

February 2020 Monthly Magazine Answer Key

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

1. The centre's gross fiscal deficit as a share of GDP has continuously decreased in the past five years.
2. The GDP growth rate for India has continuously decreased in the past five years.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The year 2016 witnessed an increase in the growth rate of the GDP compared to 2015. Thereafter, there has been a continuous decrease in the growth rates.

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

1. The responsibility of declaring a disease outbreak as a global health emergency lies with the Director-General of the World Health Organization.
2. The previous declaration of the public health emergency by the WHO was in regard to the SARS outbreak.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The WHO declares a Public Health Emergency of International Concern when there is "an extraordinary event which is determined... to constitute a public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease".
- It has previously declared five global public health emergencies:
- Swine flu, 2009 – The H1N1 virus spread across the world in 2009.
- Polio, 2014 – Although closer than ever to eradication in 2012, polio numbers rose in 2013.
- Zika, 2016 – The WHO declared Zika a public health emergency in 2016 after the disease spread rapidly through the Americas.
- Ebola, 2014 and 2019 – The first emergency over the virus lasted from August 2014 to March 2016 as almost 30,000 people were infected and more than 11,000 died in West Africa. A second emergency was declared in 2019 as an outbreak spread in Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

1. Endosulfan is an organochlorine insecticide and pesticide.
2. It is part of the negotiations under the Stockholm convention on persistent organic chemicals.
3. The Supreme Court of India has ordered a ban on the production and sale of Endosulfan in India.

Options:

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

d. 1,2 and 3

Answer: d

4. Which of the following do not form part of the eight core industries in the Indian context:

- a. Electricity
- b. Fertilizer
- c. Textiles
- d. Natural gas

Answer: c

Explanation:

Eight Core Industries are Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers. The Index of Eight Core Industries is a monthly production index, which is also considered as a lead indicator of the monthly industrial performance

5. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Article 110 of the Indian constitution, provides for the presentation of the annual financial statement in both houses of the parliament.
2. Though both the Houses of Parliament discuss the Budget, only the Lok Sabha's Concurrence is needed for the passage of the budget.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Article 112 of the Indian constitution, provides for the presentation of the annual financial statement in both houses of the parliament.

6. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Current Account Deficit as a percentage of the Forex reserves of India has continuously decreased over the past five years.
2. Self-employed labour constitutes the highest proportion of the Labour work force in India.

Options:

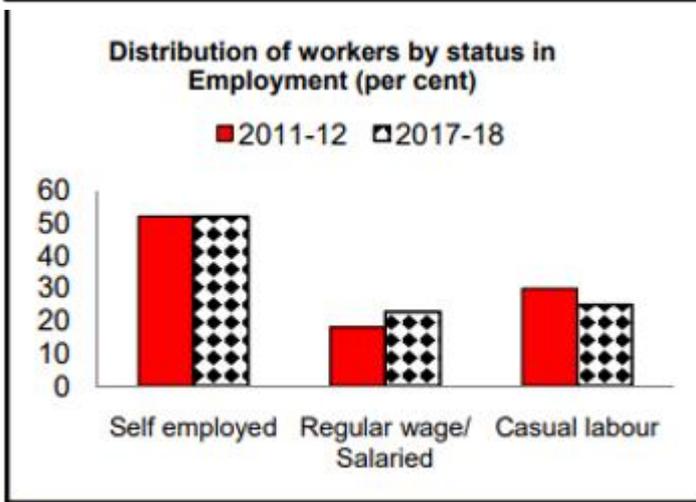
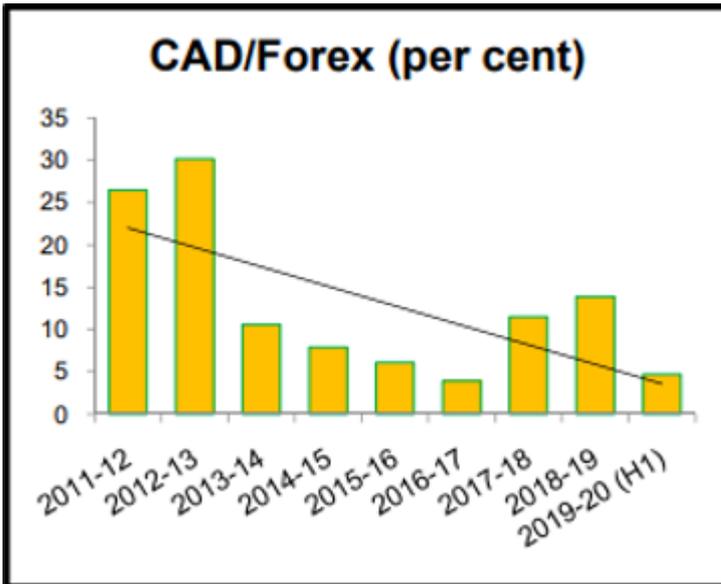
- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Current Account Deficit as a percentage of the Forex reserves of India has decreased compared to previous five years, but the decrease has not been continuously.

Data from budget document.



7. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Union budget of 2020-21?

1. Corporation Tax constitutes the highest share of the incoming money for the central government
2. Interest payments constitute the highest share of the outgoing money for the central government

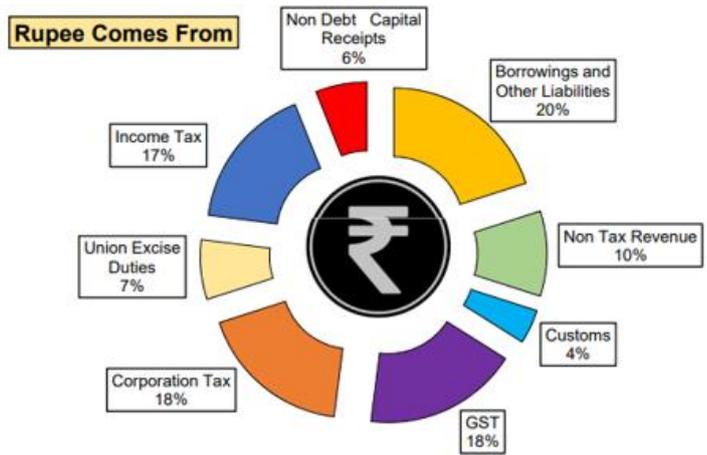
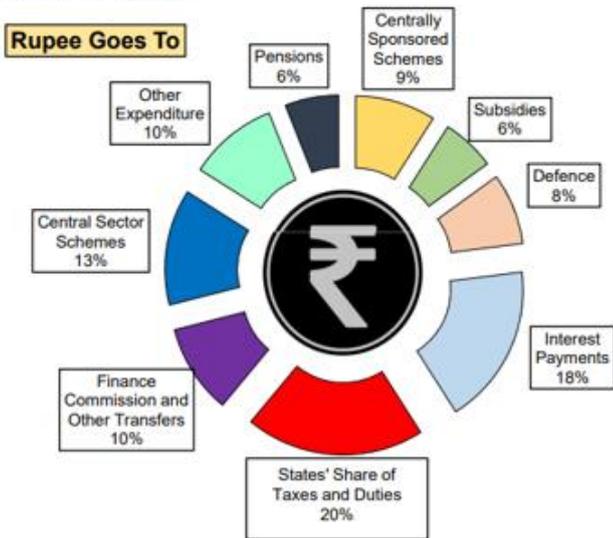
Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Data from the Budget document.



- Borrowings and liabilities constitute the highest share of incoming money for the government.
- States' share of taxes and duties constitute the highest share of outgoing money for the central government.

8. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. "Kisan Rail" scheme envisages the creation of a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables.
2. The NIRVIK Scheme deals with the export sector.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Indian Railways will set up Kisan Rail through Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Kisan Rail would ensure that perishable goods are transported quickly.
- NIRVIK (NiryatRinVikasYojana) scheme strives to provide enhanced insurance cover and reduced premium for small exporters and simplified procedures for claim settlements.

9. Which of the following is wrongly paired?

State: State Bird

- a. Arunachal Pradesh: Great Hornbill
- b. Gujarat: Greater Flamingo
- c. Goa: Indian Roller
- d. Rajasthan: Great Indian Bustard

Answer: c

Explanation:

Goa: Flame throated bulbul

Indian roller is the state bird of Karnataka, Telangana and Odisha.

