

## UPSC 2020 General Studies - I

### UPSC Prelims 2020

#### GS Mock Test

1. Consider the following statements regarding the election of the President of India:  
Nominated members of the houses of the parliament cannot vote in the presidential election.  
The value of the vote of the member of a legislative assembly is dependent on the population of the state or union territory.  
The voting is done by an open ballot system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The President is elected by members of the Electoral College consisting of:

- 1. Elected members - both the Houses of Parliament;
- 2. elected members- legislative assemblies of the states; and
- 3. Elected members-legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Statement 1 is correct: Following members do not participate in the election of the President-

- Nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament,
- the nominated members of the legislative assemblies of the States
- The nominated members of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and
- The nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies (Delhi and Puducherry).

Statement 2 is correct:

Every elected member of state legislative assembly shall have as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by the total number of the elected members of the assembly.

Therefore, the value of the vote of the member of a legislative assembly is directly proportional to the population of the state and inversely proportional to the number of elected members of the assembly.

Statement 3 is incorrect:

The President's election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is done by secret ballot system.

2. With reference to the judges of the Supreme Court, consider the following statements:

The procedure relating to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court by the process of impeachment is not mentioned in the constitution.

The Supreme Court judge can be removed from office by a process of impeachment for 'violation of the constitution'.

To be appointed as a Supreme Court judge a person should be a citizen of India and should have completed 35 years of age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The constitution has not mentioned the procedure related to the removal of the judge of the Supreme Court. The procedure is mentioned in the judges enquiry act (1968).

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is the President of India who can be impeached for the 'violation of the constitution'. The judge of the Supreme Court can be removed on two grounds which are —proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. (a) He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or (b) He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or (c) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Organisation of Islamic Cooperation:

1. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.
2. The membership is spread over four continents.
3. India has been an observer state since 1985.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents such as Asia, Europe, Africa, South America. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. OIC safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim so as to promote global harmony and peace.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** India is neither a member nor an observer in this organisation.

4. Which of the following measures were undertaken by Akbar for the benefit of his Hindu subjects?

1. He abolished Jizya
2. He abolished the pilgrim tax
3. He assigned land revenue to Hindu mathas
4. He banned forcible conversion
5. He abolished Ghari and Chari tax

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct:**

- **Jizya, the tax that non-Muslims had to pay was abolished** by Akbar in 1564.
- He also **abolished the pilgrim tax** on bathing at holy places such as Prayag, Banaras etc. in 1563.
- Akbar **granted inam lands to all, irrespective religious faith and beliefs**. This non-discriminatory policy favored his Hindu subjects. Sanads (deeds) of grant to various Hindu mathas made by Akbar are still preserved.
- In 1562, **Akbar banned the forcible conversion of war prisoners**. Akbar gave equal Citizenship status to both Hindus and Muslims. His policy didn't admit political differentiation on the basis of religion.

**Statement 5 is incorrect:** Cattle tax (Chari) and house tax (Ghari) were levied during the reign of Alauddin Khalji. It is not related to Akbar's measures for the benefit of his Hindu subjects.

5. With Reference to Brahmo Samaj, consider the following statements:

1. It promoted the idea of Polytheism.
2. Manorama Mazumdar was the first woman Brahmo preacher.
3. Due to its radical ideas it did not spread beyond Bengal Province.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:** The fundamental principles of the Brahma Samaj, founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1828 are:

1. There is only one God, who is the creator, infinite in power, wisdom, love, justice and holiness, omnipresent, eternal and full of bliss
2. The human soul is responsible to God for its doings. It is immortal and can progress infinitely.
3. Man's happiness in this and the next world consists in worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The long-term agenda of the Brahma Samaj—to purify Hinduism and to preach monotheism—was based on the twin pillars of reason and the Vedas and Upanishads.

**Statement 2 is correct:** In 1881 the Brahma Samaj at Barisal (Bengal) appointed the first woman Brahma preacher (Manorama Mazumdar).

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** With the advent of railways the preachers of the Brahma Samaj could travel afar, and the message of samaj soon spread to the rest of British India from Kolkata. Outside Bengal Presidency the prominent centres of Brahma Samaj activity included Punjab, Sind and Madras Presidencies.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Minister of India:
1. The Prime minister can recommend the dissolution of the Lok Sabha to the President at any time.
  2. The President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime Minister.
  3. He is the chairman of the Central Civil service Board.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:** The Government of the day is headed by The Prime Minister

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Prime Minister is the leader of the Lower House. In this capacity, he enjoys the following powers:

1. President is advised by the PM with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.
2. He can recommend dissolution of the Lok Sabha to the President at any time.
3. He announces government policies on the floor of the House.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

The Prime Minister recommends persons who can be appointed as ministers by the president. The President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime Minister. He allocates and reshuffles various portfolios among the ministers.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

The Prime Minister is not the chairman of the Civil Services Board. The Cabinet Secretary is the chairman of the "Civil Services Board" (CSB). It decides on transfer and postings of bureaucrats.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the union Council of Ministers:

1. The ministers are not individually responsible to the parliament.
2. There is no limit prescribed in the constitution on the size of the council of the ministers.
3. Deputy ministers are not members of the Cabinet.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: As the Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary system of government modelled on the British pattern, the council of ministers headed by the prime minister is the real executive authority in our politico administrative system. Article 74 of the constitution deals with the status of the council of ministers while Article 75 deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath and salaries and allowances of the ministers.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Article 75 mentions that ;council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. In case a no-confidence motion against the council of ministers is passed by the lok sabha, all the ministers (of lok sabha and Rajya Sabha) should resign. Article 75 also mentions the principle of individual responsibility i.e. ministers hold office during the pleasure of the president, who can remove a minister even if they enjoy the confidence of the Lok Sabha., the Prime Minister can ask a minister to resign or advise the President to dismiss him, In case of a difference of opinion or dissatisfaction with his performance

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003 in which Art 75 was amended.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The council of ministers consists of three categories of ministers, namely, cabinet ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers. The difference between them lies in their respective ranks, emoluments, and political importance.

Head of important ministries of the Central government like home, defence, finance, external affairs are known as cabinet ministers. They are members of the cabinet, attend its meetings and play an important role in deciding policies. t.

Deputy ministers are attached to the cabinet ministers or ministers of state and assist them in their administrative, political, and parliamentary duties. They are not members of the cabinet and do not attend cabinet meetings.

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

1. The Chief Election Commissioner of India is the chairman of the Delimitation Commission.
2. Retiring Election commissioners are eligible for further employment under the government.
3. The constitution has not prescribed the qualifications of the members of the commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** the action of fixing the boundary or limits of something like territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body is called Delimitation. The Delimitation Commission is powerful and independent body whose orders can be enforced, are binding and cannot be called in question before any court. The Chief Election Commissioner is one of the members of the delimitation commission. He is not the chairman of the delimitation commission. Chairman of the delimitation commission is decided by executive decision.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government. So, Retiring Election commissioners are eligible for further employment in the government of India or a state.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission. As such there is no qualification described in the constitution but they hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

9. With reference to Attorney General (AG) of India, consider the following statements:

1. The term of office of the AG is five years.
2. He has the right to take part in the proceedings of both the houses of the Parliament.
3. He is debarred from private legal practice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. He holds office during the pleasure of the president. This means that he may be removed by the president at any time. He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the president. Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Attorney General has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India. Further, he has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member, but without a right to vote. He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of Parliament.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Attorney General is not a full-time counsel for the Government. He does not fall in the category of government servants. Further, he is not debarred from private legal practice. There are certain limitations on the Attorney General in performing his duty-

1. He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.
2. He should not advise or hold a brief in cases in which he is called upon to advise or appear for the Government of India.
3. He should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.
4. He should not accept appointment as a director in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India.

10. Consider the following statements pertaining to the Model Code Of Conduct (MCC) enforced by the Election Commission of India:

1. The MCC is not enforceable before the date of notification of the election.
2. The incumbent government is not permitted to announce any financial grants when the MCC is in force.
3. No public meetings are allowed to be held during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for the start of the poll under the MCC.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of rules put in force by the Election Commission of India to guarantee free and fair elections.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Model Code of Conduct for guidance of candidates and political parties comes immediately into effect after the announcement of elections. The Commission normally announces the schedule of elections in a major press conference a few weeks before the formal process is set in motion. The formal process for the elections starts with the Notification or Notifications calling upon the electorate to elect Members of a House.

**Statement 2 is correct:** From the time elections are announced by the Election Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** All parties and candidates shall avoid holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll.

9. With reference to Attorney General (AG) of India, consider the following statements:

The term of office of the AG is five years.

He has the right to take part in the proceedings of both the houses of the Parliament.

He is debarred from private legal practice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only

1 and 2 only  
1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The term of office of the AG is not fixed and the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. He holds office during the pleasure of the president. . He may also resign by writing to the president. Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice.

Statement 2 is correct: The Attorney General has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India. Further, he has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member, and he doesn't have right to vote. He enjoys parliamentary immunity and priveleges.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Attorney General is not a full-time counsel for the Government neither a government servants. he is allowed for private legal practice. There are certain limitations on the Attorney General in performing his duty-

He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.

He should not advise or hold a brief in cases in which he is called upon to advise or appear for the Government of India.

He should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.

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No public meetings are allowed to be held during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for the start of the poll under the MCC.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

1 only  
1 and 3 only  
2 only  
2 and 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation: The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of rules put in force by the Election Commission of India to guarantee free and fair elections.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Model Code of Conduct for guidance of candidates and political parties comes immediately into effect after the announcement of elections.The Commission normally announces the schedule of elections in a major press conference a few weeks before the formal

process is set in motion. The formal process for the elections starts with the Notification or Notifications calling upon the electorate to elect Members of a House.

Statement 2 is correct: after the announcement of elections, the Ministers and other authorities shall not announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof.

Statement 3 is incorrect: All parties and candidates shall avoid holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll.

11. With reference to powers of Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

It can authorise the parliament to make laws on a State subject.

It cannot remove the Council of Ministers by passing a no confidence motion.

Constitutional amendments can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

The motion for the removal of the vice president can originate in Rajya Sabha only.

Which of the above statements are correct?

1, 3 and 4 only

2 and 4 only

1, 2 and 3 only

1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Rajya Sabha under Article 249 can authorise the parliament to make laws on state subjects. It falls under the exclusive powers of Rajya Sabha. Such a resolution can be supported by two thirds of the members present and voting. Such a resolution remains in force for 1 year and can be renewed any number of times.

Statement 2 is correct: The government being responsible to the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha does not have the power to pass no confidence motion against the Council of Ministers.

Statement 3 is correct: As far as introduction and passage of constitutional amendments are concerned, the Rajya Sabha enjoys an equal privilege as the Lok Sabha. A bill for that matter can be introduced by any member of the Upper house.

Statement 4 is correct: Rajya Sabha is headed by the Vice President who acts as the chairperson of the house. Hence removal of vice president means removal of the chairperson of Rajya Sabha. Due to this reason, the motion for his removal can originate in Rajya Sabha only.

12. Consider the following statements about 'Indian socialism'

1. Word 'Socialist' was explicitly mentioned in the Preamble since its inception.

2. The character of Indian socialism is of state socialism.

3. LPG reforms led to a decline in the socialist trends in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Word 'Socialist' was added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. Hence statement 1 is incorrect. 'distribution and the abolition of private property the nationalization of all means of production is a trait of Communistic socialism' (also known as 'state socialism') and . Hence statement 2 is also incorrect. a 'mixed economy' where both public and private sectors co-exist side by side could often be seen in democratic socialism

The new economic policy (1991) of liberalization, privatization and globalization has, however, diluted the socialist credentials of the Indian State. In recent decades, government policy of disinvestment in Public sector enterprises is also an example of this declining trend. Hence statement 3 is correct.

13. With reference to national emergency, consider the following statements:

1. Parliamentary approval is required for the declaration of emergency
2. Periodic parliamentary approval is not necessary for the continuation of emergency
3. Proclamation of emergency can be questioned in a court of law

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Statement 1 is incorrect

The President proclaims a national emergency after receiving a written recommendation from the cabinet

Statement 2 is incorrect

If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the emergency continues for six months, and can be extended to an indefinite period with an approval of the Parliament for every six months.

Statement 3 is correct

In the *Minerva Mills* case (1980), the Supreme Court held that the proclamation of a national emergency can be challenged in a court of law

14. Which one of the following is not a Fundamental duty under Part IV-A of the Constitution?

- (a) To preserve heritage of the country's composite culture
- (b) To renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women
- (c) To protect monuments, places and objects which are of national importance
- (d) To promote harmony transcending religious and sectional diversities

Ans8)(c)

Explanation:

To protect monuments, places and objects which are of national importance is Directive Principle of State Policy. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

15. Consider the following statements

1. Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism implying all religions in our country receive support from the state based on their strength.
2. Article 25 explicitly provides 'right to conversion' as a fundamental right.
3. Right to freedom of religion is an absolute right.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 3 only

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

Ans9)(d)

Explanation:

When all religions in the country (irrespective of their strength) have the same status and support from the state it is called positive secularism. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The Indian Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion but it does not explicitly mention the right to conversion.

Transmission and dissemination of one's religious beliefs to others or exposition of the tenets of one's religion. But, it does not include a right to convert another person to one's own religion. Forcible conversions impinge on the 'freedom of conscience' guaranteed to all persons alike. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Right to Freedom of religion is subject to public order, morality, health and other provisions relating to fundamental rights and is not an absolute right. Hence statement 3 is also incorrect

16. In a Federal System, which of the following statements is correct?

- 1. In a Federal System, the Union decides the allocation of powers between central and state government.
- 2. In a Federal System, central government and state government operate in their respective jurisdictions independently.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans;(b)

Explanation:

In a Federal System, the Constitution itself divides the power between central and state government. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Both central government and state government operate in their respective jurisdictions independently. Hence statement 2 is correct.

