal Mortality:

- 1. Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.
- 2. Maternal mortality ratio is calculated per 10,000 live births.
- 3. India has seen a declining trend of Maternal Mortality Rate since the year 2007.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. Maternal mortality ratio is calculated per 100,000 live births. India has seen a declining trend of Maternal Mortality Rate since the year 2007.

In India, the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) is used to get an estimate of the maternal mortality rate. Given below is the MMR in India as per the Sample Registration System:

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in India	
Year	MMR
2004-2006	254
2007-2009	212
2010-2012	178
2011-2013	167
2014-2016	130
2015-2017	122

72. Consider the following statements with respect to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR):

- 1. It is a multilateral export control regime.
- 2. It seeks to encourage the proliferation of missiles and missile technology.

3. India is a member of MTCR.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is a multilateral export control regime. It is an informal political understanding among 35 member states that seeks to limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology. India has become the 35th member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016. The MTCR membership will enable India to buy high-end missile technology.

73. Consider the following statements:

- 1. There is no time limit for the President to respond to a mercy petition.
- 2. The mercy petition is not subject to Judicial Review.
- 3. In India, the authority to decide on mercy petitions rests with the President and the Governor.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- There is no maximum time-limit within which a mercy petition has to be decided.
- The mercy petition is subject to Judicial Review.
- In India, the authority to decide on mercy petitions rests with the President and the Governor.

74. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Bangladesh shares 57 trans-boundary rivers with India.
- 2. Bangladesh is surrounded on three sides by India.
- 3. The country has a gigantic delta formed by the alluvial deposits of the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

There are more than 300 rivers in Bangladesh of which 57 are trans-boundary Rivers. Out of the 57 Trans boundary rivers, 54 are common with India and remaining 3 with Myanmar. The country is surrounded on three sides by India. It has a gigantic delta formed by the alluvial deposits of the three rivers: the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna.

75. Consider the following:

- 1. Remission: Reduction of punishment without changing the nature of the punishment.
- 2. Pardon: Completely absolving the person of the crime and letting him/her go free.
- 3. Commute: Reduction in the type of punishment into a less harsh one.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

76. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

- 1. It hears appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT).
- 2. It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.
- 3. It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013.

- It hears appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June 2016.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

77. Consider the following statements with respect to National Population Register (NPR):

- 1. NPR is a register of permanent residents of the country.
- 2. Under the provisions of NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals only over the age of 18.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The database would contain demographic as well as biometric particulars.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.

- Definition: A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.
- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18. This will be a chip-embedded smart card containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual. The UID number will also be printed on the card.

78. "Operation Twist" refers to:

- a. The name given to the monetary policy operation that involves the purchase and sale of bonds.
- b. The operation by the Military of India that led to the capture of Goa, Daman and Diu and Anjediva Islands.
- c. The operation of the Indian Armed Forces to capture the Siachen Glacier in the Kashmir region.
- d. None of the above.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Operation Twist is the name given to the monetary policy operation that involves the purchase and sale of bonds. On a review of the current liquidity and market situation and an assessment of the evolving financial conditions, the Reserve Bank has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for Rs. 10,000 crore each.

79. Consider the following statements with respect to Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA):

1. It provides a legal framework for the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India.
2. It is one of the four foundational agreements that a country needs to sign to become a major defence partner of the United States.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

COMCASA is one of the four foundational agreements that guide US high technology cooperation in the defence sector with other countries. COMCASA is meant to facilitate the use of high-end secured communication equipment to be installed on military platforms being sold to India by the US to fully exploit their potential. It essentially provides a legal framework for the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India that will facilitate interoperability between armed forces of both countries and potentially with other militaries that use US-origin systems for secure data links. Interoperability, in this case, means that there will be access to encrypted and secret technologies or communications.

80. Consider the following statements with respect to INDRA 2019:

1. INDRA 2019 is a joint tri-services exercise between India and Russia.
2. INDRA exercise began as a single service exercise

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

INDRA 2019 is a joint tri-services exercise between India and Russia. The INDRA series of exercise began in 2003. It was conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries. However, the first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.

81. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a Central Armed Police Force in India.
2. CISF is directly under the Union Ministry of Defence.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- CISF was set up under an Act of the Parliament of India on 10 March 1969. CISF was subsequently made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of the Parliament passed on 15 June 1983.
- CISF is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and not the Ministry of Defence.
- The CISF provides security cover to 300 industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India.
- Industrial sectors like atomic power plants, space installations, mines, oil fields and refineries, major ports, heavy engineering, steel plants, barrages, fertiliser units, airports and hydroelectric/thermal power plants owned and controlled by Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and currency note presses producing Indian currency are protected by CISF.
- CISF also provides consultancy services to private industries as well as other organisations within the Indian government.

82. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The INS Arihant and INS Varsha are the two nuclear-powered submarines currently in service with the Navy.
2. Sagarika is a nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile.

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Arihant-class submarines are nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project. They will be the first nuclear submarines designed and built by India.
- INS Arihant is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines. The vessel is classified as a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine by India. The submarines are powered by a pressurised water reactor with highly enriched uranium fuel. The Arihant class is armed with nuclear capable missiles and is critical to India's second strike capability.
- INS Arighat is the second Arihant-class submarine. It is the second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine being built by India.
- INS Varsha is a new naval base being developed under Project Varsha for the Indian Navy. This base will be the home of the navy's new fleet of nuclear submarines and ships. It was planned to be located within a radius of approximately 200 kilometres (124.27 statute miles) from Visakhapatnam, the headquarters of the navy's Eastern Naval Command.
- The INS Arihant and Chakra – on lease from Russia – are the two nuclear-powered submarines currently in service with the Navy.

- Sagarika also known by the code names K-15 or B-05, is a nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile with a range of 750 kilometres (466 mi). It belongs to the K Missile family and forms a part of India's nuclear triad, and will provide retaliatory nuclear strike capability.

83. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides legal immunity to juveniles under 18 years of age in all cases.
  2. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 does not deal with adoption and associated issues.
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 replaces the Indian juvenile delinquency law, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and allows for juveniles in conflict with Law in the age group of 16–18, involved in Heinous Offences, to be tried as adults. The crime will be examined by the Juvenile Justice Board to ascertain if the crime was committed as a 'child' or an 'adult'.
- The Act also sought to create a universally accessible adoption law for India, overtaking the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956) (applicable to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs) and the Guardians and Wards Act (1890) (applicable to Muslims), though not replacing them.
- A separate chapter on Adoption provides detailed provisions relating to adoption and punishments for non-compliance. Processes have been streamlined with timelines for both in-country and inter-country adoption including declaring a child legally free for adoption.
- To streamline adoption procedures for orphan, abandoned and surrendered children, the existing Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been given the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively.

84. Which of the following constitute the Foreign Reserves of India?

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold held with Bank of International settlements
3. Reserve Tranche Position with World Bank
4. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with International Monetary Fund

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Foreign reserves of India consists of below four categories (in decreasing proportion):
  - Foreign Currency Assets
  - Gold (The RBI holds around 618 tonnes of gold, of which around 325 tonnes are held abroad with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements.)
  - Reserve Tranche Position with IMF
  - Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with IMF

85. Which of the following are not correctly matched?

- a) Paithani: Uttar Pradesh
- b) Ilkalsaree: Karnataka
- c) Balaramapuramsaree: Kerala



d) Pochampallikat: Telangana

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Paithani is a variety of sari, named after the Paithantown in Aurangabad Maharashtra state where they are woven by hand. Made from very fine silk, it is considered as one of the most expensive saris in India.
- Paithan formerly Pratiṣṭhāna, is a town with municipal council in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India. Paithan is located on the Godavari River. It was the capital of the Satavahana dynasty, which ruled from the second century BCE to the second century CE. It is one of the few inland towns mentioned in the famous first-century Greek book, the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea.

86. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Chiru is a medium-sized bovid native to the Tibetan plateau.
2. They are hunted for their underfur, known as shahtoosh.
3. It is classified as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Tibetan antelope or chiru is a medium-sized bovid native to the Tibetan plateau.
- In 1980s and 1990s, they had become endangered due to massive illegal poaching. They are hunted for their extremely soft, light and warm underfur which is usually obtained after death. This underfur, known as shahtoosh (a Persian word meaning “king of fine wools”), is used to weave luxury shawls.
- In September 2016, Tibetan antelope has been reclassified on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list from Endangered to Near Threatened due to the increased population.