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

1. Bandipur National Park comprises primarily of deciduous forests.
2. Bandipur National Park is flanked by the Kabini river and the Moyar river.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Bandipur National Park, established in 1974 as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger, is a national park located in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- Along with the adjacent Nagarhole National Park, it is one of the premier Tiger Reserves in the country.
- Bandipur has a typical tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. The dry and hot period usually begins in early March and can last till the arrival of the monsoon rains in June.
- The park's dominant biomes include dry deciduous forests, moist deciduous forests and shrublands.
- The park is flanked by the Kabini River in the north and the Moyar river in the south. The Nugu River runs through the park.

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

1. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
2. FCI is involved in the procurement of wheat and rice only.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Food Corporation of India is an organization created and run by the Government of India and also run by state Governments. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.
- Food Corporation of India recently ventured into the procurement of pulses in various regions from the crop year 2015–16, and pulses are procured at market rate, which is a sharp deviation from its traditional minimum support price-based procurement system.

12. Which of the following is wrongly matched?

- a. Rakhigarhi: Haryana
- b. Shivsagar: Assam
- c. Adichanallur: Kerala
- d. Hastinapur: Uttar Pradesh

Answer: c

Explanation:

Rakhigarhi in Haryana, Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Shivsagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu will be developed as iconic sites with national museums.

13. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the national infrastructure pipeline?

1. It is the investment plan for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of ten years from 2020-30.
2. The funding for it will be jointly made by the Centre and states only.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- National Infrastructure Pipeline is the investment plan unveiled by the Central Government for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of five years from 2020-25.
- The Rs 102 lakh crore (\$1.4 trillion) National Infrastructure Pipeline will spend in the infrastructure sector over a five-year period (2020-25). The plan will help India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.
- The funding of the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be jointly made by the Centre, states and the private sector in the proportion of 39:39:22 (39 % each by the centre and states and 22% by the private sector).

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

1. Defence industrial corridors have been proposed in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
2. According to data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India is the largest arms importer for the period between 2014-2018.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Government has set up defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
 - Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor involves the cities of Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot and Jhansi.
 - Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor involves the cities of Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli.
- India was the world's second-largest arms importer from 2014-18, ceding the long-held tag as the largest importer to Saudi Arabia.

15. The Operation Vanilla of the Indian Navy is associated with which of the following?

- a. Madagascar
- b. Reunion island
- c. Mauritius
- d. Seychelles

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Indian Navy had launched the 'Operation Vanilla' to assist the population of Madagascar affected by Cyclone Diane. Vanilla Islands is an affiliation of the island nations Seychelles, Madagascar, Réunion, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte in the Indian Ocean to form a new travel destination brand.

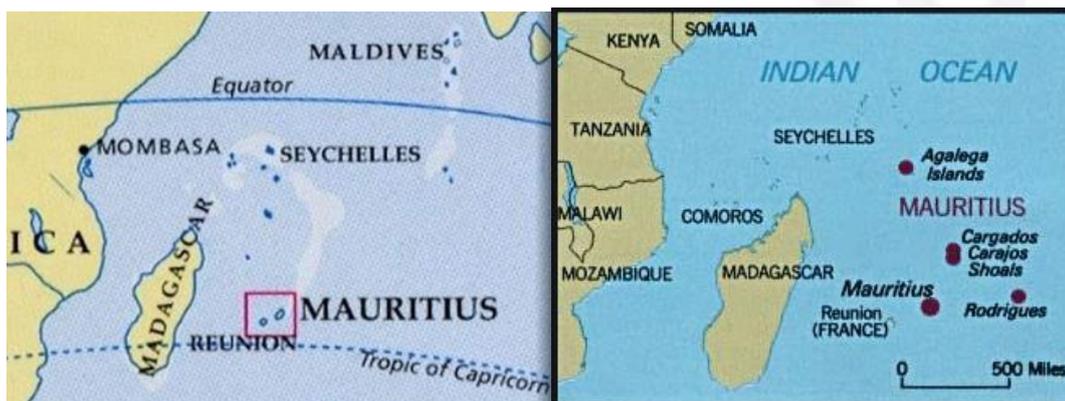
16. Arrange the following islands starting with the closest to the equator and moving towards the farthest to the equator:

1. Seychelles
2. Comoros
3. Reunion island
4. Mauritius

Options:

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

Answer: a



17. Consider the following statements:

1. Designation of a place as UNESCO World Heritage Site provides prima facie evidence that such a site is legally protected pursuant to the Law of War, under the Geneva Convention.
2. The latest addition to the UNESCO World Heritage Site from India was Jaipur.
3. There are 38 places in India, designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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: d

Explanation:

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as of special cultural or physical significance.
- UNESCO designation as a World Heritage Site provides prima facie evidence that such culturally sensitive sites are legally protected pursuant to the Law of War, under the Geneva Convention, its articles, protocols and customs,

together with other treaties including the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and international law.

- In July 2019, Jaipur was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites from India. With this, India got its 38th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - The capital city of Jaipur, included in the list of world heritage sites, was founded in 1727 by the then Kachwaha Rajput ruler of Amber, Sawai Jai Singh II.
 - The city was established on the plains and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture.
- India has 38 world heritage sites that include 30 Cultural heritage sites, 7 Natural sites and 1 mixed site.

18. "Amrabad Tiger Reserve" is located in:

- a. Andhra Pradesh
- b. Telangana
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Karnataka

Answer: b

Explanation:

Amrabad Tiger Reserve was earlier a part of the 'Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)' but post-bifurcation of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the northern part of the reserve is vested with Telangana state and is renamed as 'Amrabad Tiger Reserve'. The southern portion continues to be 'NSTR' and is with Andhra Pradesh.

19. Which of the following is/are the service/s covered under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)?

- 1. Supplementary nutrition to children below 14 years of age.
- 2. Supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- 3. Pre-school non-formal education.
- 4. Health check-up for pregnant and lactating mothers.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme, supplementary nutrition is provided only to children below 6 years of age.

The objectives of ICDS are sought to be achieved through a package of services comprising:

- Supplementary nutrition
- Immunization
- Health check-up
- Referral services
- Pre-school non-formal education
- Nutrition & health education

20. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the anti-defection provisions, when the question of disqualification of a member on account of defection arises, the decision of the Speaker or the Chairman of the House is final.
2. A member who is disqualified for being a member of that House under the 10th Schedule shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a Minister until the time he is re-elected as a member of the house.
3. Under the anti-defection provisions, no court shall have any jurisdiction with respect to the matter connected with the disqualification of a member of a House under the 10th Schedule.

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 only

Answer:

Option d

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Judicial Intervention:

- The 10th Schedule bars any court from having any jurisdiction in respect of matters connected with the disqualification of a member of a House under the Schedule.
- Further, Articles 122 and 212 expressly prevent the intervention of courts in the proceedings of Parliament and State Legislature.
 - The doctrine of Basic Structure, as declared in the KesavanandaBharati vs. State of Kerala consequently include bar of formal jurisdiction related to Articles 122 and 212.
 - However, the power of the Supreme Court and the High Courts with respect to issuing writs, as given by Articles 32 and 226, remain applicable.
 - In Chandra Kumar vs. Union of India, the Supreme Court held that if any provision of any law takes away the writ jurisdiction of any court, it will be deemed as a violation of the basic structure of the Constitution.

In the KihotoHollohan vs. Zachillhu and Others verdict, Supreme Court laid down a balance between the judiciary's intervention and the level of autonomy and discretion of speaker with respect to disqualification on the ground of defection:

- The law initially stated that the decision of the Presiding Officer is not subject to judicial review.
- This condition was struck down by the Supreme Court and allowed appeals in the Supreme Court and High Courts against the Presiding Officer's decision.
- However, it held that there may not be any judicial intervention until the Presiding Officer gives his order.
- In 2015, the Hyderabad High Court refused to intervene after hearing a petition which alleged that there had been a delay by the Telangana Assembly Speaker in acting against a member under the anti-defection law.

21. Consider the following statements:

1. India joined the exclusive group of submarine constructing nations with the commissioning of the first French origin Scorpene-class submarines, in 2018.
2. INS Kalvari is the first of the French origin Scorpene-class submarines built indigenously.

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:

India joined the exclusive group of submarine constructing nations in 1992, with the commissioning of the first Indian built submarine, INS Shalki. (Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd). The first Scorpene, Kalvari, was commissioned in 2018. The second Scorpene Khanderi was inducted in September 2019.