17. Which of the following statements about Indian democracy is incorrect?

- (a) India has representative parliamentary democracy
- (b) Direct democracy in India was present in India since the inception of constitution
- (c) Presence of nominal and real executives
- (d) Parliament is not a sovereign body

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect. Direct democracy in India was not present in India since the inception of constitution. It has been introduced in the form of PRIs and ULBs by 73rd and 74th CAA.

The Indian Constitution provides for representative parliamentary democracy under which the executive is responsible to the legislature for all its policies and actions. Hence option 'a' is correct.

The term 'democratic' is used in the Preamble in the broader sense embracing not only political democracy but also social and economic democracy.

the Preamble envisages a democracy which is not only political but also from the social ; in other words, it envisages a democratic form of government as well as democratic society, having equality, liberty, justice and fraternity Hence option 'b' is incorrect.

In India, the President is the nominal executive(head of the state) while the Prime Minister is the real executive(head of the government).. Hence option 'c' is correct.

18. To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years is a provision in

- (a) Directive Principle of State Policy
- (b) Fundamental Rights
- (c) Fundamental Duties
- (d) Preamble of the Constitution

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002. Hence C is correct option

19. Which of the following statements is correct about Preamble to the Indian constitution?

- (a) It is an integral part of the constitution and it is enforceable in a court of law
- (b) It is not an integral part of the constitution and only helps in interpretation of the constitution
- (c) It is an integral part of the constitution, and it neither confers nor prohibits powers of the legislature.
- (d) It is an integral part of the constitution, and it is a source of power to legislature.

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Option (a) is incorrect: Since Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) and LIC of India case (1995), the Supreme Court held that the preamble is an integral part of the constitution. However, It is non-justiciable, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law.

Option (b) is incorrect: Preamble acts as a torchbearer for the interpretation of the constitution, but It is an integral part of the constitution.

Option (c) is correct: Self-explanatory.

Option (d) is incorrect: It is an integral part of the constitution, but it is not a source of power to legislature.

20. Consider the following statements

1. Union of India is not the result of an agreement among the states.
2. States have the right to secede from the Union.
3. Union of India is divided into states only for the convenience of administration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(a)

Explanation:

The country is described as 'Union' although its Constitution is federal in structure. According to Dr B R Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' for two reasons:

one, the Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American Federation; and two, the states have no right to secede from the federation. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The country is an integral whole and divided into many different states for the convenience of administration. However, there are states like Andhra Pradesh which were carved out from Tamil Nadu due to linguistic reasons. Similarly, Jharkand and Chattisgarh have been carved out to satisfy tribal aspirations, among other reasons. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

21. The primary reason for explicitly incorporating Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India is?

- (a) To uphold universal brotherhood
- (b) To remove poverty
- (c) To protect individual liberty and freedom
- (d) To promote social justice

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Fundamental Rights protect the liberties and freedoms of the people against the invasion by the state. It limits tyranny of the executive and arbitrary laws of the legislature. Thus it establishes the rule of law, government of laws and not rule of men and government of men. Hence option C is correct

22. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Emergency due to armed rebellion leads to the suspension of freedom of speech
- 2. Right to life cannot be enforced in a court of law during an external emergency

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct

Freedom of speech remains intact during national emergency due to Armed rebellion

Statement 2 is not correct

Article 21 remains enforceable even when an emergency is in operation

23. Which of the following statements best describes 'Territory of India'?

- (a) Territory of Indian states
- (b) Territory of Indian states and Union Territories
- (c) Territory of Indian states and Territories that may be acquired in the future.
- (d) Territory of Indian states, Union Territories and Territories that may be acquired in the future.

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

'Union of India' includes only states while the 'Territory of India' includes not only the states but also union territories and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.

24. Which of the following is/are among the Fundamental Duties of citizens laid down in the Indian Constitution?

- 1. To stand up when National song is played.
- 2. To safeguard public property
- 3. To develop humanism and spirit of enquiry
- 4. To have compassion for living creatures

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

To respect the National Flag and the National Anthem is a Fundamental Duty and not National Song. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

To safeguard public property, develop humanism and spirit of enquiry and to safeguard the forests and wildlife are Fundamental Duties. Hence option B is correct.

34. With reference to Integrated Judicial System, Consider the following statements:

- 1. State high court can enforce only state laws and not central law.
- 2. The President can establish a common high court for two or more states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans34)(d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the state high court can enforce both the state laws and central laws.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as The Parliament can establish a common high court for two or more states. For example, Maharashtra and goa or Punjab and Haryana have a common high court.

25. With reference to 'amendment of the Constitution', consider the following statements:

- 1. An amendment of the Constitution under article 368 can be initiated in the state legislature.
- 2. The bill regarding this, can be introduced by the Private member.
- 3. Joint sitting resolves disagreements between the two houses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrectam Constitutional amendment is initiated in either House of Parliament and not state legislatures.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the bill for constitutional amendment can be introduced either by a private member or a minister and without prior permission of the President.

STATEMENT 3 is incorrect as Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting

26. With reference to Indian Parliament, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Parliamentary form of government is also known as Cabinet government.
- 2. In India, Ministers are members of both Legislature and Executive.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Parliamentary form of government is also known as Cabinet government because cabinet is the nucleus of power in a parliamentary system.

Dual membership : Ministers, in India, are members of both Legislature and Executive. Although a person may become a minister without being a member of Parliament, but it is mandatory to gain membership of either house within six months to continue as minister

27. Consider the following statements

1. Flexibility of constitution is a necessary feature of the federal system of government.
2. In India, the states are dependent upon the Centre for their executive and legislative authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

Rigidity of constitution is a necessary feature of the federal system of government. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The Constitution prescribes legislative and executive jurisdiction of the centre and state

So in India, the states are not dependent upon the Centre for their executive or legislative authority. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

28. With reference to Power of Parliament, Consider the following statements:

1. It has the power to cede Indian Territory to a foreign country.
2. Renaming the state requires state legislature approval and does not require parliamentary approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(a)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is correct as under Article 368 Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state. It is the power of Parliament to amend the constitution under 368.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Parliament's approval is needed for Renaming of the state

29. With reference to financial emergency, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Lok Sabha has to approve it with a special majority
2. Rajya Sabha has to approve it with a simple majority
3. It can be extended indefinitely

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

only a simple majority of Lok Sabha is needed for approval

Statement 2 is correct

It can be approved by Rajya Sabha through simple majority

Statement 3 is correct

Unlike other emergencies, financial emergency can be extended indefinitely without the approval of the parliament

30. With reference to the Inter-state Council, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. To serve public interests, President may establish an interstate council 'at any time'.

2. Its function is complementary to Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131.

3. Though it is a constitutional body, its decisions are not binding upon states.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

To serve public interests, President may establish an interstate council under Article 263 'at any time'. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Its function is complementary to Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131 to decide a legal controversy between the governments. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Though it is a constitutional body, its decisions are non-binding upon states. Hence statement 3 is correct.

31. Which one of the following rights is available to non-citizens?

(a) Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).

(b) Right to contest for the membership of the Parliament.

(c) Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

(d) Right against discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

The Constitution confers the following rights and privileges on the citizens of India and denies the same to aliens or non-citizens:

1. Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).

2. Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).

3. Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19).

4. Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).

5. Right to vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.

6. Right to contest for the membership of the Parliament and the state legislature.

Whereas freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion is available to both citizens and non-citizens

32. Consider the following statements

1. The Presidential form of Government cannot be a Democratic form of Government.

2. The Presidential and Parliamentary form of Government can be differentiated on the basis of nature of the relationship between Legislature and Executive.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

In USA, we have Presidential democracy where the president is elected by the citizens. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Presidential and Parliamentary form of Government is classified on the basis of nature of relationship between Legislature and Executive organs of the Government. Hence statement 2 is correct.

33. With reference to the basic structure of the Constitution, consider the following Statements:

- 1. Indian Constitution has explicitly defined the concept of Basic Structure.
- 2. Parliament is a sovereign body and it can amend the basic structure of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Indian Constitution has not explicitly defined the concept of the basic structure of the Constitution.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Parliament is not a sovereign body and it cannot amend the basic structure of the Constitution.

34. As per the preamble of Indian Constitution, India is a sovereign country. Which of the following statement constitutes limitation on the sovereignty of the country?

- 1. India can cede a part of its territory in favour of a foreign state.
- 2. India is a member of the United Nations Organization (UNO).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(d) Explanation: STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as being a sovereign state; India can either acquire a foreign territory or cede a part of its territory in favour of a foreign state. So it cannot put the limitation on the sovereignty of the Country. STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as India's membership of the United Nations Organization (UNO) also in no way constitutes a limitation on her sovereignty. It is a voluntary association.

35. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It allowed elected governments to rule provinces
- 2. It provided for the establishment of a federal court

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

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

Ans:(c) Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct

It provided for responsible governments at the provincial level (provincial autonomy).1937 elections to the provinces were based on it. It also provided for bicameralism in some provinces.

Statement 2 is correct

It provided for the establishment of a federal court

36. Consider the following statements

1. The Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to hold peaceful demonstrations.
2. Freedom of Residence and Freedom of Movement are complementary in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

The Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to hold peaceful and public demonstrations without the right to strike. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Every citizen has the right to move freely throughout the territory of the country and the right to settle in any part of the territory of the country. Freedom to Residence and Freedom to Movement are complementary in nature. Hence statement 2 is correct.

37. Consider the following statements:

1. The British constitution is the oldest written constitution
2. The parliamentary system of Indian polity has been drawn from the British constitution

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Britain has no written constitution. USA has the world's oldest constitution

Statement 2 is correct

The parliamentary system is called the Westminster system. This term comes from the Palace of Westminster, the seat of the British Parliament.

Extra Information:

The political part of the Constitution (the principle of Cabinet Government and the relations between the executive and the legislature) has been largely drawn from the British Constitution.

38. Consider the following statements:

1. The constitution of India can be amended only by a special majority in either house of the parliament
2. Constitutional amendment falls in the exclusive domain of the parliament of India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Some parts of the constitution can be amended like an ordinary bill.

Statement 2 is incorrect

Some parts can be amended only by a special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states.

39. Which of the following provisions of the constitution require support of the majority of the effective strength of the house?

1. Removal of Speaker of lok Sabha
2. Removal of Deputy Speaker of lok Sabha
3. Removal of Deputy Chairman of the State legislative Council

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

The following provisions in the Constitution require the Support of the majority of the effective strength of the house.

1. Removal of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of lok Sabha
2. Removal of Deputy Chairman of the State Legislative Council

40. With reference to the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. In India, the courts of a state are required to enforce the penal laws of another state.
2. Emergency provisions, converts India from a Federal into a unitary polity without a formal amendment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Only for Civil law, final judgements of civil courts are capable of execution in any part of India. The courts of a state are not required to enforce the penal laws of another state. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The Emergency provisions, converts India from a Federal system into a unitary structure without any formal amendment. Hence statement 2 is correct.

41. the following statements

1. Panchayati Raj Institutions are not allowed to impose any kind of taxation on centre's property in their domain.

2. The Constitution of India encompasses provisions to make trade and commerce throughout the territory of India to be free.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Centre's property is exempted from all taxes imposed by a state or any authority within a state like municipalities, district boards, panchayats and so on. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Article 301 declares that trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India to be free. Thus It encourages free flow of trade. Hence statement 2 is correct.

42. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Indian constitution limits the power of the judiciary by incorporating the doctrine of due process of law
- 2. The Indian constitution limits the power of the parliament by making the Supreme Court the guarantor of fundamental rights

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Doctrine of 'Due process of law' in constitution limits the power of the judiciary and has a much more expansive meaning than 'procedure established by law'. 'Due process of law' gives more power to the judiciary as it would not be tied down by the procedure established by law (Laws are made by the government).

Statement 2 is correct

The power of the parliament in Indian Constitution is limited as the Supreme Court acts as the guarantor and Guardian of fundamental rights. Even at the time of emergency some fundamental rights are not suspended.

43. With reference to the Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is correct?

- 1. The Constitution empowers the state to retrospectively impose civil decree but not criminal laws.
- 2. Equality before the law and equal protection of law both aims at establishing equality of legal status.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Under the Indian Constitution a state can retrospectively impose civil laws but not criminal laws. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Equality before the law and equal protection of law both aims at establishing equality of legal status. Hence statement 2 is correct.

44. Consider the following statements about the acquisition of Indian Citizenship by Birth:

1. The children of foreign diplomats posted in India can acquire Indian Citizenship by birth.
2. At present, A person born in India is a citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his parents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as the children of foreign diplomats posted in India and enemy aliens cannot acquire Indian citizenship by birth.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as at present, those born in India on or after 3rd December 2004 are considered citizens of India only if both of their parents are citizens of India or one of whose parents is a citizen of India and the other is not an illegal migrant at the time of their birth.

45. Which of the following provisions are components of the basic structure of the Indian constitution?

1. Federal character of the Constitution
2. Judicial review
3. Parliamentary system

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

Federal character of the constitution, judicial review and Parliamentary system are part of the basic structure of the constitution.

46. With reference to Indian secularism, which of the following statements is correct?

1. The state cannot amend the personal laws of a community
2. The state cannot utilise its tax revenues for the promotion of a particular religion
3. The constitution mandates the eventual implementation of Uniform Civil Code

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:(d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Unlike western secularism, there is no strict separation of state and religion in India. India is a multi-religious society. Hence, the Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism, i.e., giving equal respect to all religions or protecting all religions equally.

The Indian parliament has brought about progressive changes in the personal laws of many religions like Hinduism, Islam and Christianity.

Statement 2 is correct

The constitution states that:

No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of a particular religion (Article 27).

Statement 3 is correct

The State shall endeavour to secure for all the citizens a Uniform Civil Code (Article 44). It is one of the DPSPs.

47. With reference to India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. All India Services violates the principles of federalism.
2. The salient feature of Federal Constitution is Centralization of power.
3. Only Centre has the power to initiate an amendment under article 368 to the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

All India Services is common to both centre and state but the centre possesses ultimate control over them. So it violates the principles of federalism. Hence statement 1 is correct.