87. Which of these statements are wrong?

1. The International Criminal Court has jurisdiction to prosecute nations for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression.
2. India has signed the Rome statute of the ICC.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The ICC has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. An ICC investigation could possibly lead to charges against individuals. States cannot be charged by the ICC.
- The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force. The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty that serves as the ICC’s foundational and governing document.
- The states parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court are those sovereign states that have ratified or have otherwise become a party to, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- The ICC can prosecute only those individuals for war crimes who are nationals of states parties or who have committed the alleged crime in the territory of states parties.

- India is among the 41 nations which have neither signed nor acceded to the Statute.

88. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has been established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
2. The judgment from the NCLAT cannot be challenged in the Supreme Court of India.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- As part of a comprehensive revamp of the adjudication of corporate law disputes, the NCLAT was constituted with effect from June 1, 2016, for hearing appeals against the orders of the NCLT, which, in turn, simultaneously replaced the erstwhile Company Law Board.
- Constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013, the appellate tribunal was conceived as the dedicated appeals forum for resolving corporate law disputes and speeding up the resolution by taking over the role hitherto played by overburdened High Courts in adjudicating such appeals.
- Besides deciding on prayers against the NCLT's rulings, including in matters relating to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the NCLAT also serves as the appellate body for those aggrieved by decisions made by the Competition Commission of India or orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Sections 202 and 211 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- The NCLAT's verdicts can, in turn, be challenged on a question of law in the Supreme Court, within a 60-day window.

89. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Monetary policy committee (MPC) comprises of six members – three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
2. The external members will hold office for a period of five years from the date of appointment.
3. The MPC considers the core inflation as the basis for inflation targeting.

Options:

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

SEE

Answer

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The external members will hold office for a period of four years from the date of appointment while the other three members are official.
- The current mandate of the committee is to maintain 4% annual inflation until 31 March 2021 with an upper tolerance of 6% and a lower tolerance of 2%. The term of the present committee will end in 2021.
- The MPC considers the headline inflation as the basis for inflation targeting.

90. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an initiative of the G20.
2. India and Pakistan are members of the FATF.

Options:

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.
- India is a member of the FATF while Pakistan is not. Pakistan is a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on money laundering, which is an associate member of the FATF.
- The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (also known as the APG) is the FATF style regional body for the Asia-Pacific region. It is an inter-governmental (international) organization founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand. India is a member of it.

91. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. HunarHaat is a programme organized by the Ministry of Art and Culture.
2. HunarHaat is organized under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- HunarHaat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities.
- It is organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- It has proved effective in providing employment opportunities to more than 2 lakh 50 thousand artisans and craftsmen in the last three years.
- HunarHaat is organized under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.
- The USTTAD scheme aims at preserving & promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities. These crafts have gradually lost their employability in the light of globalization & competitive market.

92. Which of the following constitute the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?

1. Bandipur National Park
2. Nagarhole National Park
3. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Silent Valley National Park
4. Periyar National Park
5. Mathikettan Shola National Park

Options:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 2, 5 and 6
- d) 4, 5 and 6

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is an International Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hill ranges of South India. The Nilgiri Sub-Cluster is a part of the Western Ghats, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012. It includes the Aralam, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Silent Valley national parks, as well as the Wayanad and Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuaries.
- Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary (PNP) is a protected area in the district of Idukki, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta in Kerala, India. It is notable as an elephant reserve and a tiger reserve.
- Mathikettan Shola National Park is a 12.82 km<sup>2</sup> national park in Idukki district of Kerala state, South India.

93. Consider the following statements:

1. The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an economic union of countries located in Central and Northern Asia and Eastern Europe.

2. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Syria are the member states of EAEU.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) currently comprises 5 member states, which are party to the founding treaties of the EEU and thereby subject to the privileges and obligations of membership. Syria is not a member.

94. Consider the following statements:

1. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) is a Constitutional category.

2. A sub-category of Primitive tribal group was created on the recommendations of the Dhebar Commission.

3. 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

PVTG is not a Constitutional category. It is a government of India classification created with the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development. A sub-category of Primitive tribal group was created on the recommendations of the Dhebar Commission. 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.