22. Consider the following statements with respect to River Beas:

1. It originates near the Rohtang Pass, on the southern end of the PirPanjal Range.
2. River Beas meets River Satluj at Harike in Punjab.
3. Under the Indus Water Treaty, Pakistan has control over the water flowing in River Beas.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Only the first two statements are correct. Under the Indus Water Treaty, India has control over the water flowing in the eastern rivers– Beas, Ravi and Sutlej. Pakistan has control over the western rivers– Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

23. Consider the following statements with respect to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):

1. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) are securities that can be traded on stock exchanges.
2. The money collected under Real estate investment trusts is deployed in income-generating real estate only.
3. India has only four listed REITs.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Real estate investment trusts (REITs) are securities linked to real estate that can be traded on stock exchanges once they get listed. The money collected under Real estate investment trusts is deployed in income-generating real estate only. This income gets distributed among the unitholders. India has just one REIT listed in April 2019, which has attracted investments from both domestic investors and global institutional investors.

24. Consider the following statements with respect to Brihadishvara Temple:

1. The Temple is located at the South bank of River Kaveri in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.
2. The construction of this temple was inaugurated by the Chola King, Rajaraja I.
3. It is also known as “Dakshina Meru” in the inscriptions.

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 only

Answer: d

Explanation:

All three statements are correct

25. Consider the following statements with respect to Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):

- 1. CRR is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee.
- 2. CRR is a monetary policy tool used for controlling the money supply in the economy.
- 3. If the Cash Reserve Ratio is low, the liquidity with the bank increases.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Cash Reserve Ratio or CRR is the minimum amount as specified by the Central Bank, to be maintained by the Commercial banks of the public deposits with the Central Bank. CRR is an essential monetary policy tool used for controlling the money supply in the economy, a regulation implemented in almost every nation by the Central Bank of that country. Cash Reserve Ratio in India is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the periodic Monetary and Credit Policy. If the CRR is low, the liquidity with the bank increases which in turn goes into investment and lending and vice-versa.

26. Consider the following statements with respect to "Bandar Abbas Port":

- 1. It is located in Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- 2. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port.

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: c

Explanation:

Bandar Abbas Port is on the southern coast of Iran, on the Persian Gulf.

Chabahar port serves as Iran's only oceanic port.



27. Which of the following is/are NOT correct?

1. Disguised Unemployment: lesser people employed than actually needed.
2. Structural Unemployment: unemployment arising from the mismatch between the jobs available in the market and the skills of the available workers in the market.
3. Cyclical Unemployment: loss of jobs or unemployment occurring due to changes in technology.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Disguised employment is a phenomenon wherein more people are employed than actually needed. Cyclical employment is the result of the business cycle, where unemployment rises during recessions and declines with economic growth. Technological unemployment occurs due to changes in technology.

28. Which of the following Central Asian Countries border the Caspian Sea?

1. Uzbekistan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Turkmenistan
4. Kazakhstan

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer:

Option c

Explanation:



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

1. M-STRIPES is a software- based monitoring system launched by The National Tiger Conservation Authority.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- M-STRIPES, short for Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status is a software-based monitoring system launched across Indian tiger reserves by the Indian government’s National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 2010.
- The system’s objective is to strengthen patrolling and surveillance of the Endangered Bengal tiger.
- The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 was amended in 2006 to provide for constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger plan to protect endangered tigers.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests.

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

1. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (1957) is applicable to all minerals except minor minerals and atomic minerals.
2. Mining of minor minerals comes under the purview of the State Governments.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (1957) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to regulate the mining sector in India. It was amended in 2015 and 2016. This act forms the basic framework of mining regulation in India. It details the process and conditions for acquiring a mining and prospecting licence in India.
- This act is applicable to all mineral except minor minerals and atomic minerals. Mining minor minerals come under the purview of State Governments.

31. Which of the following is not a part of the artillery unit of the Indian Army?

- a. Sharang
- b. K9- Vajra
- c. Dhanush
- d. Rustom

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Sharang, is the first 130mm M-46 artillery gun upgraded to 155mm for the Indian Army.
- K9 Vajra-T is the self-propelled artillery gun.
- The 155mm Dhanush towed gun system, developed based on the Bofors guns, is under induction into the Indian army.
- The DRDO Rustom is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance unmanned air vehicle(UAV) being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation for the three services, Indian Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force of the Indian Armed Forces.

32. Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara is held in which of the following states?

- a. Telangana
- b. Andhra Pradesh
- c. Karnataka
- d. Chattisgarh

Answer: a

Explanation:

SammakkaSaralammaJatara or MedaramJatara is a festival of honouring the Hindu tribal goddesses, celebrated in the state of Telangana. This Jatara is known for witnessing one of the largest people gatherings in the world.

33. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Thiruvalluvar commonly known as Valluvar, was a celebrated Tamil poet- saint and philosopher.
2. Thiruvalluvar is the author of Thirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Thiruvalluvar is best known as the author of Thirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love. The text is considered an exceptional and widely cherished work of the Tamil literature.
- Valluvar has influenced a wide range of scholars down the ages since his time across the ethical, social, political, economic, religious, philosophical, and spiritual spheres.

34. With reference to LokAdalats, consider the following statements:

1. An award made by a LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and no appeal can be made against it before any court.
2. It has statutory backing through the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
3. It is in line with the constitutional mandate of Article 39-A of the Constitution of India.
4. Code of Civil Procedure and Indian Evidence Act are applicable to the proceedings of LokAdalat.

Which of the following statements are wrong?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The advent of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 gave a statutory status to LokAdalats keeping in spirit of Article 39-A of the Constitution of India.
- It is an Act to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize LokAdalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity.
- Code of Civil Procedure and Indian Evidence Act are not applicable to the proceedings of LokAdalat.

35. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) was set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).
2. The key aims of INI are to optimize nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production and minimize nitrogen's negative effects on human health and environment resulting from food and energy production.

Options:

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

Answer: c

36. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Cotton is offered Minimum Support Price in India.
2. India is the largest producer of cotton in the world.
3. India is the 2nd largest exporter of cotton in the world

Options:

- a. 1, 2, 3

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- To support the cotton industry, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic staples groups viz., medium staple and long staple cotton. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Textiles, is the nodal agency of Government of India for undertaking MSP operations in the event of prevailing seed cotton (kapas) price touching the MSP level.
- India is currently the largest producer of cotton in the world followed by China.
- India is currently the second largest exporter of cotton in the world after the U.S.

37. Van Vihar National Park is located in which of the following states?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Van Vihar National Park is located in Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh in central India. It was declared a national park in 1979.
- Though it has the status of a national park, it is developed and managed as a modern zoological park, following the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority.
- Animals are kept in near-natural habitats. Most animals are either orphaned and brought from various parts of the state or are exchanged from other zoos. No animal is deliberately captured from the forest.

38. Which of the following pairs of crop and the largest producing state is wrongly matched?

- a. Cotton: Maharashtra
- b. Coffee: Karnataka
- c. Jute: West Bengal
- d. Pulses: Madhya Pradesh

Answer: a

Explanation:

Cotton: Gujarat

39. Which of the following is/are not considered under the Accessible Indian Campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment?

1. Built environment accessibility
2. Education system accessibility
3. Transportation system accessibility
4. Financial system accessibility
5. Information and communication eco-system accessibility

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Accessible India Campaign was launched in December 2015, to make public offices, transport, and websites accessible to persons with disabilities (PwD) by March 2020.
- It includes targets for
 - Built environment accessibility
 - Transportation system accessibility
 - Information and communication eco-system accessibility

40. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to River Cauvery?

1. It has its origin in Kodagu, Karnataka.
2. Its tributaries include the Harangi, Kabini, Noyyal and Arkavati.
3. The Shivanasamudra Falls is located on the river Cauvery.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Cauvery River flows through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. It is the third-largest river, after Godavari and Krishna in South India.
- Its tributaries include the Harangi, Hemavati, Kabini, Bhavani, LakshmanaTirtha, Noyyal and Arkavati.
- The river basin covers three states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

41. "ChinduBhagavatam" is widely performed in which of these states?

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Odisha
- c. Karnataka
- d. Telangana

Answer: d

Explanation:

Chindu Bhagavatham is an art form, widely performed in the Nizamabad district of Telangana. Chindu is derived from the artistes' caste – Chindu Madiga – a sub-caste of Madiga among the Scheduled Caste community. The Chindu Bhagavatam is also called Chindu Yakshaganam, as it is similar to Yakshaganam (a traditional theatre art form of Karnataka).

42. Consider the following statements with respect to the Great Indian Bustard:

1. The great Indian bustard is omnivorous.
2. These birds are often found associated in the same habitat as the blackbuck.