The salient feature of Federal Constitution is Decentralization of power. Hence statement 2 is incorrect. In India, only Centre has power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution. The bulk of the Constitution can be amended by the unilateral action of the parliament. Hence statement 3 is correct.

48. Which of the following provisions promote the idea of fraternity or common brotherhood among the citizens?

1. Fundamental Rights
2. Directive Principle of State Policy
3. Fundamental Duties
4. Dual Citizenship

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

The Preamble declares that fraternity has to assure two things—the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. Dignity of individuals is ensured through Fundamental Rights, Directive Principle of State Policy and Fundamental Duties. Single Citizenship promotes the idea of common brotherhood and not dual citizenship.

49. With reference to fundamental rights provided in the Indian constitution, which of the following rights are fundamental in nature?

1. Right to vote
2. Right to education
3. Right to clean environment
4. Right to property

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Option 1 is incorrect

Right to vote is not included in Part III of the constitution (fundamental rights).It finds mention in Art 326. It is a legal right not a fundamental right.

Option 2 is correct

Right to education of children between the ages of 6 and 14 is a fundamental right. It was added to the constitution by the 86th constitutional amendment act in 2002.

Option 3 is correct

Right to a clean environment is derived from the fundamental right to life. The Supreme Court has upheld it as a fundamental right. (Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar, 1991)

Option 4 is incorrect

Right to property (Art 300A) is a constitutional right but not a fundamental right.

50. Which of the following is/are the main characteristics of cooperative societies in India?

1. Profit orientation
2. Autonomy
3. Democratic control
4. Joint ownership

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

1. Cooperative societies were meant primarily to safeguard the interests of farmers, producers, consumers, borrowers etc. from exploitation by businesses. The need for profit- making is balanced by the needs of the members of the cooperative as it is jointly owned.

2. They are not dependent on other entities. They manage their affairs on their own.

3. All members get an equal say in the affairs of the cooperatives.

4. Cooperatives are jointly owned.

Eg: Amul

Amul is an Indian cooperative dairy company.

51 . Consider the following statements regarding ecological footprint of humans:

1. Deserts and open oceans are excluded while calculating ecological footprint.

2. The ecological footprint per capita of India is less than the available capacity per capita.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation :**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Ecological Footprint measures the amount of biologically productive land and sea area an individual, a region, all of humanity, or a human activity that compete for biologically productive space. This includes producing renewable resources, accommodating urban infrastructure and roads, and breaking down or absorbing waste products, particularly carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel. *Biologically productive land and sea includes cropland, forest and fishing grounds, and does not include deserts, glaciers and the open ocean.*

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to the National Footprints Accounts (2014), India has an ecological footprint of 1.12 global hectares (gha) per person and a biocapacity of 0.45 gha per person which means it is a 'biocapacity debtor' or an 'ecologically deficit country' with there being a 148 per cent more demand than supply on its natural resources.

**Additional Information**

While both U.S.A. and India are consuming more than their ecological limits, an average U.S. citizen is creating an ecological burden many times that of the average Indian citizen. Looked at this way, it draws attention to uneven ecological burdens created by countries and emerges as a political rallying in international negotiations.

52. Which of the following methods are used in Solid Waste Management ?

- 1. Pyrolysis
- 2. Root Zone treatment
- 3. Pulverisation.
- 4. Incineration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Pyrolysis is a method of solid waste management whereby solid wastes are chemically decomposed by heat without the presence of oxygen. This usually occurs under pressure and at temperatures of up to 430 degrees Celsius.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The root zone is a **wastewater treatment system**, and not a solid waste management method. It makes use of biological and physical-treatment processes to remove pollutants from wastewater.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Pulverisation is a method used to reduce the solid waste into dust or powder by pounding or grinding.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Incineration involves burning of solid wastes at high temperatures until the wastes are turned into ashes. Incinerators are made in such a way that they do not give off extreme amounts of heat when burning solid wastes.

53. With reference to *Floating Treatment Wetlands (FTW)*, consider the following statements:

1. The driving principle behind these wetlands is Hydroponics, whereby the plants do not require soil.
2. This requires building an artificial island unit with the help of bamboo, styrofoam and gunny bags.
3. Loktak lake in Manipur is the largest FTW in India.

Select the correct statements from the code given below:

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:** The floating treatment wetland (FTW) is used for cleaning a lake by absorbing nutrients dissolved in the water, such as excess nitrates and oxygen with the help of plants, thereby reducing the content of these chemicals in the lake or a water body. In the methods. An artificial island structure is created which floats on a water body. The island structure has plants above it which absorbs nutrients from the water body.

**Statement 1 is correct:** These wetlands are based on the principle of hydroponics whereby there is no need of soil to support the plant species. Hydroponics allows plants to grow only on sunlight and water, without the need of soil. There are small holes at the bottom of the island structure, which facilitates the flow of nutrients from the water to the plants [the biological uptake process].

**Statement 2 is correct:** These types of wetlands require building of artificial island structures in order to support the whole ecosystem. These are made with the support of gunny bags, bamboo and styrofoam. The FTW comprises four layers, where the 1st layer is made up of floatable bamboo forming the base of the island structure. The second layer comprises styrofoam cubicles. The third layer is composed of gunny bags, and Gravel forms the final layer, which helps to hold the nutrients.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Nekkampur lake in Hyderabad, and not Loktak lake in Manipur is the largest FTW in India.

54. Which of the following are biodiversity hotspots present in India?

- The Himalayas
- Western Ghats
- Indo- Burma
- Andaman Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: There are 4 biodiversity hotspots present in India. They are: The Himalayas, Indo- Burma, the Western Ghats & Sri Lanka, and Sundaland.

Statement 1 is correct: Includes the entire Indian Himalayan region (and that falling in Pakistan, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar). This hotspot is home to the world's highest mountains, diversity of vegetation, and important populations of numerous fauna species.

Statement 2 is correct: Western Ghats and Sri Lanka: Includes entire Western Ghats (and Sri Lanka).

Statement 3 is correct: Indo-Burma includes Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and southern China, and entire North-eastern India, except Assam and Andaman group of Islands. So, Andaman group of Islands is not the part of Indo-Burma hotspot.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Sundaland includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines, and Nicobar group of Islands from India. However, it explicitly includes only Nicobar group of islands and not Andaman group of islands. There are two Island groups in Andaman and Nicobar chain, the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands, ( separated by Ten Degree Channel). Thus, Andaman group of islands is not a part of any of the four identified hotspots, whereas Nicobar group of islands is part of Sundaland hotspot. .

55) Which of the following phenomena are attached to the Ozone found at ground level?

It is formed due to interaction of nitrogen oxides with volatile organic compounds.

Sunlight is the prime requirement for this interaction to take place.

It is beneficial to the organisms as it helps to filter out the remaining UV rays which pass through the stratosphere.

It is a vital ingredient in the formation of photochemical smog.

Select the correct statements from the code below :

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Ozone is a gas composed of three atoms of oxygen (O<sub>3</sub>). Ozone is present in the Earth's upper atmosphere as well as at ground level. It can be good or bad, depending on place of its occurrence

Statement 1 is correct: Ground level ozone is formed due to the interaction of nitrogen oxides which are emitted from vehicles, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources and volatile organic compounds.

Statement 2 is correct: Pollutants and volatile organic compounds chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Thus, sunlight is the prime requirement for such reactions resulting in the formation of ozone.

Statement 3 is incorrect: It does not filter out UV rays, but rather it is very harmful to the organisms and forms a major pollutant in the ecosystem. On the other hand, the upper atmospheric or stratospheric ozone protects us from harmful UV rays.

Statement 4 is correct: The ground level ozone also leads to the formation of photochemical smog which is a common occurrence in industrial cities around the world.

56. Consider the following statements regarding Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM):

1. It aims to provide water security to farmers
2. It would lead to the mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
3. The scheme has potential to generate 'Direct Employment' opportunities for both skilled and unskilled workers.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: The KUSUM scheme consists of three components:

Component-A: 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants.

Component-B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.

Component-C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.

Statement 1 is correct: The objective of the scheme is providing financial and water security to farmers.

Statement 2 is correct: The Scheme will have substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. All three components of the Scheme combined together are likely to result in the saving of about 27 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per annum.

Statement 3 is correct: The scheme has direct employment potential. Besides increasing self-employment the proposal is likely to generate employment opportunities equivalent to 6.31 lakh job years for skilled and unskilled workers.

57. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Labour and Employment had categorized currency printing presses and mints as 'public utility service'.

2. A person employed in a public utility service is prohibited to go on a strike.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment issued a notification to categorize currency printing presses and mints as 'public utility service' under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- Public utility services are those business undertakings engaged in supplying essential goods and/or services of daily necessity for the general public.
- They have an obligation to supply the essential goods and services to everyone in the community without any discrimination at reasonable prices.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- As per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, no person employed in a public utility service shall go on strike in breach of contract without giving a notice to the employer.
- The right to **protest** is a fundamental right under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. But the right to strike is a legal right ( under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947) and not a fundamental right.

58) With reference to the pollutants in water and the diseases caused by them, which of the following are correctly matched :

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Minamata Disease   | Excess mercury  |
| 2. Blue Baby Syndrome | Excess Nitrates |
| 3. Black foot disease | Excess Fluoride |
| 4. Itai Itai Disease  | Excess Cadmium  |

Select the correct answer from the codes below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Minamata Disease is caused due to excessive amount of mercury present in the water. These can also be experienced with the intake of fish affected by mercury poisoning. They lead to numbness of limbs, deafness and other debilitating illnesses.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Blue baby syndrome occurs due to excessive amount of nitrates present in the water. These nitrates then react with the haemoglobin of the blood leading to the formation of methaemoglobin which results in loss of oxygen carrying capacity of the blood.

**Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Black foot disease is caused by leaching of arsenic from soil & rocks to groundwater used for drinking purposes. Excessive fluoride in drinking water causes skeletal Fluorosis such as neuromuscular disorders, teeth deformity, hardening of bones, painful joints & outward bending of legs from knees, which is also known as Knock knee syndrome.

**Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Itai Itai or Ouch Ouch disease is caused due to excess amount of cadmium which pollutes the water. This disease causes a disabling pain in the joints and bones leading to locomotive issues.

59. Mangroves form a vital coastal ecosystem. In this context, which of the following features are associated with it?

1. They help in filtering contaminants in the water except in the case of heavy metal contaminants.
2. They have salt secreting glands in their leaves which help them cope up with the saline environment.
3. Due to the presence of high density of roots, the ecosystem is unable to support fish and other organisms which need space to breed.
4. Their roots are unable to filter out the salts from the water as a result of which the role of eliminating salts is left to the leaves.
5. These plants have lenticellated barks.

Select the correct statements from the codes below :

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:** Mangroves are a group of trees and shrubs that live in the coastal intertidal zone. They are one of the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. Mangroves can absorb up to four times more carbon dioxide by area than upland terrestrial forests. It benefits us with a wide variety of goods and services. These play a critical role in supporting human life with facilities like food, shelter and livelihoods. It also reduces loss of property and vulnerability of local communities.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Mangroves help filter out contaminants from the ecosystem including heavy metals and act as a sink thus keeping the coastal environment clean.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The leaves of these mangroves have salt secreting glands which push out excess amounts of salts from the system. These salts can often be found in the form of crystals deposited on the leaves. This helps them in coping with the saline environment.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** These mangroves are a rich breeding ground for fishes and other faunal forms. The fish, crustaceans and a host of other species live between tree trunks in mangrove forests.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** The roots of many of the mangrove plants themselves filter out the salts so that the water intaken by these plants is not saline. Thus, not all the plants are incapable of filtering out salt.

**Statement 5 is correct:** As they grow in an aquatic environment, these plants have lenticellated barks. Lenticel is a spongy area in the bark of a woody plant, serving as a pore to permit the exchange of gases between the stem and the atmosphere.

60. With reference to Bioremediation, consider the following statements :

1. It is the process where the polluted material is treated at the affected site only without transferring them to another place, thus reducing spillover effect.
2. Phytoremediation is a bioremediation process where plants can be used to remove contaminants from the soil.
3. No matter how effective, complete breakdown of the pollutants cannot be achieved but can be significantly controlled.
4. Bioattenuation is a bioremediation process where degradation of contaminants occurs naturally without human intervention.

Select the correct statements from the codes given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Bioremediation is the process of treating the polluted and contaminated soil or water with the help of microorganisms and plants.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** This can be done both in situ (at the site) or ex situ (at a suitable place of choice).

**Statement 2 is correct:** Plants can be used to remove contaminants by the method of phytoremediation. By this they either stabilize the soil contaminants at one place, reducing its spread, or accumulating it above the soil.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** By the method of bioremediation, a complete and total breakdown of pollutants and contaminants can be achieved leading to detoxification of the soil.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Bioattenuation is the process in which bioremediation occurs naturally without human intervention. Similarly, biostimulation is the process of stimulating biodegradation by creating the correct environmental conditions for microorganisms in the soil. In bioaugmentation, altered microorganisms are added to a contaminated site to accelerate detoxification and degradation.

61. Which of the following gases can have a direct effect on the ozone layer and also cause global warming?

- Hydrofluorocarbons
- Chlorofluorocarbons
- Carbon dioxide
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
- SF<sub>6</sub>

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: HFCs or hydrofluorocarbons, are super greenhouse gases, manufactured for use in refrigeration, air conditioning, foam blowing, aerosols, fire protection and solvents. Hydrofluorocarbons have no direct effect on ozone depletion. So, it is used as a substitute for Ozone depleting substances like Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and are used in refrigerators and air-conditioners.

Statement 2 is correct: CFCs are highly potent greenhouse gases and also it is ozone depleting substances. Due to its ozone depleting potential, there was consensus for curbing the production of CFCs. Montreal Protocol, helped in successfully curbing the production of chlorofluorocarbons and other ODSs and significantly contributed to the repair of the ozone hole.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Carbon dioxide has global warming potential but no direct effect on ozone layer depletion, though it has very less indirect effect.