95. Consider the following statements with respect to Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile:

1. It is a single-staged missile that uses solid-fuel propellant.

2. It has a range of 250 – 300 km.

3. It is equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The QRSAM weapon system, which operates on the move, comprises fully automated command and control, active array battery multifunction radar and launcher.
- Both the radars are four-walled having 360-degree coverage with search on move and track on move capability.
- This missile is an all-weather, all-terrain surface-to-air missile equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars.
- The missile can be mounted on a truck and is stored in a canister.
- QRSAM uses solid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km.
- The single-staged missile utilized by the system is propelled using solid propellants.
- The missile is equipped with a midcourse inertial navigation system with a two-way data link and a DRDO-developed terminal active seeker.
- The system has the capability to search and track targets while moving.
- QRSAM is a compact weapon system and is mobile.

96. Consider the following statements with respect to National Investigation Agency (NIA):

1. NIA acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
2. It investigates and prosecutes on offences on atomic and nuclear facilities in the country.
3. The officers of the NIA have the same powers as other police officers in relation to the investigation of such offences, across India.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

NIA acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. It investigates and prosecutes on offences on atomic and nuclear facilities in the country. The officers of the NIA have the same powers as other police officers in relation to the investigation of such offences, across India. The officers of the NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.

97. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Defence Acquisition Council is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff.
2. The Defence Acquisition Council includes the National security adviser.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- An overarching structure, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the Defence Minister was constituted for overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process. The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- The National security adviser is not a member of the DAC. NSA heads the Defence Planning Committee.

98. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Atal Bhujal Yojana?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It is a pan India scheme.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- 'Atal Bhujal Yojana' is a scheme aimed at improving groundwater management through community participation in seven states.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana will help improve groundwater level in 78 districts, more than 8,300 villages in the states of Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. The scheme will pay special attention to those areas where groundwater is very low.
- The scheme, also known as 'Atal Jal', will promote panchayat-led groundwater management and behavioural change with a primary focus on demand-side management.
- It is a central sector scheme to be implemented over a period of five years (2020-21 to 2024-25).

99. Which of the following is wrongly matched?

- a. Hojagiri: Tripura
- b. Yakshagana: Karnataka
- c. Rauf: Jammu and Kashmir
- d. Cheraw: Manipur

Answer: d

Explanation:

Cheraw dance is a traditional cultural dance performed in Mizoram, India, consisting of mostly six to eight people holding pairs of bamboo staves on another horizontally placed bamboo on the ground.

The male performers then clap the bamboos rhythmically while groups of female dancers dance in intricate steps between the beating bamboos.

100. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution?

1. It prescribes regular elections every five years and election within 9 months of the dissolution of any PRI.
2. To ensure free, fair, and timely elections there is a provision for the setting up of state election commission.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The 73rd Amendment prescribes regular elections every five years and election within six months of the dissolution of any PRI.
- To ensure free, fair, and timely elections there is a provision for the setting up of state election commission.
- The most revolutionary provision is the reservation of one-third of the seats for women in local bodies, along with reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their regional populations.



101. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a non-UN, inter-governmental body.
2. In 2004, the FAO adopted the Right to Food Guidelines, offering guidance to states on how to implement their obligations on the right to food.
3. The FAO is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the UN. In 2004, it adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of national food security, also known as the Right to Food Guidelines. Its objective is to guide states to implement the right to food. It is not legally binding, but it directed the states to oblige to their commitment under international law, by implementing access to food as a legal right.

102. The World Investment Report is published by –

- a. IMF
- b. World Bank
- c. UNCTAD
- d. World Economic Forum

Answer: c

Explanation:

The World Investment Report has been published annually since 1991 by UNCTAD. Each year's report covers the latest trends in foreign direct investment around the world and analyses in depth one selected topic related to foreign direct investment and development.

103. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Satavahana dynasty was based in the Deccan region.
2. They formed a cultural bridge and played a vital role in trade and the transfer of ideas and culture to and from the Indo-Gangetic Plain to the southern tip of India.

Options:

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

Answer: c

104. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Atal Bhujal Yojana is focussed on promoting panchayat-led groundwater management and behavioural change at the community level.
2. It is funded entirely by the World Bank.

Options:

- a. 1 only

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Atal Bhujal Yojana is jointly funded by the World Bank and the Central government through regular budgetary support.

105. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Burkina Faso is a West African country that faces the Atlantic Ocean.
2. Formerly, Burkina Faso was a colony of France.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Burkina Faso is a landlocked West African state and was a colony of France.

106. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Global Competitiveness Index- World Economic Forum
2. Human Capital Index- World Bank
3. World Economic Outlook- IMF
4. Global Hunger Index- WHO
5. Gender Inequality Index- UNDP

Options:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Global Hunger Index report, jointly published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

107. Incirlik Air Base is in which country?

- a. Djibouti
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Turkey
- d. Indonesia

SEE

Answer

Ans: c

Explanation:



108. India is not a party to which of the following Pacts?

1. Rome Statute
2. Refugee Convention 1951
3. Australia Group
4. Wassenaar Arrangement

Options:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Rome Statute or the International Criminal Court Statute is an agreement that led to the formation of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- The Australia Group is an informal arrangement which aims to allow exporting or transshipping countries to minimise the risk of assisting chemical and biological weapon (CBW) proliferation.
- The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) is an elite club of countries which subscribe to arms export controls, similar to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime.
  - The goal of the Arrangement is to “promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies”.
  - Participants are required to “ensure that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which undermine the goal”.
  - The aim, according to WA, is also to prevent the acquisition of these items by terrorists.

109. Which of the following is/are the protected areas within Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?

1. Bandipur-Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
2. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Options:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve falls under the biogeographic region of the Malabar rain forest.
- The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley are the protected areas present within this reserve.

110. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (IRWD Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted under Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
2. River water use is included in the Union list of the 7th schedule of the Indian constitution.

Options:

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

SEE

Answer

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (IRWD Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted under Article 262 of Constitution of India on the eve of reorganization of states on linguistic basis to resolve the water disputes that would arise in the use, control and distribution of an interstate river or river valley.
- Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides a role for the Central government in adjudicating conflicts surrounding inter-state rivers that arise among the state/regional governments.
- River waters use / harnessing is included in states jurisdiction (entry 17 of state list, Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution). However, union government can make laws on regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys when expedient in the public interest (entry 56 of union list, Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution).

111. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 mandates that compensation payable to a State shall be provisionally calculated and released at the end of every two months during the transition period of 10 years.
2. The projected nominal growth rate of revenue assumed for a state during the transition period shall be the average for the state over the previous five years.

Options:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- As per provisions in Section 7 of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 loss of revenue to the States on account of implementation of Goods and Services Tax shall be payable during transition period and compensation payable to a State shall be provisionally calculated and released at the end of every two months during transition period of 5 years.
- As per Section 4 of the said Act, the financial year 2015-16 has been taken as the base year for calculating compensation amount payable to States for loss of revenue during the transition period. The projected nominal growth rate of revenue assumed for a state during the transition period shall be 14% per annum.

- As per section 7(c) of the said Act, the total compensation payable in any financial year shall be the difference between the projected revenue for any financial year and the actual revenue collected by a State.
- A GST Compensation Cess could be charged on the supply of particular commodities and services, and the receipts from said cess shall be deposited to a GST Compensation Fund.

112. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would act as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
2. The CDS will be a part of the Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee.

Options:

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), will function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and also as the Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
- The CDS will also be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the Defence Minister.
- The CDS will be a member of the Defence Planning Committee chaired by the NSA.

113. Which of the following are incorrectly matched?

- a. Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary: Madhya Pradesh
- b. Kuno National park: Uttar Pradesh
- c. Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary: Maharashtra
- d. Mitilaya Wildlife Sanctuary: Gujarat

Ans: b

Explanation:

Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary: Madhya Pradesh

114. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The National Nutrition Mission is under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The Mission aims to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children in the age group of 0-6 years only.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri MatruVandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD, JananiSuraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), etc.
- The goals of NNM are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner during the three years 2017-18.
- The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.

- NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. Although the target to reduce Stunting is at least 2% p.a., the Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

115. Which one of the following best describes the term “Merchant Discount Rate”?

- a. The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.
- b. The incentive given by the Government to customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions when purchasing goods or services.
- c. The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank’s debit cards.
- d. The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.

Answer: c

Explanation:

MDR is the fee that the store accepting the customer’s card has to pay to the bank when the customer swipes it for payments. The MDR compensates the bank issuing the card, the bank which puts up the swiping machine (Point-of-Sale or PoS terminal) and network providers such as MasterCard or Visa for their services. MDR charges are usually shared in a pre-agreed proportion between them.