3. It is included in the "Schedule I" of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

4. It is classified as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The great Indian bustard is omnivorous. These birds are often found associated in the same habitat as the blackbuck. It is included in the "Schedule I" of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It is classified as "Critically Endangered" in the IUCN Red List.

43. Consider the following statements with respect to Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS):

- 1. CMS is the only global, and United Nations-based, intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species.
- 2. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- 3. India, in 2019, became a Party to the CMS.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

CMS is the only global, and United Nations-based, intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species. In order to protect the migratory species throughout their range countries, a Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), has been in force, under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention. India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983.

44. Consider the following statements with respect to Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):

- 1. CRR is the proportion of deposits that a bank has to park with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in cash.
- 2. Banks do not earn any interest for maintaining CRR with the RBI.

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:

CRR is the proportion of deposits that a bank has to park with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in cash. Banks do not earn any interest for maintaining CRR with the RBI. The higher the CRR, the lower is the liquidity with the banks and vice-versa.

45. Consider the following statements with respect to River Kaveri/Cauvery:

1. Cauvery river basin covers the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
2. It originates in the foothills of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.
3. Hemavati, Shimsha and Arkavati are its right-bank tributaries.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Cauvery river basin covers the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The river originates in the foothills of Western Ghats at Talakaveri, Kodagu in Karnataka and flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and across the southern Deccan plateau through the South Eastern lowlands. The Harangi, the Hemavati, the Shimsha and the Arkavati are its left bank tributaries. Lakshmantirtha, the Kabbani, the Suvarnavati, the Bhavani, the Noyil and the Amaravati are the right bank tributaries.

46. Parivara, Talwara and Siddi are Scheduled Tribes from which state?

- a. Chhattisgarh
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Karnataka
- d. Telangana

Answer: c

Explanation:

Parivara, Talwara and Siddi are Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.

47. Consider the following statements with respect to Privilege Motion:

1. Privilege Motions are handled in a joint sitting with the Speaker presiding the sitting and deciding the matter.
2. Privilege Motion can be passed by any parliamentarian against anyone accused of breaching parliamentarians' privileges.
3. Privilege Motion does not involve arrests of the guilty but just the suspension or fining.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

A committee of 15 members is elected by the Speaker in the Lok Sabha and a committee of 10 members is elected by the Chairperson at the Rajya Sabha. These committees are responsible for managing all the cases and accusations related to the privilege motion and take relevant actions. Privilege Motion can be passed by any parliamentarian against anyone

accused of breaching parliamentarians' privileges. Privilege motion does not involve arrests of the guilty but just the suspension or fining.

48. Consider the following statements:

1. The first specification of Scheduled Tribes in relation to a particular State/Union Territory is by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the State governments concerned.
2. These orders can be modified through an Act of Parliament only.
3. No community has been specified as a scheduled tribe in relation to the state of Punjab.

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:

All the statements are correct.

49. Consider the following statements:

1. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established on the initiative of the G20.
2. Pakistan is a member of the FATF and had earlier been placed on the FATF black list.
3. Grey Listing by FATF invites economic sanctions from various international agencies including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the like.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established on the initiative of the G7 for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. Pakistan is not a member of the FATF but had earlier been placed in the FATF black list. Being on FATF grey list means restrictions in international trade, strict monitoring of export and less investment from outside. Blacklisting by FATF invites economic sanctions from various international agencies including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the like.

50. Consider the following statements with respect to Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS):

1. BEPS refers to corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to shift profits from one jurisdiction to another.
2. The BEPS Project is a project by the International Monetary Fund to set up an international framework to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises using BEPS tools.

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:

Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to “shift” profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax jurisdictions, thus “eroding” the “tax-base” of the higher-tax jurisdictions. The BEPS Project is a project by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to set up an international framework to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises using base erosion and profit shifting tools. The project, led by the OECD’s Committee on Fiscal Affairs, began in 2013 with OECD and G20 countries, in the context of financial crisis and tax affairs.

51. Which of the following items are included under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955?

- 1. Drugs
- 2. Pulses and edible oils
- 3. Petroleum and Petroleum products
- 4. Fertilisers

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The ECA was enacted in 1955. The act provides for the control of production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce in any farm good deemed “essential” and “in the interest of the general public”. The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products. The Centre under the Act has the power to include and delete commodities as and when the need arises.

52. Consider the following statements with respect to “Yara Virus”:

- 1. The virus was discovered from Lake Pampulha in Brazil.
- 2. Yaravirus does not infect human cells but infects amoeba.

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 Yaravirus was discovered from Lake Pampulha, an artificial lake in the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte. It is named after Yara – or lara, a water-queen figure in Brazilian mythology. The Yaravirus infects amoeba. The virus does not infect human cells, according to the researchers.

53. Consider the following statements with respect to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

1. ICDS provides primary healthcare to children less than 6 years of age and their mothers.
2. Under the programme, Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) is given to the children (6 months – 6 years) and pregnant women but not lactating mothers.
3. Among the objectives of ICDS is to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout.

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: b

Explanation:

ICDS provides primary healthcare to children less than 6 years of age and their mothers. Under the programme, Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) is given to the children (6 months – 6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers. Among the objectives of ICDS is to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout.

54. Consider the following statements with respect to “COVID-19” recently seen in news:

1. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is caused by a coronavirus.
2. “COVID-19” is a strain of human coronavirus.
3. There are seven identified strains of zoonotic coronaviruses.

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:

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is caused by a coronavirus. There are seven identified strains of zoonotic coronaviruses/human coronaviruses. “COVID-19” is a strain of human coronavirus. “Co” stands for “corona”, “vi” for “virus” and “d” for “disease”, while “19” was for the year, as the outbreak was first identified on December 31, 2019.

There are seven identified strains of zoonotic coronaviruses.

1. Human coronavirus 229E (HCoV-229E)
2. Human coronavirus OC43 (HCoV-OC43)
3. SARS-CoV
4. Human coronavirus NL63 (HCoV-NL63, New Haven coronavirus)
5. Human coronavirus HKU1
6. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)
7. Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) – Wuhan pneumonia or Wuhan coronavirus

55. Consider the following statements:

1. The Generalised System of Preferences by the U.S. is a part of WTO’s Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause.
2. The United States Trade Representative has removed India from the “Developing Countries” list.

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:

- Under the normal trade laws, the WTO members must give equal preferences to trade partners. There should not be any discrimination between countries. This trade rule under the WTO is called the Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause. The MFN instructs non-discrimination or any favorable treatment to a particular country. At the same time, the WTO allows members to give special and differential treatment to developing countries (like zero tariff imports). This is an exemption for MFN. The MSP given by developed countries including the US through Generalised System of Preferences is an exception to MFN.
- The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has published a notice, amending lists of developing and least-developed countries that are eligible for preferential treatment with respect to CVD investigations. India was, until February 2020, on the developing country list and therefore eligible for these more relaxed standards. It has now been taken off of that list.

56. Consider the following statements:

1. Konark Sun Temple located in Odisha is a 13th century temple and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. The temple earlier, called Black Pagoda, is an example of Kalinga architecture.
3. It was built during the reign of the Eastern Ganga King Narasimhadeva-I.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

57. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act requires the government to lay before the parliament, which of the following policy statement/s?

1. Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement
2. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement
3. Macroeconomic Framework Policy Statement
4. Medium Term Expenditure Framework

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 was enacted with a view to provide a legislative framework for the reduction of deficit, and thereby debt, of the Government to sustainable levels over a medium-term so as to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long term macro-economic stability. FRBM Act requires

the government to lay before the parliament four policy statements in each financial year namely, Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement, Macroeconomic Framework Policy Statement and Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