Statement 4 is correct: Hydrochlorofluorocarbons has high global warming potential as well as one of the factors for ozone layer depletion. Chlorine is present in this material, so it has direct effect on ozone layer depletion.

Option 5 is incorrect: Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) has high global warming potential but no direct effect on ozone layer depletion. Chlorine is not present in this material, so it has no direct effect on ozone layer depletion.

62. Consider the following statements:

1. Ethanol is a biofuel made by fermenting starch.
2. Biofuel cannot be obtained without blending it with conventional fuels.
3. Biofuel in India is mostly made from sugarcane.
4. The government recently approved the Tejaswini scheme to financially support Integrated Bioethanol Projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The liquid biofuel in greatest production is ethanol (ethyl alcohol), which is made by fermenting starch or sugar.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ethanol biofuel is commonly used as a 100-percent-ethanol fuel or in gasoline blends. Thus, it can be obtained without blending it with conventional fuels

Statement 3 is correct: In India, sugarcane molasses are the major resource for bio-ethanol production and inconsistency of raw material supply is the major cause behind the sluggish response to blending targets.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently approved the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool

fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana” for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock. Tejaswini scheme is for the socio-economic empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young women with basic life skills and providing opportunities to acquire market driven skill training or completion of secondary education.

Source

63. Which of the following factors are responsible for Nitrogen fixation on the earth?

Blue green algae

Achromobacter

Lightening

Rhizobium

Pseudomonas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1, 3 and 4 only

2 and 4 only

2, 3 and 5 only

1, 2, and 3 only

Answer: a

Explanation: Nitrogen fixation is a process that causes free nitrogen ( $N_2$ ), available in plenty in the air to chemically combine with other elements and form more-reactive nitrogen compounds such as ammonia, nitrates, or nitrites.

Statement 1, 3 and 4 are correct: Nitrogen as nitric oxide is fixed, or combined, in nature by lightning and ultraviolet rays. However, this play a very little role in Nitrogen fixation. Most of the nitrogen almost about 90 % of all nitrogen fixation is caused by soil microorganisms like free living bacteria such as Blue Green algae and symbiotic bacteria such as Rhizobium. They convert free nitrogen to ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates.

Statement 2 and 5 are incorrect: There are some microorganisms which convert the nitrates/nitrites available in the soil to elemental nitrogen. Thus, they are called denitrifying bacteria, for example- some species of Serratia, Pseudomonas, and Achromobacter. They do not help in nitrogen fixation on earth, rather they perform denitrification.

64. Which of the following is/are the correct sequence of a food chain?

Butterfly-Dragonfly-Frog

Zooplankton-Squid-Crustaceans

Beetle-Aphid-bird

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 2 only

1 and 3 only

Answer: a

Explanation: In ecology, food chain, in ecology, the sequence of transfers of matter and energy in the form of food from organism to organism.

Statement 1 is correct: In Marsh community, the correct sequence of a food chain is Green Plant-butterfly-dragonfly-frog.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In aquatic ecosystems, the correct food chain sequence is Phytoplanktons-zooplanktons-small fish or crustaceans- large fish-squid.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In Agro ecosystem, the correct sequence of food chain is Mustard crop-aphid-beetle-bird-predatory bird (hawk).

65. With reference to Women Livelihood Bond (WLB), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a new social impact bond launched exclusively for women and children.
2. WLBs are unsecured and unlisted bonds.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of women and child development with the support of UN Women.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect:

It is a new social impact bond launched exclusively for women.

A social impact bond (SIB) is a contract with the legitimate authority, whereby it pays for better social outcomes in certain areas and passes on the part of the savings achieved to investors.

Statement 2 is correct:

Women livelihood bonds are unlisted and unsecured bonds. They offer fixed coupon rate of 3 per cent per year to an investors.

Unsecured bonds are also known as debentures, and are not backed by any collateral.

Unlisted securities are bonds or any other securities that are not traded on the stock exchange but through the over-the-counter (OTC) market.

Statement 3 is incorrect.:

SIDBI launched the bond along with World Bank and UN Women, it will have a tenure of five years.

The new bond will not only enable women self help groups to graduate from 'group borrowing' to 'individual borrowing' but will also allow them to shift from development assistance towards more market financed programmes.

66. Which of the following is the correct description of Enhance Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms Index?

It is an index for ranking banks according to certain performance metrics.

It is an index for rating states according to their service infrastructure.

It is an index for measuring the performance of power DISCOMs in terms of reach.

It is an index for rating ministries according to their performance in e-governance.

Answer: a

Explanation

Option (a) is correct: The EASE Reforms index is prepared jointly by the Indian Banking Association (IBA) and the Boston Consulting Group. It is a framework that was adopted by the finance ministry to strengthen public sector banks, and rank them on metrics such as responsible banking, financial inclusion, credit offtake and digitisation.

Option (b) is incorrect: There is no specific index for ranking states according to their service infrastructure. Their infrastructure overall is ranked under the National logistics index.

Option (c) is incorrect: There is no specific index for measuring the performance of power DISCOMs in terms of reach.

Option (d) is incorrect: Good governance index published by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances rates ministries according to their performance in e-governance and other good governance initiatives.

67. Consider the following statements regarding the parts of a tree:

Annual rings inside the trunk of a tree are used to calculate the age of the tree.

Pith, made of living cells in the centre of a tree trunk, carries nutrients to the tree.

The phloem is a layer of bark, which is made up of dead cells.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 only

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Inside the trunk of a tree, there are a number of growth rings called annual rings. A ring is added to the trunk every year. Thus, they are used to determine the age of a tree.

Statement 2 is correct: Pith is a tiny dark spot of living cells, present at the centre of the trunk of a tree. It carries essential nutrients to the tree.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Phloem is the inner layer of bark, which acts as a food supply line from the leaves to the rest of the tree. It carries sap (sugar and nutrients dissolved in water). Thus, it is a layer of bark. However, being an inner layer of the bark, it is made up of living cells. The outer layer of the bark is made up of dead cells.

68. Consider the following statements regarding interim budgets:

1. They are presented when a government cannot present a full budget

2. Budget Estimates are not presented in such budgets

3. They allow the government to meet expenses for a short period of time

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: The budget is granted to the government for one financial year which starting from April of a current year to March of next year with due approval by Parliament. If the government cannot present a full budget before the financial year ends, due to some reasons, it needs Parliament's authority for incurring expenditure in the new fiscal year till a full Budget is presented.

Statement 2 is incorrect: An Interim Budget is not similar to 'Vote on Account'. 'Vote on Account' deals only with the expenditure side of the government's budget, while an Interim Budget is a complete set of accounts, including both expenditure and receipts.

Statement 3 is correct: They are usually presented for a four-month period.

#### Extra Information

law does not debar the Union government from introducing tax changes, normally during an election year, however successive governments have avoided making such changes.

69. Consider the following statements:

It is an ancient artificial lake which now provides sight of flamingos and pelicans to the tourists.

It is the first water body in the country to be declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

It is situated in the state of Telangana.

The above given description refers to which of the following water bodies?

Ameenpur lake

Neknampur lake

Hussain Sagar lake

Gandipet lake

Answer: a

Explanation: All the four lakes are located in Telangana. Ameenpur lake is located in the urban area of Hyderabad with a number of industrial units nearby. It has been designated a biodiversity heritage site under the biodiversity act, 2002. The lake is now divided into two parts called Pedda Ameenpur and Chinna Cheruvu. The biodiversity heritage tag which was given to Ameenpur lake was for the Pedda Ameenpur Lake, having a higher elevation than Chinna Cheruvu.

Statement 1 is correct: It is an artificial lake. Ameenpur Lake, which dates back to the time of Ibrahim Qutb Shah, who ruled the kingdom of Golconda between 1550 and 1580. This lake was built to irrigate a large public garden. It has become one of the biggest attractions for tourists, as it provides sight of birds like flamingos (Migratory birds), and pelicans.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the first water body in the country to be designated a biodiversity heritage site under the biodiversity act, 2002. It was given this tag in 2016 by the Telangana government.

Statement 3 is correct: It is situated in the outskirts of Hyderabad city in the state of telangana.

70. With reference to Red Data Book, consider the following statements :

Pink pages are used for those species that were formerly endangered but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened.

Red list is inclusive of all the aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, but leaves out viruses, fungi and bacteria.

Due to a continuously shrinking habitat, snow leopard has been moved from 'vulnerable' status to an 'endangered' status.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 and 2 only

1 and 3 only

2 and 3 only  
None of the Above

Answer: d

Explanation: IUCN was formed in the year 1948 and has been continuously working at the forefront of nature conservation and saving the wildlife species from the threats of extinction. They published the first book on conservation status in 1964 and classified the flora and fauna into various categories from extinct in the wild to critically endangered to least threatened.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Green pages are used for those species that were formerly endangered, but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened. The pink page refers to the critically endangered species.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The red list brought out by IUCN also has Fungi listed in them. There are in fact 15 species of fungi listed as critically endangered with detailed information regarding the present population standard.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The snow leopard has been taken off the endangered list and named as vulnerable. Snow leopard had been on the endangered list since 1986. It was however moved to vulnerable in 2017. This was because a periodic review committee of the IUCN, came to a conclusion that due to fresh data available and the sheer expanse of the habitat of this species there are a minimum of 4,000 individuals which can be found in the wild.

71. Consider the following passage

The Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act of 2003 provided for the creation of a new type of protected area. It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.

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

- Conservation Reserve
- Zoological Park
- Reserve Forest
- None of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

Option a is correct: The Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the creation of a new type of protected area called a Conservation Reserve. It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora. It is managed through a Conservation Reserve Management Committee. It generally connects the buffer zone around the national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests with each other thus providing much needed continuity in the zones of conservation.

Option b is incorrect: Zoological parks are the protected areas where the animals are usually protected for awareness raising purposes and for recreational purposes for its visitors.

72. Consider the following statements about the 'Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)':

It was established under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

The National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) is implemented by this organization.

It cannot impose pecuniary penalties as it lies under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

2 only  
1 and 2 only

Answer: c

Explanation: CPCB is a statutory organization which was formed in 1974 and is under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. This was formed under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and was one of the country's first organizations formed against environmental pollution. It is the apex body which monitors the various industrial and air and water pollution in our cities and comes out with advisories for the governments as well as for the municipalities involved.

Statement 1 is incorrect: It was established under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. This act also provides for the formation of state boards which shall be the bodies operating at the state level.

Statement 2 is correct: The Central Pollution Control Board is executing a nation-wide programme for ambient air quality monitoring known as National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

Statement 3 is incorrect: The CPCB can also impose financial penalties on the guilty parties including the municipal corporations who do not follow the rules regarding control of pollution. This body comes under the purview of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change but the act ensures autonomy in its functions.

73. At present, which of the following sites of India is/are not part of Montreux Record?

Chilika lake  
Loktak lake  
Keoladeo national park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

At present, Chilika Lake is not part of Montreux Record. It was placed under Montreux Record due to siltation. It was removed from this record in 2002.

Loktak lake, Manipur was included on the Montreux Record in 1993 (signifying habitat degradation), as a result of ecological problems such as deforestation in the catchment area, infestation of water hyacinth and pollution.

Keoladeo national park, Rajasthan was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 due to water shortage and unbalanced grazing regime around it.

74. Right of First Refusal for Reconnaissance permit frequently seen in the news is related to

- (a) National Mineral Policy
- (b) Data Localization
- (c) National Minimum Wage
- (d) India's Nuclear Policy

Answer: a

Explanation:

Option a is correct: National Mineral Policy, 2019 aims to bring more effective regulation to the mining sector as well as follow a more sustainable approach while addressing the issues of those affected by mining.

Under the new policy, the Right of First Refusal for Reconnaissance permit was introduced to encourage the private sector to take up exploration.

Earlier, if a firm finds evidence of minerals it has to inform the government under reconnaissance permit (RP). The government will then auction off the area.

But under the new policy, such firms will get the right of first refusal i.e. the same firm would be given the area for mining.

Thus it encourages the private sector for mining.

75. Which of the following gases is/are not the components of the National Air Quality Index?

Sulphur dioxide(SO<sub>2</sub>)

Ammonia(NH<sub>3</sub>)

Carbon monoxide(CO)

Carbon dioxide(CO<sub>2</sub>)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

4 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 2 only

1,2, 3 and 4

Answer: a

Explanation: AQI considers eight pollutants (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM 2.5, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Pb). Carbon dioxide(CO<sub>2</sub>) is not a component of the National Air Quality Index.

76. With reference to E-waste management, Consider the following statements:

It mainly deals with electronic wastes like LEDs and Printed Circuit Boards but do not cover Electrical wastes like tube lights and CFLs.

E waste management rules 2016 has a zero exemption policy for industries, covering all the small and big businesses with Extended Producer Responsibility.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Explanation: E waste management is one of the major issues the world is facing currently. With increased usage of electronic products, this is a problem on the rise. India in 2016 came out with an amendment to the E waste management rules. New provisions in the form of penalties and liabilities were included under the purview of E waste management.

Statement 1 is incorrect: As the management of e-wastes in general concerns both the electronic and electrical wastes. These wastes can be in the form of tube lights and CFLs and also small printed circuit boards and integrated circuits. These products if not managed and disposed properly, lead to land degradation as well as release of toxins in the environment.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Under these rules, there is an exemption provided to the micro industries from the Extended Producer Responsibility. Extended Producer Responsibility is a kind of policy approach whereby the producers are imposed with financial or physical responsibility to deal with the wastes generated in the course of usage of any product.

77. Which of the following factors increase the rate of ocean acidification?

Carbon sequestration

Eutrophication

Global Warming

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

3 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 2 only

1, 2, and 3

Answer: c

Explanation

Carbon Sequestration along with Eutrophication are the major factors which increase the rate of ocean acidification. Ocean acidification is the phenomenon whereby the waters in the ocean turn slightly acidic or there is a decrease in the pH of the ocean waters. As marine animals have a really small range of tolerance, there is a wide scale damage which is caused due to ocean acidification amongst them. But the most affected amongst all of them are the shelled animals whose shells start getting dissolved in the water.