116. Which of the following best describes the term “eBkay”?

- a. It is an e-auction platform to enable online auction of attached assets by banks.
- b. It is a platform for providing online loans for businesses in the textile sector.
- c. It is a platform for the government to receive quotations from the MSMEs for its mandatory procurement policy.
- d. It is an interactive platform for guiding startups in the food processing sector.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Indian Banks Auctions Mortgaged Properties Information (IBAPI) portal is an initiative of the Indian Banks’ Association under the policy of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance to provide a platform to provide details of mortgaged properties to be auctioned online by banks, starting with PSBs.
- eBkay, an e-auction platform to enable online auction of attached assets by banks has been recently launched.
- The eBkay platform provides navigational links to all PSB e-auction sites, property search feature and presents single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction, comparison of similar properties, and also contains videos and photographs of the uploaded properties.
- This will enable online auction by banks of attached assets transparently and cleanly for the improved realisation of value.

117. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. Presently, the DICGC offers an insurance coverage of upto ₹2 lakh on the deposits.
3. The deposit insurance facility is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

Options:

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

Answer: b



Explanation:

- Presently, the DICGC offers an insurance coverage of upto 1 lakh on the deposits.
- The DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as savings, fixed, current and recurring, but not deposits of foreign governments and of central/State governments, deposits of State Land Development Banks with the State co-operative banks, inter-bank deposits, deposits received outside India and those specifically exempted by the Corporation with the prior approval of the banking regulator.

118. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The QutubMinar was built in honour of the first emperor of the slave dynasty, QutubuddinAibak.
2. The Alai Darwaza was built by AlauddinKhilji.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The QutubMinar was built in honour of the Sufi saint HazratQutubuddinBakhtiar Kaki by the first emperor of the slave dynasty, QutubuddinAibak.
- The Alai Darwaza has a special significance in Indo-Islamic architecture as it is the first Indian monument to be built using Islamic methods of construction and ornamentation and is a World Heritage Site.

119. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The SanthalParganas Tenancy Act, 1876 prohibits the sale of Adivasi land to non-Adivasis in SanthalPargana region.
2. BirsaMunda's struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the SanthalParganas Tenancy Act, 1876.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

BirsaMunda's struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908 which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals. BirsaMunda was not associated with the Santhal rebellion.

120. Which of the following best describes Project 75?

- a. Production of indigenous submarines
- b. Increasing the average speed of freight trains in India by 75 % by 2022
- c. Increasing the immunization cover to 75% by 2020
- d. Production of indigenous air-to-air missile system

Answer: a

Explanation:

Project 75 of the Indian Navy involves the construction of six conventional submarines in collaboration with the selected manufacturer.

121. Bandhavgarh National Park is located in?

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Chhattisgarh
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Jharkhand

Answer: c

Explanation:

Bandhavgarh National Park is one of the national parks of India, located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968 and then became a Tiger Reserve in 1993.

This park has a large biodiversity. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh (8 tigers per square km) is one of the highest known in India.

122. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the state of forest report 2019?

- 1. The country's forest cover has increased.
- 2. The forest cover within the Recorded Forest Area has decreased.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The country's forest cover has increased by 3,976 square kilometres. This marks an increase of 0.12%.

The forest cover within the Recorded Forest Area (area officially classified by States or the Centre as 'forest') showed a 330 sq. km decrease, but 'forest' outside such a recorded area increased by 4,306 sq. km.

123. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the state of forest report 2019?

- 1. The sharpest decline in the forest cover was recorded in the northeaster states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram.
- 2. Among the states, Mizoram has the highest proportion of land under forest cover.

Options:

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

Answer: c

124. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The SDG index is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- 2. The SDG index considers all the indicators mentioned by the UN under the SDG goals.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The SDG index is released by the NITI Aayog.
- The SDG index considers only 100 out of the total 232 indicators mentioned by the UN under the SDG goals.

125. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. According to the Disturbed Areas Act, 1976, once declared 'disturbed', the area has to maintain status quo for a minimum of 6 months.
2. An area can be declared disturbed area only by the Ministry of Home affairs.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 is an act of the Parliament of India that grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces. It grants the armed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". According to the Disturbed Areas Act, 1976 once declared 'disturbed', the area has to maintain status quo for a minimum of 3 months.
- The notification declaring Manipur and Assam as 'Disturbed Areas' had been issued by the State governments. For Nagaland, the notification was issued by the MHA.
- It is the prerogative of the state government to call for central help in case of exigencies. The Act of 1972 extends the power to declare areas as being disturbed to the central government as well.