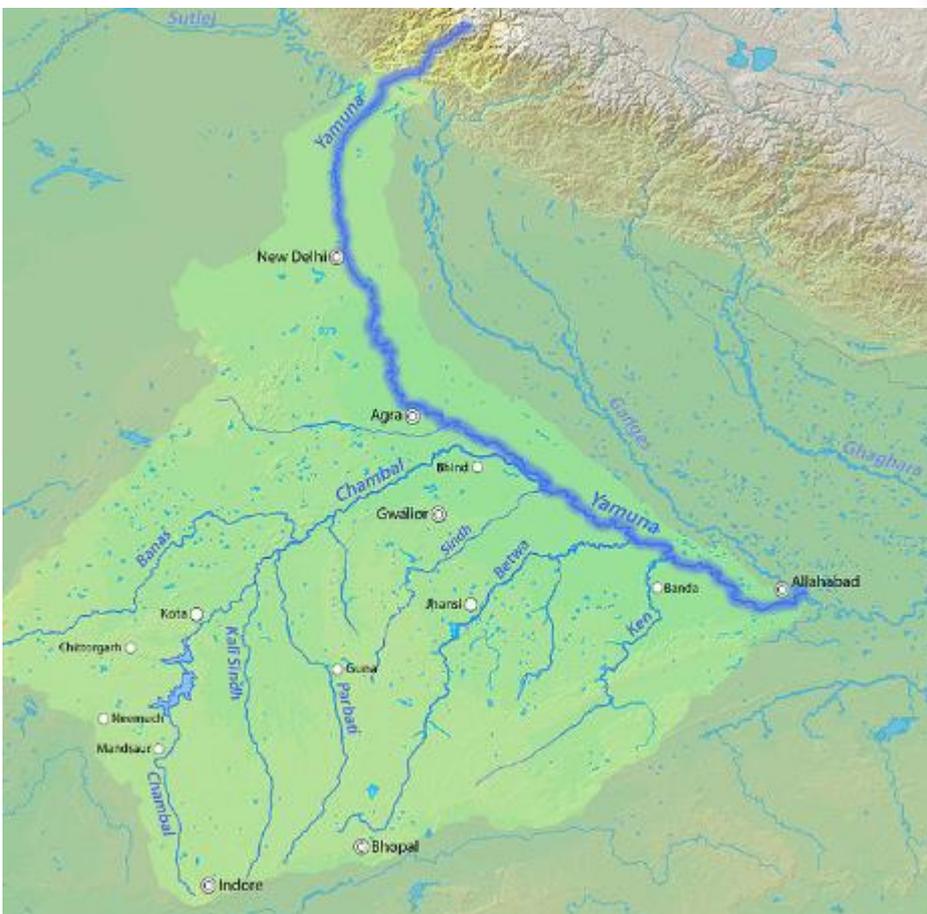
58. Which of the following are the right bank tributaries of Yamuna?

1. Chambal
2. Hindon
3. Betwa
4. Ken
5. Sindh

Options:

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

Ans: b



- Hindon is the left bank tributary of the Yamuna

59. Consider the following statements with respect to the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF):

1. Angel Funds come under the Category 2 Alternative Investment Fund.
2. Mutual funds come under the definition of AIF.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

- Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.
- Category I AIFs: AIFs which invest in start-up or early stage ventures or social ventures or SMEs or infrastructure or other sectors or areas which the government or regulators consider as socially or economically desirable and shall include venture capital funds, SME Funds, social venture funds, infrastructure funds and such other Alternative Investment Funds as may be specified.

“Angel fund” is a sub-category of Venture Capital Fund under Category I Alternative Investment Fund that raises funds from angel investors.

- The definition of AIFs includes venture Capital Fund, hedge funds, private equity funds, commodity funds, Debt Funds, infrastructure funds, etc., while,
- It excludes Mutual funds or collective investment Schemes, family trusts, Employee Stock Option / purchase Schemes, employee welfare trusts or gratuity trusts, ‘holding companies’ within the meaning of Section 4 of the Companies Act, 1956, securitization trusts regulated under a specific regulatory framework, and funds managed by securitization company or reconstruction company which is registered with the RBI under Section 3 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

60. With respect to Competition Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an extra-constitutional body.
2. It will ensure fair and healthy competition in economic activities in the country for faster and inclusive growth.

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

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

Ans: c

61. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an island on the western coast of Africa located in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. It is part of the Spanish archipelago.

The island in discussion is:

- a) Comoros
- b) Reunion
- c) Canary
- d) Cape Verde

Ans: c

Canary Islands



62. Consider the following statements about the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights:

1. It is a statutory body
2. It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005
- It is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

63. Bimal Jalan committee was primarily set up:

- a. To provide Roadmap on Fiscal Consolidation
- b. To review the economic capital framework of the RBI.
- c. To simplify the Income Tax Act, 1961
- d. To suggest changes in rules on market frauds and insider trading

Answer: b

Explanation:

- RBI in consultation with the government had constituted a committee chaired by former RBI governor BimalJalan to review the extant economic capital framework of the RBI.

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

1. A starred question requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
2. An unstarred question requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- A starred question (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- An unstarred question, on the other hand, requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.

Context

- 1,120 unstarred questions asked in RS session.

65. Which of the following rivers flow into the Black sea?

1. Rhine
2. Danube
3. Elbe
4. Dniester
5. Vistula

Options:

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

Answer: c



66. Mukurthi National Park is in which state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Ans: d

Explanation:

Mukurthi National Park

- It is a protected area located in the western corner of the Nilgiris Plateau west of Ootacamund hill station in the northwest corner of Tamil Nadu.
 - It is bordered by Mudumalai National Park and Silent Valley National Park.
 - The park is part of the Nilgiri Bio Reserve.
- Being a part of the Western Ghats, the jungle is heavy with a wide range of animals, birds, reptiles and even insects.
 - The park was created to protect its keystone species, the NilgiriTahr.
- Montane grasslands and shrublands on a high altitude, strong winds, low temperature and sholas scattered around are features of this park.

67. Consider the following statement/s about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

1. PVTGs are less developed among the tribal groups.
2. Currently there are 75 tribals identified under the PVTG classification.
3. They are spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (UT) in the country.
4. Saharia and Asurs are included in the list.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, which are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

There are 75 PVTGs. The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are:

- A pre-agriculture level of technology;
- A stagnant or declining population;
- Extremely low literacy; and
- A subsistence level of economy.

The state governments or UT governments submit proposals to the Central Ministry of Tribal Welfare for identification of PVTGs, which takes the final call on addition to the PVTG list. Currently there are 75 tribals identified under the PVTG classification distributed among 18 states and one union territory.

68. Consider the following statements with respect to National Capital Territory of Delhi:

1. The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Lt. Governor and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Lt. Governor.
2. Delhi and Puducherry are the two union territories to have a Separate High Court.
3. The number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes is regulated by the Election Commission of India.

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

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly, the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, the division of the National Capital Territory into territorial constituencies (including the basis for such division) and all other matters relating to the functioning of the Legislative Assembly shall be regulated by law made by Parliament.
- The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the President and other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- Puducherry does not have a separate high Court, it comes under the jurisdiction of Madras High Court.

69. With reference to Korku Tribe, consider the following statements:

1. Korku language is a member of the Munda language.
2. The Korkus socially consume liquor made from the flowers of the Mahua tree.
3. They are found in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Korku are an Adivasi ethnic group predominantly found in the Khandwa, Burhanpur, Betul and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas near the Melghat Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra.
- They speak the Korku language, which is a member of the Munda languages and is written using Devanagari.
- They are classified as a Scheduled Tribe.
- 'Koru' meaning man and 'ku' for plural gives the meaning 'tribal men'.
- They socially consume liquor made from the flowers of the Mahua tree which is prepared in almost all the houses.

70. Consider the following statements with respect to "Dal Lake":

1. The lake is located in the Zabarwan mountain valley.
2. It is surrounded by Shankaracharya hills on three sides only.
3. It has been declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone.

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

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Known as the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”, Dal lake is located in the Zabarwan mountain valley.
- It is surrounded by Shankaracharya hills on three sides.
- In November 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir government set up a 10-member committee that would declare Dal Lake an Eco-sensitive Zone, following the concerns over its shrinking size. It has still not been declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone.

71. Consider the following statements with respect to Kaziranga National Park:

1. Kaziranga National Park is a declared Tiger Reserve.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Kaziranga National Park situated in Assam, is a UNESCO world heritage site and is known for the Great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros.
- Along with the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, the park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.
- Over time, the tiger population has also increased in Kaziranga, and that’s the reason why Kaziranga was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2006.
- Also, the park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.
- Birds like lesser white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, Baer’s pochard duck and lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black-necked stork, and Asian Openbill stork specially migrate from Central Asia during the winter season.

72. Consider the following statement/s with respect to “SUTRA PIC”, recently innews:

1. It is a programme launched for the conservation and development of indigenous breeds of cows in a scientific manner.
2. It is led by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

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: d

Explanation:

- The government has unveiled SUTRA PIC or Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows – a programme to research on 'indigenous' cows.
- The initiative, SUTRA PIC, is led by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) which is under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The government had launched the Rashtriya Gokul Mission for the conservation and development of indigenous breeds of cows in a focused and scientific manner. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is a focussed project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.