Statement 1 is correct : Carbon Sequestration with regards to ocean relates to a phenomenon whereby there is dissolution of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the ocean waters. Now as a result of this there is formation of carbonic acid and release of free radical Hydrogen. As a result of an increased concentration of hydrogen ions, the acidity of the oceans increases.

Statement 2 is correct : Eutrophication is the process whereby there is an addition of unwanted nutrients in the water body due to which the amount of oxygen dissolved in the ocean significantly reduces. As a result of this there is an anaerobic reaction due to which eventually the acidity of the water increases.

Statement 3 is incorrect : Global warming is not a direct cause of ocean acidification and is instead considered its 'Evil Twin' as both of them are caused due to increased amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In fact a rise in temperature decreases the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> which is absorbed by the ocean water. That is, lower the temperature of water, the more absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> is facilitated. This is the reason why there is an increased observance of ocean acidification along the higher latitudes like off the coast of Alaska.

78. With reference to Environment Performance Index, consider the following statements :

It considers environmental health and ecosystem vitality as the two important tools for measuring the performance of a country

It is brought out by UNEP in collaboration with Oxford University

Given India's increased commitment to non renewables, its rankings in the EPI index have improved in the last three consecutive reports.

Select the incorrect statement from the codes below :

1 and 2 only

1 and 3 only

2 and 3 only

None of the Above

Answer : C

Explanation: The EPI takes into account two fundamental dimensions of sustainable development:

Environmental health, which rises with economic growth and prosperity, and

Ecosystem vitality, which comes under strain from industrialization and urbanization.

Statement 1 is correct: The index is a measure of the environmental health which includes the air and water pollution levels in the country along with parameters for ecological vitality measuring the sustainability of the different ecosystems from forests to marine.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is a biennial report brought out by Yale University along with Columbia University, working in tandem with the World Economic Forum.

Statement 3 incorrect: India's ranking has dropped significantly in the recent report. India was ranked 177th out of 180 countries in 2018 EPI. It ranked 141 in 2016 EPI, 155 in 2014 EPI, and 125 in 2012 EPI.

79. With reference to 'Summer Ploughing', consider the following statements :

In this method, ploughing is done along the slope of the field.

It improves the soil structure due to alternate heating and cooling.

Decomposition process is hastened resulting in higher nutrient availability for plants.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

3 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 2 only

1 and 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation: Summer Ploughing is a type of tillage which helps to retain the soil moisture and help facilitate the nutrient content of the soil before the sowing of the kharif crops. It is mostly advocated in areas having less rainfall, so that whatever little rain occurs, it is utilized by the crops.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Under such agricultural practices, ploughing is done across the slope of the field rather than along the slope of the field. This not only ensures proper soil retention by preventing erosion, it also ensures maximum amount of water is retained in the process.

Statement 2 is correct: As ploughing exposes the layer lying at the bottom to the sun, thus baking it. Similarly the heated layers then go to the bottom thus cooling them off. This leads to a better soil structure which is uniform.

Statement 3 is correct: As ploughing by this method leads to proper aeration being provided. This leads to a faster decomposition rate along with an improved environment as far as the growth of favourable micro organisms are concerned.

80. Consider the following statements regarding the classical music genre Dhrupad:

Maharaja Man Singh Tomar popularised dhrupad in medieval times.

Tansen was an accomplished dhrupad singer.

Gwalior gharana is a school of the Dhrupad genre.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation: Dhrupad is a genre of Hindustani classical music.

Statement 1 is correct: Dhrupad was popular during the 14th century but flourished between 15th century onwards to around the 18th century. There was Man Singh Tomar, the Maharaja of Gwalior was primarily responsible for the popularisation of dhrupad.

Statement 2 is correct: Tansen was an famous dhrupad singer. Swami Haridasa was not only a famous dhrupad exponent but also follower of Bhakti cult. He was the guru of Tansen, one of the best known dhrupad singers and also one of the nine jewels of Emperor Akbar's court.

Statement 3 is incorrect: There were four schools or vanis of singing the dhrupad.

The Gauhar vani that is-raga or unadorned melodic figures.

The Dagarvani that is- melodic curves and graces.

The Khandar vani that is-quick ornamentation of the notes. Nauhar vani was known for its broad musical leaps and jumps. Compared to the vanis of the dhrupads, we have gharanas, in the khyal. Various individuals or patrons( kings or noblemen) founded or established several schools of singing. The oldest of them is the Gwalior gharana.

81. Consider the following statements regarding Carnatic classical music:

Varnam is a simple musical composition taught to beginners.

Jatisvaram is a musical composition with no lyrics.

Kirtanams are musical compositions valued for their devotional content.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation: Indian music had evolved into two different subcategories :- Hindustani and Carnatic music. The two distinct styles, Hindustani and Carnatic became popular after the advent of the Muslims, particularly during the reign of the Mughal Emperors of Delhi. Both the systems of music received their nourishment from the same original source. Whereas the Indian music of the Northern part of India assimilated some features of the music of the Persian and Arabic musicians who adorned the courts of the Mughal rulers of Delhi, the music of the South continued to develop along its own original lines. But the fundamental aspects of both the systems of the North and South have been the same.

It is said, that South Indian Music, as known today, flourished in Deogiri the capital city of the Yadavas in the middle ages, and that after the invasion and plunder of the city by the Muslims, the entire cultural life of the city took shelter in the Carnatic Empire of Vijayanagar under the reign of Krishnadevaraya. Thereafter, the music of South India came to be known as Carnatic Music.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Gitam is the simplest type of composition. Taught to beginners of music, the gitam is very simple in construction, with an easy and melodious flow of music. The music of this form is a simple melodic extension of the raga in which it is composed. The Varnam is a beautiful creation of musical craftsmanship of a high order, combining in itself all the characteristic features of the raga in which it is composed.

Statement 2 is correct: Jatisvaram-has no sahitya or words. The piece is sung with solfa syllables only. Examples of solfa syllables a taka tari kita naka tatin gina tam

Statement 3 is correct: The Kirtanam had its birth about the latter half of the 14th century. It is valued for the devotional content of the sahitya. Clothed in simple music, the kirtanam abounds in Bhakti bhava. It is suited for congregational singing as well as individual presentation.

82. Which of the following decorative forms were used in Indo-Saracenic architecture?

Colourful tiles

Jalis

Bell motifs

## Calligraphic inscriptions

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Many features of local cultures and traditions were combined with Islamic architectural practices during the medieval period. Thus, in the field of architecture, a mix of many structural techniques, stylised shapes, and surface decorations came about through constant interventions of acceptance, rejection or modification of architectural elements. These architectural entities or categories showcasing multiple styles are known as Indo-Saracenic or Indo-Islamic architecture.

Decorative forms in Indo-Saracenic architecture included designing on plaster through incision or stucco. They were influenced by Turkish, Persian and Indian traditions.

Statement 1 is correct: Tiles were also used to surface the walls and the domes. Popular colours were blue, turquoise, green and yellow.

Example: The tomb of Shah Rukn-i-Alam (Sufi saint) was built by the Tughluq ruler of Delhi, Ghiyas-ud-din (r. 1320-1325), between 1320 and 1324 AD. The exterior of the tomb is ornamented with the use of carved brick and wood as well as blue and white faience mosaic tiles with raised relief patterns.

Statement 2 is correct: Profuse use of jalis is a prominent feature of Indo-Saracenic architecture. Jalis were also used in Hindu temples. A fine example of Jali is seen at Tomb of Salim Chishti, Fatehpur Sikri shows Islamic geometric patterns developed in western Asia. Jali is seen in Pattadakal Virupaksha temple and Chola architecture.

Statement 3 is correct: Carvings of bell and chain motifs showcase Indian influence in provincial styles of Indo-Islamic architecture. Amongst provincial styles, the architecture of Bengal and Jaunpur is regarded as distinct. Gujarat was said to have a markedly regional character for patrons borrowed elements from regional temple traditions such as toranas, lintels in mihrabs, carvings of bell and chain motifs, and carved panels depicting trees, for tombs, mosques and dargahs. The fifteenth century white marble dargah of Shaikh Ahmad Khattu of Sarkhej in Gujarat is a good example of provincial style and it heavily influenced the form and decoration of Mughal tombs.

Statement 4 is correct: Calligraphy was extensively used for decoration. Islamic verses were carved on the surfaces of Islamic monuments. Example: Taj Mahal

83. Consider the following pairs of terms associated with Sufism and their meanings:

- Khanqah - abode of Sufis
- Takia - whirling meditation
- Dargah - shrine of a Sufi saint

Silsilah - sufi order

Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Sufism is a common term used for Islamic mysticism. The Sufis were very liberal in their religious outlook. They believed in the essential unity of all religions. They preached spirituality through music and doctrines that professed union with God. Sufism originated in Iran and found a congenial atmosphere in India under the Turkish rule. Their sense of piety, tolerance, sympathy, concept of equality and friendly attitude attracted many Hindus, mostly from lower classes, to Islam. Sufi saints such as Moinuddin Chisti, Nizamuddin Auliya, Fariduddin Ganj-e-Shakar were the pioneer sufis who are still loved, respected and honoured in India

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Khanqah, the institutions (abode of Sufis) set up by the Sufis in northern India took Islam deeper into the countryside.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Takia (resting place/retreat of a Muslim saint) also became the centres for the propagation of Islamic ideas. These were patronized both by the aristocracy and the common people. The Sufis emphasized respect for all human beings. Whirling meditation is a form of physically active meditation which originated among Sufis.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Dargahs are shrines built over the graves of revered Muslim saints

Pair 4 is correctly matched: The Sufis were organised into religious orders or silsilahs. These silsilahs were named after their founders such as Chishti, Suhrawardi, Qadi. and Naqshbandis. According to Abul Fazl, the author of the Ain-i-Akbari, there were as many as fourteen silsilahs in India during the sixteenth century. Each order had its own khanqah, which served as a shelter for the Sufi saints and for destitutes, and later developed as a centre of learning.

84. With reference to proton therapy, which of the following statements is/are correct?

The difference between X-rays and protons is that proton therapy deposits much less radiation in the normal healthy tissues that are not being targeted.

The proton beams are channelled to the precise site of tumour resulting in minimal damage to the surrounding healthy tissues.

The main drawback of Proton therapy is that it cannot treat tumours affecting the eye and brain.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer. a

Explanation: Recently in India, South Asia's first proton therapy centre, Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC) was inaugurated. It is located in Chennai and offers world-class proton therapy to cancer patients using pencil-beam scanning technology with the highest degree of precision. It is.

Statement 1 is correct: The difference between X-rays and protons is that proton therapy deposits much less radiation in the normal tissues that are not being targeted. Radiation energy causes changes in the cells that injure or destroy them. Thus proton therapy minimizes damage to cells.

Statement 2 is correct: Under this method, proton beams are regulated and channelled through a vacuum passageway to the precise site of tumour, thereby resulting in minimal damage to the surrounding healthy tissues and reduced side effects.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Proton therapy is effective against many kinds of cancers, particularly effective on tumours affecting eye and brain, spinal cord or other vital organs, head and neck cancers, deep seated abdominal and pelvic cancers, recurrent cancers and paediatric cancers.

85. Which of the following luminaries were contemporaries of Akbar?

Abdur Rahim Khan e Khanan.

Raja Todar Mal.

Faizi.

Abul Fazl Mamuri.

Select the correct statement using the code given below:

1 and 2 only

1, 2 and 3 only

2, 3 and 4 only

1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Explanation: Though illiterate Akbar patronised scholars and learned men. In his court there were nine such Navratna Mulla Do Pyaza, Hakin Human, Abdur Rahim Khan e Khanan, Abul Tayal, Tansen, Raja Todar Mal, Raja Man Singh, Faizi and Birbal.

Statement 1 is correct: Abdur Rahim Khan e Khanan was the son of Bairam Khan, Akbar's trusted guardian and mentor, who was of Turkic ancestry.

Statement 2 is correct: Raja Todar Mal was instrumental in introducing a new system of revenue known as Zabt and a system of taxation called Dahsala. He was one of the 'Navratnas' of Akbar's court.

Statement 3 is correct: Faizi was the brother of Abul Fazl. Akbar highly recognised the genius in him and appointed him tutor of his sons. Faizi is remembered for his works of poetry, numbering in the hundreds. One of his most well known books is Tabashir al-Subh, a collection of poems.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Abul Fazl Mamuri was a historian of the Mughal Empire during Aurangzeb's reign and author of Tarikh-i-Aurangzeb, Tarikh-i-Abul Fazl Mamuri and co-author of Shahjahannama. It was Abu al-Fazal ibn Mubarak also known as Abu'l-Fazl, Abu'l Fadl and Abu'l-Fadl 'Allami who was the Grand vizier of the Mughal emperor Akbar, and author of the Akbarnama, the official history of Akbar's reign in three volumes, and a Persian translation of the Bible. He was also one of the Nine Jewels of Akbar's royal court

86. Consider the following statements regarding Ramananda, the Bhakti saint:

He was a disciple of Ramanuja.

He preached Bhakti in South India.

Kabir and Sadhana were his disciples.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation: The Bhakti saints attacked the rigidity in religion and the objects of worship. They disregarded caste and encouraged women to join in their religious gatherings. The Bhakti saints did their entire teaching in the local vernacular language to make it comprehensible even to simple minds.

Statement 1 is correct: Ramanuja was from the South and he taught in the language of the common people. Ramananda was his disciple. Ramananda was born at Allahabad and educated at Varanasi.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ramananda took his Guru's message to the northern parts of India. Ramananda is thought to be the founder of the Ramanandi Sampradaya. The members of this community are known as Ramanandis, Vairagis or Bairagis. They are known for their self-imposed highly disciplined, austere, structured and simple lifestyle.