73. Consider the following statements with respect to Rufous-fronted Prinia:

1. The bird is endemic to the Western Ghats.
2. It is classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the given statement/ is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Rufous-fronted Prinia is endemic to the Indian subcontinent. It is found in India and Pakistan.
- The bird is classified as "Least Concern" by the IUCN in its Red List of Threatened Species.
- Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical dry forests.

74. Consider the following statements:

1. Budgetary deficit is the sum of revenue account deficit and capital account deficit.
2. While Fiscal Deficit represents the government's total borrowing including interest payments, Primary Deficit shows the amount of borrowing excluding interest payments.

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:

Budgetary deficit is the sum of revenue account deficit and capital account deficit. Primary Deficit is Fiscal Deficit of the current year minus interest payments on previous borrowings. While Fiscal Deficit represents the government's total borrowing including interest payments, Primary Deficit shows the amount of borrowing excluding interest payments.

75. Selection Committee for the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) includes:

1. The Prime Minister
2. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
3. The Home Minister
4. A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

As per Section 12(3) of the RTI Act 2005, the committee for selection of Chief Information Commissioner shall comprise of:

- (i) The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
- (ii) The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
- (iii) A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

76. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Bodos are the single largest community among the notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam.
- 2. Bodos traditionally practise Buddhism.
- 3. Bodo is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Bodos are the single largest community among the notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam. Part of the larger umbrella of Bodo-Kachari, the Bodos constitute about 5-6% of Assam's population. Bodos traditionally practise Bathouism, which is the worshipping of forefathers, known as Obonglaoree. Bodo is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It is spoken in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and West Bengal.

77. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The President of India appoints the members of the Central Vigilance Commission.
- 2. Central Vigilance Commission is led by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and has five Vigilance Commissioners.
- 3. Matters pertaining to State Governments are not within the powers of the Central Vigilance Commission.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The President of India appoints the members of the Central Vigilance Commission. The Central Vigilance Commission is led by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and has two Vigilance Commissioners. The Commission is empowered to enquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government Companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by Central Government. Matters pertaining to State Governments are not within the powers of the Central Vigilance Commission.

78. "Kambala" is:

- An annual traditional Buffalo Race held in coastal districts of Karnataka.
- A popular bull taming sport held during Pongal typically practised in Tamil Nadu.
- A traditional boat race conducted during the season of the harvest festival in Kerala.
- Assam's traditionally woven piece of cloth with a distinctive red border and floral motifs.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Kambala is a traditional slush track buffalo race that is held annually in coastal districts of Karnataka. The contest generally takes place between two pairs of buffaloes, each pair race in two separate wet rice field tracks, controlled by a whip-lashing farmer.

79. Consider the following statements with respect to Mudumalai National Park:

- Mudumalai National Park is located at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- It is a declared tiger reserve.
- It is contiguous with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve on the North.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Mudumalai National Park is located at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is also a declared tiger reserve, lies on the North-western side of the Nilgiri Hills. It is contiguous with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve on the North.

80. Consider the following statements with respect to Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme:

- The scheme does not cover oilseeds and commercial crops.
- It is a yield guarantee insurance.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Weather-based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) is a unique Weather-based Insurance Product designed to provide insurance protection against losses in crop yield resulting from adverse weather incidences.
- It provides payout against adverse rainfall incidence (both deficit & excess) during Kharif and adverse incidence in weather parameters like frost, heat, relative humidity, un-seasonal rainfall, etc. during Rabi.

- It is not a yield guarantee insurance.
- Major Food crops (Cereals, Millets & Pulses), Oilseeds, Commercial and Horticultural crops are covered under this scheme.

81. Consider the following statements:

1. The Law Commission of India is a Constitutional body.
2. The first Law Commission was formed as a result of the Charter Act of 1853.
3. The first Law Commission was formed under the chairmanship of TB Macaulay.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Law Commission of India is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body, it is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India. Its major function is to work for legal reforms. Law Commissions in India have a pre-independence origin. The first Law Commission was formed in 1834 as a result of the Charter Act, 1833 under the chairmanship of TB Macaulay.

82. Which of the following National Parks is/are a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?

1. Bandipur National Park
2. Mukurthi National Park
3. Silent Valley National Park

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Bandipur National Park (Karnataka), Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley National Park are all a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

83. Consider the following statements with respect to Kalasa-Banduri Nala project:

1. It is a canal project undertaken by Karnataka to divert water from the Malaprabha River to the Mahadayi River.
2. Kalasa and Banduri are two tributaries of River Malaprabha.

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: c

Explanation:

- The Kalasa-Banduri Nala is a project undertaken by the Government of Karnataka to improve drinking water supply to the Districts of Belagavi, Dharwad and Gadag.
- It involves building across Kalasa and Banduri, two tributaries of the Mahadayi river to divert 7.56 TMC of water to the Malaprabha river, which supplies the drinking water needs of the said 3 districts, i.e., Dharwad, Belagavi and Gadag.
- It is a canal project undertaken by Karnataka to divert water from the Mahadayi River to the Malaprabha.

84. Consider the following statements with respect to Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010:

1. All the NGOs or associations intending to receive foreign funds have to compulsorily register under the FCRA.
2. FCRA is monitored by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The registered NGOs are barred from receiving contributions for religious and economic purposes.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Any NGO or association that intends to receive foreign funds has to compulsorily register under the FCRA, monitored by the Union Home Ministry. Under the 2010 Act, registered NGOs can receive foreign contributions for five purposes — social, educational, religious, economic and cultural.

85. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Tent Turtle:

1. Indian Tent Turtle is endemic to India.
2. It is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. It is a herbivorous species and inhabits slow-running rivers and stagnant water bodies.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Indian Tent Turtle (*kachuga tecta tecta*) is a species of turtle that gets its name from its tent-like appearance.
- *Kachugatecta* is found in parts of northern India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, along the plains of Ganga, Indus, and Brahmaputra rivers.
- It is listed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- This omnivorous species inhabits slow-running rivers and stagnant water bodies such as ponds, puddles, tanks, roadside ditches.
- Possession of this species of turtles is strictly prohibited as it a scheduled species as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

86. Article 371 of the Indian Constitution includes special provisions for which of the following states?

1. Maharashtra

2. Karnataka
 3. Tripura
 4. Assam
 5. Manipur
- a. 3, 4 and 5 only
b. 1, 2 and 3 only
c. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
d. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Article 371 of the Constitution includes “special provisions” for 11 states, including six states of the Northeast.
- The Article includes certain provisions for Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh besides Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Karnataka.

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

1. Renewable energy (including large hydro) accounts for almost 36% of India’s total power capacity mix.
2. Cumulative solar installations capacity is higher than the Windpower installations capacity in India.

Options:

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

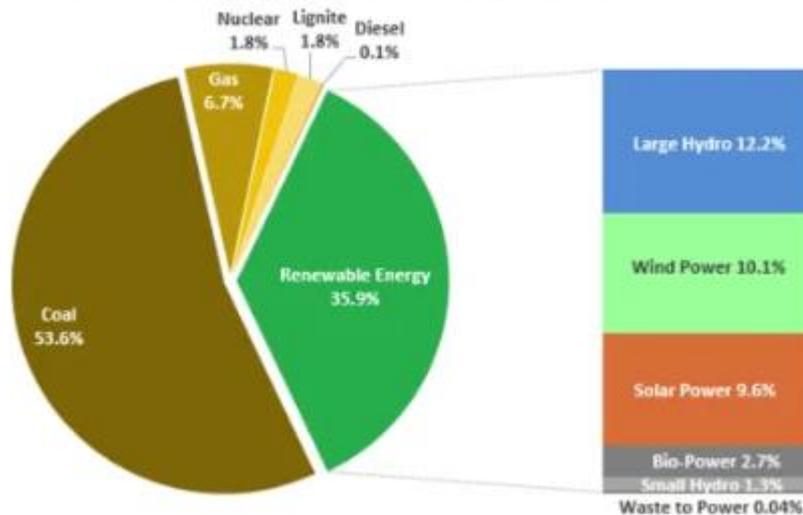
Answer: Option a

Explanation:

- Subsequent to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approval to the proposal put forward by the Ministry of Power to include large hydropower projects over 25 MW under the aegis of renewable energy, Large Hydro Power Projects are Now Officially Categorized under Renewable Energy Sources.
- Renewable energy (including large hydro) accounted for almost 36% of India’s total power capacity mix at the end of the calendar year (CY) 2019, according to data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- The country's total installed power capacity stood at about 371 GW as of December 31, 2019. Of this, renewables (including large hydro) accounted for about 133.2 GW, up from 122.8 GW last year, an 8.5%

Renewables (including Large Hydro) comprise ~35.9% of India's total installed capacity, with solar accounting for ~9.6%. Among renewables, solar accounts for ~26.7% of the installed capacity



rise.

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

- India is the largest producer of tobacco in the world.
- Flue-cured tobacco cultivation is concentrated in the states of Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India.

Options:

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

Answer: Option b

Explanation:

- China is the largest Tobacco producing country in the world.
- Tobacco is one of the major commercial crops grown in India. Various types of tobaccos are cultivated in India for use in tobacco products such as Cigarette, Bidi, Cigar, Cheroot, Hookah, Chewing, and Snuff, etc.
- Flue-cured tobacco cultivation is concentrated in the states of Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India.
- Following are the tobacco varieties grown in different parts of the country:

Types of tobacco cultivated in India

Type	Cultivated States
1. FCV Tobacco	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
2. Bidi Tobacco	Gujarat & Karnataka
3. Cigar & Cheroot	Tamil Nadu & West Bengal
4. Hookah Tobacco	Assam, West Bengal, Bihar & UP
5. Chewing & Snuff	Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam & U.P.

*The data is prior to bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh. Hence, it is important to note that Flue-cured tobacco cultivation is concentrated in the states of Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India.

89. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?

- Currently, North Korea and Iran are the only two countries included in the black list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- Currently, Yemen, Mongolia, and Iceland are among the other nations placed under the grey list of the FATF.

Options:

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

Answer: Option d

Explanation:

Currently, North Korea and Iran are the only two countries included in the black list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Bahamas, Botswana, Cambodia, Ghana, Iceland, Mongolia, Panama, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Yemen and Zimbabwe have been included in the grey list of the FATF.

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

- Madhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have the maximum number of National Parks in India.
- Maharashtra is the state with the largest number of wildlife sanctuaries in India.

Options:

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

Answer: Option c

Explanation:

- There are 96 National Parks and 510 Wildlife Sanctuaries in India.
- Madhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have the maximum number of National Parks (9) while Maharashtra is the state with the maximum number of Wildlife Sanctuaries in India. Andaman and Nicobar has 96 Wildlife sanctuaries.

91. Which of the following statements are correct?

- Yakshagana is practiced predominantly in the coastal regions of Karnataka.
- Yakshagana stories are based only on the Hindu epic of Mahabharata.

Options:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Yakshagana is a traditional Indian theatre form.
- It is believed to be developed in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga and western parts of Chikmagalur districts, in the state of Karnataka and in Kasaragod district in Kerala. This theatre style is mainly found in coastal regions of Karnataka in various forms.
- Yakshagana combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.
- It is believed to have evolved from pre-classical music and theatre during the period of the Bhakti movement.

- Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn. Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other epics from both Hindu and Jain and other ancient Indic traditions.

92. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Kawal Tiger Reserve is situated in Northern Telangana.
2. The predominant vegetation of the Kawal Tiger Reserve includes the deciduous forests of Teak.

Options:

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in the northern part of Telangana.
- The Reserve is one of the richest teak forests in the state of Telangana. Dry deciduous teak forests mixed with bamboo, Terminalia, Pterocarpus, anogeisus, and cassias constitute the predominant flora of the region.

93. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The 2020 edition of the G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors meeting was held in Osaka.
2. The G-20 constitutes only one member nation each from the continents of Africa and South America.

Options:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). Founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, the G20 has expanded its agenda since 2008 and heads of government or heads of state, as well as finance ministers and foreign ministers, have periodically conferred at summits ever since.
- Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union. With UK opting out of the EU, henceforth it might be considered a separate entity in G-20 discussions.
- The 2020 edition of the G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors meeting was held in Riyadh. 2019 summit was held in the city of Osaka.
- The G-20 constitutes only one member nation from Africa (South Africa) and two member nations from South America (Argentina and Brazil).

94. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is also known as the Bonn Convention.
2. India played host to the 13th conference of parties of the Convention on Migratory Species.

3. India hosted the conference of parties of the Convention on Migratory Species for the second time after playing host to the 4th COP in 1994.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, also known as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention, is an international agreement that aims to conserve migratory species within their migratory ranges.
- The Agreement was signed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme and is concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.
- Signed in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, the Convention entered into force in 1983. As of September 2019, there were 129 Member States to the Convention. The depositary is the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The CMS is the only global, and United Nations-based, an intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species.
- India played host to the 13th conference of parties of the Convention on Migratory Species in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This is the first time that India is hosting the conference of parties of the Convention on Migratory Species.

95. Consider the following statements:

- Speaker of Legislative Assembly addresses his resignation to the deputy speaker.
- The Governor decides the salary and allowance of the speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- The Constitution of India does not provide for joint sessions of State Legislatures.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Speaker of Legislative Assembly addresses his resignation to the deputy speaker. The Legislature decides the salary and allowance of the speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The Constitution does not provide for joint sessions of State Legislatures.

96. Consider the following statements with respect Pradhan MantriKisanSamman Nidhi:

- PM-KISAN is a centrally sponsored scheme that provides income support to the farmers and their families.
- The beneficiaries of the scheme receive Rs.6000 per annum per family member, payable in three equal instalments over the year.
- Responsibility of identifying the landholder farmer family eligible for benefit under the scheme is with the State/UT Government.

Which of the above is/are incorrect?

- 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme that provides income support to the farmers and their families. The Scheme is implemented as a Central Sector Scheme with 100% financial support by Central Government.
- The beneficiaries of the scheme receive Rs.6000 per annum, payable in three equal instalments over the year.
- Responsibility of identifying the landholder farmer family eligible for benefit under the scheme is with the State/UT Government.

97. Consider the following statements with respect to Assam:

1. Tripura is the only North-Eastern state that the state of Assam does not share a border with.
2. The state shares international borders with Bangladesh and Bhutan only.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The state of Assam shares its borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal. The state shares international borders with Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Bhutan.

98. Justice Sri Krishna Committee report deals with:

- a. Mobilization of Resources for Major Railway Projects
- b. Data Protection Law
- c. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
- d. None of the above

Answer: b

99. Consider the following statements:

1. Bharat Stage norms are based on European emission norms and were introduced in the year 2017.
2. In BS-IV, petrol and diesel contain 10 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur.
3. India skipped Bharat Stage (BS) V norms.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Bharat Stage norms are based on European emission norms and were introduced in the year 2000. The Bharat Stage IV norms were enforced in the entire country in April 2017. The government, in a move to fight pollution, will implement Bharat Standard (BS)-VI emission norms by April 1, 2020. India skipped Bharat Stage (BS) V norms.

Sulphur content:

- India adopted Euro-III equivalent (or Bharat Stage-III) fuel with a sulphur content of 350 ppm in 2010 and then took seven years to move to BS-IV that had a sulphur content of 50 ppm.
- Transition from BS-IV to BS-VI took just three years.
- In BS-VI, petrol and diesel contain just 10 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur.

100. Consider the following statements with respect to FATF:

1. "FATF grey list" is formally called "High-risk and non-cooperative countries, not committed to an action plan".
2. FATF also addresses the issues related to low tax jurisdiction or tax competition in addition to issues pertaining to the laundering of proceeds of crimes and the financing of terrorism.

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: d

Explanation:

- "FATF black list" is formally called "High-risk and non-cooperative countries, not committed to an action plan".
- "FATF grey list" is formally called "Other monitored jurisdictions".
- The FATF does not address the issues related to low tax jurisdiction or tax competition. The FATF mandate focuses only on the fight against laundering of proceeds of crimes and the financing of terrorism.

101. Consider the following statements with respect to "Masala Bonds":

1. Masala bonds are Rupee denominated domestic bonds.
2. The first Masala bond was issued by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

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

Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees, rather than the local currency. In 2013, the first masala bonds were issued by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of the World Bank. IFC then named them Masala bonds to give a local flavour by calling to mind Indian culture and cuisine.

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

1. Lotus Revolution: Egypt
2. Pearl Revolution: Tunisia
3. Jasmine Revolution: Bahrain

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Lotus Revolution: Egypt
- Pearl Revolution: Bahrain
- Jasmine Revolution: Tunisia

103. Which of the following pairs of the Harappan sites and the respective states is wrongly matched?

- a. Rakhigarhi: Haryana
- b. Alamgirpur: Punjab
- c. Kalibangan: Rajasthan
- d. Surkotada: Gujarat

Answer: b

Explanation:

Alamgirpur: Uttar Pradesh.

104. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. National Technical Textiles Mission focuses on increasing the use of technical textiles in the domestic market and also increasing technical textile exports from India.
2. National Technical Textiles Mission will have a four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- National Technical Textiles Mission envisages positioning India as a global leader in technical textiles and increasing the use of technical textiles in the domestic market.
- The Mission will be implemented for four years from 2020-2021 and will have four components.
 - Research and development and innovation.
 - Promotion and development of the market for technical textiles.
 - Export promotion.
 - Education, training and skill development.

105. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2022.

2. Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing potable water in adequate quantity i.e. 155 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of prescribed quality i.e. BIS Standard of IS: 10500 on regular basis.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.
- Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing potable water in adequate quantity i.e. 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of prescribed quality i.e. BIS Standard of IS: 10500 on regular basis.

106. Which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Biochemical oxygen demand is generally less than Chemical oxygen Demand.
- 2. Higher Biochemical oxygen demand implies lower water pollution.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms to break down bio-degradable matter present in a given water sample at certain temperature over a specific time period.
- Chemical oxygen demand (COD) is the amount of oxygen necessary to oxidize all of the compounds completely to CO₂ and H₂O.
- BOD is generally less than COD as COD oxidizes both organic and inorganic matter.
- Higher Biochemical oxygen demand implies higher water pollution.

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

- 1. Papikonda National Park is located in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. The Polavaram irrigation project once completed will submerge parts of the Papikonda National Park.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Papikonda National Park is located in the Papi Hills in East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and home to some endangered species of flora and fauna.

108. The term MH-60 is associated with:

- a. Novel wheat variety developed by CSIR
- b. Drug being developed for COVID-19
- c. Indigenous UAV
- d. Helicopters for Navy

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Indian Navy has procured 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters at a cost of \$2.6 billion from the US.
- These helicopters would serve as replacements for the Sea King 42/42A helicopters that were already decommissioned in the 1990s. The choppers will operate from frontline ships and aircraft carriers providing them with the critical attributes of flexibility of operation, enhanced surveillance and attacking capability.
- The MH-60 is famously called as 'Romeo' and is known as a helicopter that can hunt submarines deep inside the ocean.

109. 'India Economic Strategy' (IES) is associated with which of the following countries?

- a. Brazil
- b. Australia
- c. The European Union
- d. The United States

Answer: b

Explanation:

The stated aim of the 'India Economic Strategy' (IES) is to expand Australian exports to India from \$14.9 billion in 2017 to around \$45 billion, and outward Australian investment to India from \$10.3 billion to over \$100 billion.

110. Which of the following cities lies closest to the 82.5 degree east longitude?

- a. Lucknow
- b. Raipur
- c. Ranchi
- d. Patna

Answer: b

Explanation:

Raipur lies on the longitude 81.63° E.

111. Which of the following pair of stock indices and stock exchanges are correctly matched?

- 1. Nikkei: Tokyo
- 2. Kospi: South Korea
- 3. FTSE 100: London
- 4. DAX: Frankfurt
- 5. S&P: United states

Options:

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

Answer: d

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

- 1. Article 82 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every census.
- 2. So far, Delimitation Commissions have been set up seven times in India.
- 3. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be questioned before any court or modified by the legislatures.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. Similar provisions are applicable to the states under Article 170.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out in 1950-51. The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952. Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002. There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.
- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.
- In 2008, Delimitation was done based on the 2001 census, but the total number of seats in the Assemblies and Parliament decided as per the 1971 Census was not changed.

113. The term 'Remdesivir' is associated with?

- a. Plant species with high salt tolerance
- b. The oldest fossil of the mammoth recorded in Asia
- c. Anti-viral medication
- d. Fungal species capable of bio-remediation

Answer: c

Explanation:

- 'Remdesivir' is anti-viral medication which was previously tested against Ebola virus and is currently being tried for the treatment of COVID-19.

114. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is compiled and released by the Ministry of Finance.
2. Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is released quarterly.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is compiled and released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is released on a monthly basis.

115. Justice DM Dharmadhikari Committee was appointed to address issues related to:

- a) Interstate Border issues
- b) Sharing of water from River Krishna between the states of Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- c) Resolution of the dispute between Punjab and Haryana with respect to Sutlej
- d) Allocation of power sector employees between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Answer: d

Explanation:

Justice DM Dharmadhikari

- It is a one-man committee appointed by the Supreme Court.
- It is tasked with ensuring fairness in the allocation of power sector employees between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

116. With respect to Namdapha National Park, which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?

1. It is located in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The Namdapha flying squirrel is endemic to the park and its IUCN status is endangered.
3. It lies close to the India-Myanmar border.

Options:

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

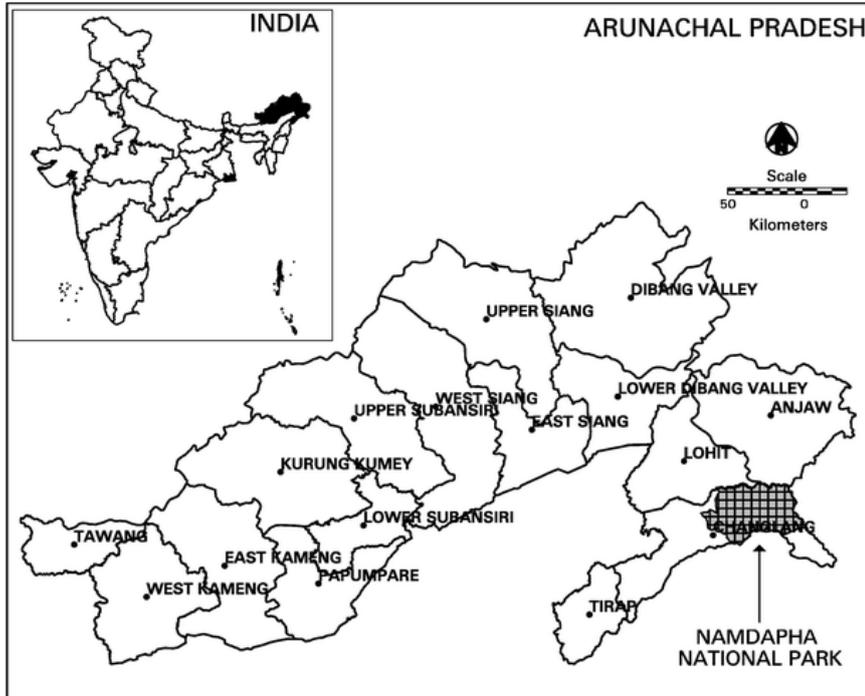
Answer: b

Explanation:

Namdapha National Park

- It is the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot and is located in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The park harbours the northernmost lowland evergreen rainforests in the world.
- The area is also known for extensive Dipterocarp forests.
 - Dipterocarp forests refer to forests in which the dominant species of trees are members of the family Dipterocarpaceae.
- Namdapha and its adjoining areas, are flanked by the Patkai Hills to the south and south-east and by the Himalayas in the north and lies close to the Indo-Myanmar-China tri-junction.

- Namdapha was originally declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1972, then a National Park in 1983 and became a Tiger Reserve under the Project Tiger scheme in the same year.
- Namdapha comprises the catchment of the Noa-Dihing River, a tributary of the River Brahmaputra. The Noa-Dihing originates in the mountains on the India-Myanmar border and flows westwards through the Park before joining the Brahmaputra river in the Assam Valley.
- Namdapha flying squirrel is endemic to the park and its IUCN status is critically endangered.



117. Consider the following statements about the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
2. 'Project Tiger' is a Central sector scheme.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- NTCA was established in 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganized management of Project Tiger.
- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It helps in strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on the appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees.
- 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States.

- Under Central sector schemes, it is 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery.
- Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is by the State Governments.

Objective of the NTCA

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.

Power and Functions of the NTCA

- To approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government;
- Evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves;
- Approve, co-ordinate research and monitoring on tiger, co-predators, prey habitat, related ecological and socio-economic parameters and their evaluation;
- Lay down normative standards for tourism activities and guidelines for Project Tiger from time to time for tiger conservation in the buffer and core area of tiger reserves and ensure their due compliance.

118. Which of the following countries are part of SAARC?

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Myanmar
4. Nepal
5. Bhutan
6. Sri Lanka
7. Thailand

Options:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- b) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- c) 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 only
- d) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only

Answer: d

Explanation:

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