Statement 3 is correct: Ramananda's followers belonged to different walks of life. For example, Kabir was a weaver, Sadhana was a butcher, Ravidasa was a cobbler and Sena was a barber.

87. With reference to Sher Shah's administration, consider the following pairs:

Minister	Function
Diwan-i-Rasalat	Foreign Minister.
Diwan -i- Wizarat	Revenue and Finance.
Diwan-i-Ariz	Minister for Communications.
Diwan-i-Insha	In charge of the Army.

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1 and 2 only

3 and 4 only

2, 3 and 4 only

1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: a

Explanation :

Sher Shah organized a brilliant administrative system. The central government consisted of several departments. The king was assisted by four important ministers:

1. Diwan –i- Wizarat – also called as Wazir - in charge of Revenue and Finance.

2. Diwan-i-Ariz – in charge of the Army.

3. Diwan-i-Rasalat- Foreign Minister.
4. Diwan-i-Insha- Minister for Communications.

Statement 1 is correct: Foreign Minister was called Diwan-i-Risalat during Sher Shah's administration.  
Statement 2 is correct: The Revenue and Finance minister was called Diwan -i- Wizarat.  
Statement 3 is incorrect: The minister in charge of the Army was called Diwan-i-Ariz. The Minister for Communications was called Diwan-i-Insha.  
Statement 4 is incorrect: The Minister for Communications was called Diwan-i-Insha. The minister in charge of the Army was called Diwan-i-Ariz.

88. With reference to Vijayanagar rulers, consider the following statements:  
In the court of Krishna Deva Raya, there was a group of eight Telugu poets called Ashtadiggajas.  
The rule of primogeniture was established in this kingdom.  
During the reign of Rama Raya, the Battle of Talaikotta was fought.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Ashtadiggaja were eight Telugu poets in the court of the emperor Sri Krishna Deva Raya. These poets were Allasani Peddana, Nandi Thimmana, Madayyagari Mallana, Dhurjati, Ayyalaraju Ramambhadrudu, Pingali Surana, Ramaraja bhushanudu and Tenali Ramakrishnudu.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Rule of primogeniture was not there in the kingdom of Vijayanagar. Hence there was confusion with respect to succession to the throne. There was a series of civil war among the various contenders to the throne.

Statement 3 is correct:, the Battle of Talaikotta was fought between the Vijayanagar Kingdom and forces of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golkonda and Bidar(during the reign of Rama Raya) .the Vijayanagar Kingdom was defeated in this war This battle also known as Raksasa Thangadi.was generally considered to mark the end of the Vijayanagar Empire. The city of Vijayanagar was destroyed while Rama Raya was executed

89. With reference to Bahamani Kingdom, consider the following statements:  
Firoz Shah was the founder of this kingdom.  
The kingdom was divided into eight provinces called khalisa.  
Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital of the Bahmani Kingdom from Gulbarga to Bidar.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: The founder of the Bahmani kingdom was Alauddin Bahman Shah (Hasan Gangu). The Kingdom was founded by him in the year 1347. And not by Firoz Shah Statement 2 is incorrect: Mahamud Gawan carried out many reforms in the Bahamani kingdom. He divided the kingdom into eight provinces called Tarafs. Each tarafs was governed by a tarafdar. In every province, a tract of land was set apart for the expenses of the sultan. Such land was called khalisa.

Statement 3 is correct: Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar. Earlier the capital of Bahamani Kingdom was Gulbarga.

90. With reference to Vijayanagara architecture, consider the following statements:

Construction of tall Raya Gopurams and Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars are the important features of this School of Architecture.

Vittalawamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples are examples of this style of architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Construction of tall Raya Gopurams and Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars are the important features of this School of Architecture. The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features. The horse was the most common animal found in these pillars. Large mandapams contain one hundred pillars as well as one thousand pillars in some big temples. These mandapams were used for seating the deity on festival occasions. Also, many Amman shrines were added to the already existing temples during this period.

Statement 2 is correct: Vittalawamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples were the best examples of this style of Architecture. The Varadharaja and Ekambaranatha temples at Kanchipuram stand as examples for the magnificence of the Vijayanagara style of temple architecture. The Raya Gopurams at Thiruvannamalai and Chidambaram speak of the glorious epoch of Vijayanagar.

90. Consider the following passage:

The Bahmani kingdom reached its peak under his guidance. His advice and services contributed to the success of Muhammad Shah III. He was granted the title of Malik-ul-Tujjar. His administrative reforms helped in increasing the control of the Sultan over the nobles and provinces. He built a magnificent madrasa or college in the capital Bidar.

Which of the following personalities is referred to in the above passage?

Hasan Gangu

Malik Ambar

Ahmad Wali Shah

Mahmud Gawan

Answer: d

Explanation :

Option (a) is incorrect: The founder of the Bahmani kingdom was Alauddin Bahman Shah also known as Hasan Gangu. He was not granted the title of Malik-ul-Tujjar.

Option (b) is incorrect: Malik Amber was a popular Prime Minister of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate. He is credited with carrying out a revenue settlement of much of the Deccan, which formed the basis for subsequent settlements. He was not related to the Bahmani kingdom.

Option (c) is incorrect: Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar. He was not granted the title of Malik-ul-Tujjar

Option (d) is correct:

The Bahmani kingdom reached its peak under the guidance of Mahmud Gawan.

The success of Muhammad Shah was due to the advice and services of his minister Mahmud Gawan. He was also a military genius.

He waged successful wars against Vijayanagar, Orissa and the sea pirates on the Arabian sea. His conquests include Konkan, Goa and Krishna-Godavari delta. Thus he expanded the Bahmani Empire through his conquests.

His administrative reforms were also important. They were aimed to increase the control of the Sultan over the nobles and provinces.

He was granted the title of Malik-ul-Tujjar.

He built a magnificent madrasa or college in the Capital Bidar. Some of the famous scholars of the time belonging to Iran and Iraq came to madrasa at the instance of Mahmud Gawan.

91. Consider the following statements regarding Kathak dance:

It is the only Indian classical dance having links with Islamic culture.

Performances are accompanied by tabla strokes.

The golden age of Kathak unfolded under the patronage of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation: The word Kathak has been derived from the word Katha which means a story. Kathakars or story-tellers, are people who narrate stories largely based on episodes from the epics, myths and legends. It probably started as an oral tradition. Mime and gestures were perhaps added later on to make the recitation more effective. Thus evolved a simple form of expressional dance, providing the origins of what later developed into Kathak as we see it today.

Statement 1 is correct: With the coming of the Mughals, this dance form received a new impetus. A transition from the temple courtyard to the palace durbar took place which necessitated changes in presentation. In both Hindu and Muslim courts, Kathak became highly stylised and came to be regarded as a sophisticated form of entertainment. Today, Kathak has emerged as a distinct dance form. Being the only classical dance of India having links with Muslim culture, it represents a unique synthesis of Hindu and Muslim genius in art. Further, Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or the North Indian music. Both of them have had a parallel growth, each feeding and sustaining the other.

Statement 2 is correct: The Kathak dancer is accompanied by an equally dextrous percussionist - the tabla player - whose fingers have to match the speed of the dancer's feet and the sound of the ghungroos. The dancer or the tabla player recite a series of bols which are given physical interpretation by dance and musical accompaniment.

Statement 3 is correct: The nineteenth century saw the golden age of Kathak under the patronage of Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Oudh. He established the Lucknow gharana with its strong accent on bhava, the expression of moods and emotions. Another noteworthy patron of Kathak was Raja Chakradhar of Raigadh in Madhya Pradesh. He encouraged the gharanas - Lucknow as well as Jaipur.

92. Consider the following pairs 'Dance forms' and 'State':

Garba - Gujarat

Ghoomra - Uttar Pradesh

Karagam - Tamil Nadu

Cheraw - Mizoram

Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1, 3 and 4 only

2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: c

Explanation

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Garba, also spelled garaba, singular garbo, type of dance commonly performed at festivals and on other special occasions in the state of Gujarat, India. Garba dances celebrate fertility, honour womanhood, and pay respect to any of an array of mother goddesses. Although men may participate on some occasions, women are the typical performers of garba. Dancing begins slowly and gradually increases in speed.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Ghoomra is a folk song and dance genre of Orissa, prevalent in the districts of Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Cuttack. This dance is named after the musical instrument "Ghoomra (drum)". Dancers dance while playing the ghoomra drum with both hands.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Karagam is a folk dance from Tamil Nadu. The dancers carry colorful decorative pots, piled one after another on their heads, while balancing the pots dancer gaily executes intricate movements with their feet. Goddess Mariamma (Goddess of health and rain), the pots signifies the symbols for fertility.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: It is a dance form of Mizoram. Bamboos are used in the performance of the Cheraw dance. In the performance, the dancer moves by stepping alternatively in and out from between and across a pair of horizontal bamboos.

93. The term 'Vetti' most frequently mentioned in the inscriptions of the Cholas is referred to:

Land revenue

Taxes on thatching the house

A cess on succession to family property  
Tax taken in the form of forced labour

Answer: d

Explanation: The inscriptions of the Cholas who ruled in Tamil Nadu refer to more than 400 terms for different kinds of taxes.

Option (a) is incorrect: Land revenue was referred to as kadamai.

Option (b) and (c) are incorrect: There were also taxes on thatching the house, the use of a ladder to climb palm trees, a cess on succession to family property, etc, but they had no specific terms mentioned in the inscription of Cholas.

Option (d) is correct: The most frequently mentioned tax in the inscriptions of the Cholas is vetti, which was not taken in cash, but in the form of forced labour.

94. With reference to the great struggle for power in India post 1000AD, consider the following statements:

The Second Battle of Tarain resulted in the decline of Chauhan power from Delhi.

The Battle of Chandawar cemented Babur's control of north India by defeating Medini Rai of Chanderi.

The Battle of Kanauj led to the passing of control of Agra from Mughals to the Sur dynasty.

The Battle of Bannihatti culminated into the ceding of Maratha territory by the Mughals.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

1 and 3 only

2 and 4 only

3 and 4 only

2 and 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation: The middle ages witnessed a series of battles which not only decided the fate of the kingdoms but in some cases changed the very course of history. These battles were not bound by any spatial or temporal limitations but were rather spread to the whole of the country. Able generalship and military advances in tactics made the warfare more than sheer numbers. While some of them led to the seeding of a new dynasty or clan in the society, some of them led to a virtual wipeout from the map of the country.

Statement 1 is correct: Battle of Tarain was fought between Prithviraj III of Chauhan Dynasty and Muhammad of Ghazni. In the second battle fought in 1192, Prithviraj lost the battle and the Chauhan power in Delhi came to an end. They were then limited to a small principality near Ajmer (Ajayameru).

Statement 2 is incorrect: Battle of Chandawar was fought between Jayachandra and Muhammad Ghori in the year 1194. Defeat in this crucial battle paved the way for Muhammad to increase his conquest of the Ganga Valley and a gradual spread of Turkish rule in the country.

The battle between Babur and Medini Rai was fought at Chanderi in 1528 and helped Babur consolidate his position in north India.

Statement 3 is correct: The Battle of Kanauj was fought between Sher Shah and Humayun in the year 1540. It was here that Humayun was met with a decisive defeat which left him as a king without a kingdom and he had to seek shelter abroad. Though accompanied by his younger brothers, able generalship helped Sher Shah carry the day and establish the reign of Sur dynasty over Agra.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The battle of Bannihatti or Talikota was fought in 1565 and marked an end to the once almighty Vijayanagar Empire. In the battle, a unified army of five Deccan Sultanates (Ali Adil Shah and four others) defeated the Vijayanagara Army and Vijayanagara General Ramaraju was killed in the battlefield.

95. Consider the following statements regarding Basavanna:  
He was the founder of the Aradhya Shaiva movement.  
He was a minister in the court of the Kalachuri king of Kalyana.  
The religious literary work of Basavanna is known as Vachanas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Basava (1105-1167) challenged traditional Hindu beliefs and practices relating to caste, ritual pollution, and status of women. The movement started by him called Virashaivism projected for its followers a new social order which was based on ritual equality (in terms of worship and belief), sanctity of all work, and universal ritual purity i.e. purity of all followers irrespective of sex, age and occupation. This movement utilised Kannada, the spoken language of the masses, to communicate its ideas.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Basava founded the Virashaiva or Lingayat sect. Simultaneous with the development of Virashaivism was the growth and expansion of another movement of similar beliefs. This was the Aradhya Shaiva movement in Andhra (Cuddapah and Kurnool district mainly) and Kannada region (Mysore). It was started by Mallikarjuna Pandita Aradhya, who was a contemporary of Basava in the twelfth century.

Statement 2 is correct: Basava was a minister in the court of the Kalachuri king, Bijjala of Kalyana in north Karnataka in the twelfth century (AD 1160). Bijjala and Basava were said to have had numerous differences. He left the royal court and founded a movement for reforming society.

Statement 3 is correct: From the middle of the 12th century, Virasaivism began to influence the people and literature of the Kannada speaking region. The religious literary work of Basava is known as Vachanas. The works of Basava and his followers constitute an important contribution to the medieval Kannada literature.

96. Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land. In this context, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- Vellanvagai: Land gifted to temples  
Pallichchandam: Land donated to Jaina institutions  
Tirunamattukkani: Land gifted to Brahmanas

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer (a)

Explanation: Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land as follows-

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Vellanvagai was land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors, and land gifted to temples was referred to as devadana or tirunamattukkani.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Pallichchandam was land donated to Jaina institutions.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Tirunamattukkani was and gifted to temples, and land gifted to Brahmanas was referred to as brahmadeya.

Additional Information

Shalabhoga was referred to land for the maintenance of a school.

97. Which of the following foreign travelers had visited the Vijayanagar Empire?

- Ibn Battuta  
Nicolo de Conti  
Abdur Razzak  
Marco Polo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Many foreign travelers visited the Vijayanagar Empire and their accounts are also valuable. The Moroccan traveler, Ibn Battuta, Venetian traveler Nicolo de Conti, Persian traveler Abdur Razzak and the Portuguese traveler Domingo Paes were among them who left valuable accounts on the socio-economic conditions of the Vijayanagar Empire.

Ibn Battuta

Visited India during the period of 1333-1347.

His book, called Rihala, provides valuable information about the socio-economic condition of Indian Subcontinent in the fourteen century.

He left an account of Harihara I's reign in his book Rehla.

Nicolo de Conti

Visited India during the period of 1420-1421 A.D.

He visited Vijayanagar Kingdom during the time of Dev Raya II. He left an account in the Travels of Nicolo Conti.

Given a graphic account of Vijayanagar capital.

Abdur Razzak

Visited the VijayaNagar kingdom during the reign of Dev Raya II.

He gives an account of the reign of Devaraya II in his Matla as Sadain Wa Majma ul Bahrain.

Marco Polo

He had not visited the Vijayanagar Empire. He visited South India in 1294 A.D during the reign of Pandyan ruler of Madurai, Madverman, Kulshekhara The Vijaynagar empire was established in 1336.

98. With reference to the ecological pyramid, consider the following statements about the pyramid of numbers:

It always resembles a pyramid.

The number of individuals may increase or decrease from lower trophic level to higher trophic level.

Pyramid of numbers of a single tree is spindle shaped.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

1 only

2 and 3 only

3 only

1 and 3 only

Answer: a

Explanation: An ecological pyramid is a diagrammatic representation of the relationship between different organisms in an ecosystem. These are referred to as pyramids because of their shape. A pyramid is a polyhedron for which the base is a polygon and all lateral faces are triangles. In the pyramid of numbers, the number of organisms in each trophic level is counted and presented.

Statement 1 is incorrect: They do not take the organism's size into account so may not always resemble a pyramid. For example- The pyramid in the grassland ecosystem will be upright resembling a pyramid, and in case of tree ecosystem, it will be in the shape of inverted pyramid. However, in the case of a single tree it will not resemble pyramid shape, but it turns into spindle shape (having a circular cross section and tapering towards each end). The first figure in the image below is upright pyramid, the second image is spindle shaped, and the third image is inverted pyramid.

Statement 2 is correct: The number of individuals may decrease from lower trophic level to higher trophic level in the pyramid of numbers for grassland ecosystem, where producers are more than consumers. The number of individuals may also increase from lower trophic level to higher trophic level in a single tree ecosystem or the ecosystem having parasites.

Statement 3 is correct: The Pyramid of numbers in a single tree system is spindle shaped, where the lower trophic level has a single tree, then the number of caterpillars (primary consumers) is high, then again the number of blue tits (secondary consumer) decreases. See the second figure in the image given above, it resembles a spindle shape.

99. What can be the characteristics of pollutants for the occurrence of biomagnification?

Soluble in water

Biologically active

Short-lived

Mobile

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Biomagnification refers to the ability of living organisms to accumulate certain chemicals in large concentrations than that occurring in their inorganic, non-living environment. Normally, organisms accumulate chemicals needed for their nutrition, but the focus of biomagnification is on the accumulation of some non-essential chemicals.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In order for biomagnification to occur, the pollutants should be soluble in fat and not in water because if they will be soluble in water, then it will be excreted by the organism.

Statement 2 is correct: Pollutant can be both biologically active or inactive for the occurrence of biomagnification. The difference is if a pollutant is not active biologically, although it may biomagnify, it will not create any harm. If it is biologically active, it will harm living organisms.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In order for biomagnification to occur, the pollutants must be long-lived because if a pollutant is short-lived, it will be broken down before it can become dangerous.

Statement 4 is correct: In order for biomagnification to occur, the pollutants must be mobile because if it is not mobile, it will stay in one place and is unlikely to be taken up by organisms.

100. Consider the following passage :

Such species are selected to act as an ambassador, icon or symbol for a defined habitat, issue, campaign or environmental cause. By focusing on, and achieving conservation of that species, the status of many other species which share its habitat – or are vulnerable to the same threats - may also be improved.

Which of the following species is depicted in the above passage?

- Flagship species
- Keystone species
- Indicator species
- Foundation species

Answer: a

Explanation:

Option (a) is correct: A flagship species is a species selected to act as an ambassador, icon or symbol for a defined habitat, issue, campaign or environmental cause. By focusing on, and achieving conservation of that species, the status of many other species which share its habitat – or are vulnerable to the same threats - may also be improved. Flagship species are usually relatively large, and considered to be 'charismatic' in western cultures. Flagship species may or may not be keystone species and may or may not be good indicators of biological process.

Option (b) is incorrect: A keystone species is a species that plays an essential role in the structure, functioning or productivity of a habitat or ecosystem at a defined level.

Option (c) is incorrect: Indicator species are plants and animals that, by their presence, abundance, lack of abundance, or chemical composition, demonstrate some aspect of the character or quality of an environment.

Option (b) is incorrect: Foundation species define ecosystems, control the biological diversity of associated species, modulate critical ecosystem processes, and often have important cultural values and resonance.

101. With reference to the Gupta period, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Shudras enjoyed better status in the Gupta society
2. Unlike the pre-gupta period, upper caste women began to enjoy rights of access to independent sources of livelihood.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is **correct**: The position of shudras improved during this period. They were now permitted to listen to recitations of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Puranas. The shudras could also worship a new god called Krishna and were also permitted to perform certain domestic rites which naturally meant fees for the priests. This can all be linked to some improvement in the economic status of the shudras. From the seventh century onwards, they were mainly represented as agriculturalists; in the earlier period, they generally figured as servants.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**: Women of the two lower varnas were free to earn their livelihood, which gave them considerable freedom, but this was denied to women of the upper varnas. It was argued that the vaishya and shudra women take to agricultural operations and domestic services and are therefore outside the control of their husbands. Women of the higher orders did not have access to independent sources of livelihood in pre-Gupta and Gupta times. Members of the higher orders came to acquire

more and more land which made them more polygamous and more property-minded. In a patriarchal setup, they began to treat women as items of property, to such a degree that a woman was expected to follow her husband to the next world. The first example of the immolation of a widow after the death of her husband occurred during the Gupta period in AD 510. The principal reason for the subordination of women of the upper varnas was their complete dependence on men for their livelihood, and lack of proprietary rights.

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102. Consider the following statements:

- 1.The part of the Mahabharata that consists of moral discourses are associated with the Gupta period.
- 2.The Jatakas are folk tales and contain no reference to the polity during the age of the Buddha.
3. The Bhagavad Gita admonished the duties to be assigned on the basis of caste.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** The two epics Ramayana and Mahabharat and the major Puranas seem to have been finally compiled by 400. AD. Of the epics, the Mahabharata attributed to Vyasa is older and possibly reflects the state of affairs from the tenth century BC to AD fourth century. It contains narrative, descriptive, and didactic material. The main narrative which relates to the Kaurava–Pandava conflict may relate to the later Vedic period, the descriptive portion might be of the post-Vedic period, and the didactic portion generally relates to the post-Maurya and Gupta periods.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The most important and interesting portion of the non-canonical literature is provided by the stories of the previous births of Gautama Buddha. It was believed that before he was actually born as Gautama, the Buddha passed through over 550 births, in many cases in the form of animals. Each birth story is called a Jataka, which is a folk tale. The Jatakas throw invaluable light on the social and economic conditions of the period between the fifth and second century BC. They also make incidental references to political events in the age of the Buddha.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Bhagavad Gita forms an important part of the Mahabharata. It teaches that a person must carry out the duties assigned to him by his caste and rank under all circumstances without any desire for reward.

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103. Consider the following statements regarding the Amaravati school of sculpture

- 1.Sculptures are hewn out of white limestone.
- 2.They depicted events from the life of the Buddha, but not from his previous birth.
- 3.Rashtrakutas were the patrons of this school of sculpture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: The Satavahana rulers promoted Buddhism by granting land to the monks. In their kingdom, the Mahayana form of Buddhism commanded a considerable following, especially amongst the artisan class. Nagarjunakonda and Amaravati in AP became important seats of Buddhist culture under the Satavahanas, and more so under their successors, the Ikshvakus.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The reliefs are carved on the greenish white limestone characteristic of the region.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** They mostly depict events of the Buddha's life and his previous births (Jataka stories).

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** It was patronised by the Satavahanas and Ikshvakus, and not by rashtrakutas.

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104. Consider the following pairs:

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Shudraka   | Daridra charudatta |
| 2. Kalidasa   | Raghuvamsa         |
| 3. Bhasa      | Mrichchhakatika    |
| 4. Amarasimha | Amarakosha         |

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation

**Option 1 and 3 are incorrect:** Bhasa was the author of a drama called Daridra Charudatta, which was later refashioned as Mrichchhakatika or the (Little Clay Cart by Shudraka)

**Option 2 is correct:** What has made the Gupta period particularly famous is the work of Kalidasa who lived in the second half of the fourth and the first half of the fifth century. He was the greatest poet of classical Sanskrit literature. One of his works is Raghuvamsa (the lineage of Raghu/Rama).

**Option 4 is correct:** The Gupta period is particularly memorable for the compilation of Amarakosha by Amarasimha, who was a luminary in the court of Chandragupta II. This lexicon is learnt by heart by students learning Sanskrit in the traditional way.

Additional Information

The rich literary contribution of the Gupta period is one of the reasons for calling it the golden age of ancient India.

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105. Ancient coins throw light on which of the following:

1. Political history of the region where they were discovered.
2. The extent of economic activity in the region where they were discovered.
3. Art and religion, prevalent in the place they were discovered.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** Our earliest coins contain a few symbols, but the later coins depict the figures of kings, and divinities, and also mention their names and dates. The areas where they are found indicate the region of their circulation. This has enabled us to reconstruct the history of several ruling dynasties, especially of the Indo-Greeks who came to India from north Afghanistan and ruled here in the second and first centuries BC.

**Statement 2 is correct:** As coins were used for various purposes such as donations, a mode of payment, and a medium of exchange, they throw considerable light on economic history. Some coins were issued by guilds of merchants and goldsmiths with the permission of the rulers. This shows that crafts and commerce had become important. Coins helped transactions on a large scale and contributed to trade. The largest number of Indian coins date to the postMaurya period. These were made of lead, potin, copper, bronze, silver, and gold. The Guptas issued the largest number of gold coins. All this indicates that trade and commerce flourished, especially in postMaurya and a good part of the Gupta period. However, only a few coins belonging to the post-Gupta period have been found, which indicates a decline of trade and commerce in that period.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Coins also portray kings and gods, and contain religious symbols and legends, all of which throw light on the art and religion of the time.

#### Additional Information

As there was nothing like the modern banking system in ancient times, people stored money in earthenware and also in brass vessels, and maintained them as precious hoards on which they could fall back in time of need. Many of these hoards, containing not only Indian coins but also those minted abroad, such as in the Roman empire, have been discovered in different parts of India.

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106. What were the reasons for the shift of the centre of power from Pataliputra to Kannauj during the post Gupta period?

The officers and soldiers were paid through land grants.

Location of kannauj at an elevated area.  
Frequent attack on Patliputra by Sena kings.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation: The emergence of Kannauj emerged as a centre of political power from the reign of Harsha onwards.

Statement 1 is correct: Pataliputra owed its power and importance to trade and commerce, and the widespread use of money. Tools were collected from trade who came from all sides . money became scarce after the decline of trade , Hence, soldiers and officers were paid through land grants, the city lost its importance. Power shifted to places having strategic importance and to military campaigns called skandhavaras, which dominated long stretches of land. Kannauj was a place of strategic importance. It was Situated in Farrukhabad (UP), and became politically prominent from the second half of the sixth century on.

Statement 2 is correct: It was difficult to fortify places along the plains but kannauj was situated on the elevated area which was easily fortifiable, whereas patliputra was situated in a plain area. Thus,because it was located right at the centre of the doab, Kannauj was well fortified in the seventh century, which helped in exercising control over the eastern and western wings of the doab, soldiers could be moved by both land and water routes.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Sena Empire, a Hindu dynasty, ruled Bengal from the 11th to 12th century. Thus, attack by them on patliputra was not the reason for the shift of power from Patliputra to kannauj in post Gupta times.

107. Consider the following statements about Mahajanapadas:

The Mallas belonged to the Kuru clan and shifted their capital at Kaushambi

Each Mahajanapadas were centred around one capital city, which determined the place of origin of the clans

The presence of iron mines dictated the strength of the kingdoms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

## Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: The description given is of the kingdom of Vatsas who belonged to the Kuru clan, who had their capital at Kaushambi near Allahabad. They had shifted from Hastinapur to settle down at Kaushambi. Mallas were a republic having their capital at Kusinara or the modern day Kasia near Deoria district where Buddha passed away.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Mahajanapadas were centred around one capital town. However there are instances of these clans changing their capital which belies the principal that their capital indicated the place of origin of the clans. Case in point being the Vatsas who shifted from Hastinapur to Kaushambi. Also there existed some states having two capitals like that of the Avantis with their capitals located at Ujjain and Shravasti.

Statement 3 is correct: The presence of iron mines in the region of Magadha and Madhya Pradesh ensured that Magadha and Avanti became the most powerful kingdoms of their times. This factor enabled them to produce weapons on a large scale and better equip their soldiers.

## Extra Information

The Vedic culture originated in the North-West Frontier Province and the Punjab, and flourished in the western Gangetic basin; the post-Vedic culture, mainly based on the use of iron, thrived in the mid-Gangetic basin. The lower Gangetic valley and north Bengal really came into focus in the age of the Guptas; and finally, the Brahmaputra valley covering Assam gained importance in early medieval times.

108. Harsha is called the last great Hindu emperor of India. This assertion does not stand ground because of which of the following facts?

He was not a staunch Hindu.

He did not directly rule western India.

He banished and executed Brahmins.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

3 only

1 and 3 only

Answer: d

Explanation: Harsha was neither a staunch Hindu nor the ruler of the whole country. As a devout Buddhist he convened a grand assembly at Kannauj to widely publicize the doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism.

Statement 1 is correct: The 'Hindu' adjective does not stand as he was not a staunch Hindu, rather he was a great patron of Buddhism.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The given assertion also stands false because he was not the ruler of the entire Indian subcontinent, as Harsha's southward march was stopped at the Narmada river by the

Chalukya king Pulakeshin. However, he directly ruled western India, as Rajasthan and Punjab were under his direct control.

Statement 3 is correct: When Harsha organised a Buddhist council at Kannauj, there were efforts to dilute Mahayana Buddhism. It was followed by a conspiracy and attempt to assassinate Harsha in a fire. Harsha then arrested 500 Brahmanas for such a conspiracy. He banished most of them, and also executed a few of them. This indicates that Harsha was not tolerant of all religions. Thus, he was not a great Hindu ruler.

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109. Consider the following statements regarding the Kalabhra revolt of the 6th century A D:  
It was a peasant revolt against landed Brahmanas.  
The Kalabhras were patrons of Buddhism.  
The revolt was put down by the joint efforts of Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: The Kalabhra revolt was a powerful peasant protest directed against the landed Brahmanas.

Statement 2 is correct: The Kalabhras were of Buddhist persuasion as they patronized Buddhist monasteries.

Statement 3 is incorrect: By the last quarter of the sixth century, according to a tradition, the Kalabhras had imprisoned the Chola, the Pandya, and the Chera kings, which underlines how formidable their revolt was. Due to its widespread nature the revolt of Kalabhras' could be controlled only through the joint efforts of the Pandyas, the Pallavas, and the Chalukyas of Badami.

110. Which among the following are the literary works of ancient India?

- Ashtadhyayi
- Vashishta Siddhanta
- Thirukkural
- Jambavati Kalyana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Ashtadhyayi is a work on Sanskrit grammar by Panini.

Statement 2 is correct: Vashishta Siddhanta is one of the five siddhantas written by Varahamihira who composed the Panchasiddhantika. It deals with astronomy in considerable detail.

Statement 3 is correct: Thirukkural is a didactic work of the Sangam age. It was written by Thiruvalluvar and consists of values on virtue, wealth and love.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Jambavati Kalyana is a book written by Krishna Deva Raya who belonged to vijayanagar. His other important works consist of Amukta Malyada and Madalasa Charita amongst others. It is not of Ancient India.

Additional Information

The Sangam literature is a major source of our information for the social, economic, and political life of the people living in deltaic Tamil Nadu in the early Christian centuries. What it says about trade and commerce is confirmed by foreign accounts and archaeological finds.

111. With reference to Arms Trade Treaty, which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

India recently signed the treaty, but didn't ratify.

The member countries need to ensure the weapons they export do not end up being used for genocide or crimes against humanity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

1 and 2 Only

2 and 3 Only

1 and 3 Only

1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Arms Trade Treaty is the first legally binding international agreement to regulate the global trade in conventional arms by establishing common international standards for member countries. It has 102 state parties and was endorsed by the UN General Assembly and entered into force in December 2014.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Like Russia, China and Saudi Arabia, India has neither signed nor ratified the treaty. It was in the news because the USA is also planning to withdraw from the International Arms Trade Treaty, because the President views it as a threat to America's second amendment right to bear arms.

Statement 3 is correct: It regulates ammunition or munitions fired, launched, or delivered by the conventional arms covered under the treaty. Nations also need to ensure the weapons they export do

not end up being used for genocide, crimes against humanity or terrorist acts. If they do find out the arms will be used for any of these, they need to stop the transfer.

112. Consider the following works of art and architecture:

Didarganj Yakshini  
Sultanganj Buddha  
Virupaksha Temple  
Amaravati Stupa

Select the correct chronology from the code given below:

1-2-3-4  
2-3-1-4  
1-4-2-3  
2-4-1-3

Answer: c

Explanation: Didarganj (Patna) Yakshini belongs to the Mauryan period. Amaravati stupa belongs to the post-Mauryan period. Sultanganj Buddha belongs to the Gupta period and Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal was built by the Chalukyas in the 8th century.

Additional Information

Some works of art got royal patronage while some were made by independent artisans. Some others were made for monasteries and temples while some others were commissioned by merchants.

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113. Consider the following statements regarding the late megalithic southern India:

The Chola Economy was famous for its Cotton Trade.  
The Chera power owed its importance to trade with the west.  
Cranganore in the Chera country, housed two regiments from Rome.  
Kadaiyars and pariyars comprised the rich and affluent landed class.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1, 3 and 4 only  
2, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 1 and 2 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: d

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: The Chola capital, Uraiyur was noted for its cotton trade. In ancient times, the Tamils traded with the Greek or Hellenistic kingdom of Egypt and Arabia, on the one hand, and with the Malay archipelago and China, on the other.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: In the early centuries of the Christian era, the Chera state was as important as the states of the Cholas and Pandyas, and owed its position to trade with the Romans. Two regiments were set up by Romans at Muziris to protect their interest in the region.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Kadaiyars were the members of the lowest class. Though their situation was a bit better than the earlier times, it was little different than slaves. Pariyars on the other hand were the agricultural labourers who also worked in animal skins and used them as mats.

#### Additional Information

Eventually many elements of Tamil culture spread to the north, and in the brahmanical texts, the Kaveri came to be regarded as one of the holy rivers of India.

114. Consider the following statements:

The varna system of north India was implanted as such in south India with the aid of Brahmanas. The kshatriyas were as important in the south as they were in the north.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

#### Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: Though the varna system was introduced in south India, in practice its operation was different from that in Aryavarta or the main part of north India. It was because Kashatriyas were not important in South India, as they were in North india. Also, the peasantry class, which was mostly considered as shudras in the north was divided into various peasant castes in south India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: After the introduction of Varna system in South India, many south Indian rulers claimed to be brahmanas, which shows that the kshatriyas were not as important in the south as in the north. The same seems to have been the case with the vaishyas.

#### Additional Information

it was considered a departure from the established dharma or norm if the peasant failed to render services or payments. Such a situation was called age of Kali. It was king's duty to put an end to such a state of affairs and restore peace and order which worked in favour of chiefs and priests. The title dharma-maharaja was, therefore, adopted by the Vakataka, Pallava, Kadamba, and Western Ganga kings.

115. Pratityasamutpada and Saptbhavivada (Sapta-bhanga naya) are related to:-

- Buddhism and Jainism respectively
- Jainism and Buddhism respectively

Both belong to Buddhism.  
Both belong to Jainism.

Answer: a

Explanation: The Sanskrit term pratyasamutpada, meaning “dependent arising” or “dependent origination”, is the basis for the Buddha’s teaching on the processes of birth and death and appears in the canon of the two major schools of Buddhism, Theravada and Mahayana.

the most important part of Jaina Logic was syadvada or Sapta-bhangi Naya. Syadvada is neither skepticism, nor agnosticism rather it is the theory of the relativity of knowledge. Every object exists in relation to its form substance, scope and time and not object exists in relation to the form substance, scope and time of any other object. Therefore, the knowledge of every object is not absolute but relative.

116. Consider the following statements:

The early Samkhya philosophy did not presuppose the need of a god for the creation of the world  
Nyaya philosophy stresses on the use of logic  
In Mimamsa school, reasoning was used to provide justification to various natural phenomena

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: According to the early Samkhya philosophy, the presence of divine agency is not necessary for creation of the world. The world owes its creation and evolution more to Nature or prakriti than to God.

Statement 2 is correct: Nyaya, or the school of analysis, was developed as a system of logic. According to it, salvation can be attained through the acquisition of knowledge.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Mimamsa literally means the art of reasoning and interpretation. However, reasoning was used to provide justifications for various Vedic rituals, and the attainment of salvation was made dependent on their performance.

Additional Information: Salvation or moksha is the central subject of the texts on darshana or philosophy

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117. Consider the following statements regarding the inscriptions on Allahabad pillar:

1. The Ashokan Inscriptions contain directives to *Rajukas*.
2. Inscriptions enumerate the conquests of Skandagupta.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Ashokan inscription written in Allahabad was most probably written during the 27th year of his reign. It consists of directives to his administrators (*Rajukas*), diktats against killing of certain animals (parrots, ducks, geese etc.) as well as directions against felling of trees 'without any good reason'. Hence it was kind of a first environmental law.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Gupta king, Samudragupta's court poet Harishena wrote a glowing account of the military exploits of his patron, and, in a long inscription, the poet enumerates the peoples and countries that were conquered by Samudragupta.

#### Additional Information

The Gupta kingdom was enlarged enormously by Chandragupta's son and successor Samudragupta (AD 335–80). He was the opposite of Ashoka. Ashoka believed in a policy of peace and non-aggression, but Samudragupta delighted in violence and conquest.

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118. Which of the following are the main differences between the philosophies of Shankara and Ramanuja?

1. According to Shankara, Brahman is real and jiva and world are unreal, whereas according to Ramanuja, Brahman, jiva and world are real.
2. According to Shankara, devotion is the only way to salvation, but for Ramanuja, knowledge or Jnana is the chief means of achieving salvation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** According to Advaita philosophy of Shankara, brahma is the reality and everything else is unreal (maya). The self (soul) or atma coincides with brahma. Therefore, if a person acquires the knowledge of the self (atma), he acquires the knowledge of brahma, and thus attains salvation. On the other hand, for Ramdnuja Brahman, jiva and World are real. Jiva

and World are attributes of Brahman.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Shankara considered knowledge or jnana to be the chief means of salvation, but Ramanuja's road to salvation lay in practising devotion/loving faith. .

### Additional Information

Vedanta means the end of the Veda. The Brahma Sutras of Badarayana compiled in the second century BC formed its basic text. Vedanta philosophy is traced to the earlier Upanishads. The theory of karma came to be linked to Vedanta philosophy.

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119. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta period:

1. The Brahmanical laws were finalised during this period.
2. Village Headmen lost their powers during this period due to centralized administration.
3. The villages granted to religious functionaries, were out of bounds for Royal Agents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** The judicial system was far more developed under the Guptas than in earlier times. Several law-books were compiled during this period, and for the first time civil and criminal laws were clearly demarcated. Theft and adultery fell under criminal law, disputes regarding various types of property under civil law. Elaborate laws were laid down about inheritance. As in earlier times, many laws continued to be based on varna differentiation. It was the duty of the king to uphold the law, and try cases with the help of brahmana priests.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The village headman gained in importance in Gupta times, managing village affairs with the assistance of elders. In the administration of a village or a small town, leading local elements were associated. No land transactions could be effected without their consent. In the urban administration, organized professional bodies were given a considerable say.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Religious Functionaries were granted land, free of tax for ever and they were authorised to collect from the peasants all the taxes which could have otherwise gone to the emperor. The villages granted to the beneficiaries could not be entered by royal agents, retainers etc. The beneficiaries were also empowered to punish the criminals.

### Additional Information

There was more decentralisation during the period of the Guptas. When the central power grew weak, it led to fragmentation of the empire.

120. Consider the following pairs:

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Megasthenes | Mauryan Age      |
| 2. I-tsing     | Age of Bindusara |
| 3. Fa Hien     | Gupta Age        |
| 4. Hiuen Tsang | Age of Harsha    |

Which of the following pairs are correctly matched:

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

Answer: c

**Explanation**

**Option 1 is correct:** Megasthenes was a greek ethnographer, who visited during the period of 302-298 B.C. He was ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, who visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya. He wrote an interesting book Indica.

**Option 2 is incorrect:** I-tsing came to India for the Period of 671- 695 A.D. He stayed in Nalanda university. He was a Chinese traveller, who visited India in connection with Buddhism, whereas Bindusara was there for the period of 320 BC–273 BC.

**Option 3 and 4 are correct:** Fa-hsien and Hsuan Tsang were Buddhists, and came to India to visit the Buddhist shrines and to study Buddhism. The first came in the beginning of the fifth century and the second in the second quarter of the seventh century. Fahien describes the social, religious, and economic conditions in India in the age of the Guptas, and Hsuan Tsang presents a similar account of India in the age of Harsha.

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121. St. Mary's Island and Malpe Beach frequently seen in news is related to

- (a) Proposed new rocket launching pads for ISRO.
- (b) India's first submerged coral islands due to rising sea level.
- (c) Global Geoparks networks.
- (d) New mining site for Monazite affluent sand.

Answer: c

Explanation:

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

Two sites in India have been identified by Geological Survey of India for Global Geoparks status- Lonar Lake (Maharashtra) and St. Mary's Island and Malpe beach(Karnataka)

St. Mary's Island, was declared a geo-heritage site in 1975 and is around 88-million-year-old a time when Greater India broke away from Madagascar.

Lunar crater became a geo-heritage site in 1979. It is relatively young , (50,000 years old).It is distinguished by a near-perfect, circular ejecta blanket, which refers to earth thrown up during the collision, around it.

122. 'Unfinished Business: the pursuit of rights and choices for all' seen in news is related to

- (a) World Happiness Report
- (b) World Press Freedom Index
- (c) State of World Population Report
- (d) Global Education Monitoring Report

Answer. c

Explanation:

Option c is correct: State of World Population report(2019) was recently released by United Nations Population Fund, it was titled 'Unfinished Business: the pursuit of rights and choices for all'. The year 2019 is the 50th anniversary of foundation of UNFPA's .

The report depicts on the state of sexual and reproductive health in current scenario.

India accounts for over one-sixth of the world's population in 2019

While India's life expectancy at birth is lower than the world's (69 years to 72), it scores higher than the world average in case of access to healthcare during childbirth, and also has a much lower adolescent birth rate.

123. With reference to 20th Livestock Census, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Livestock data was collected online for the first time.
- 2. While the percentage of the population of the Indigenous cattle population has increased, there is a decline in the total Exotic/Crossbred Cattle over the previous census.
- 3. This census is a breed-wise Livestock Census.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer. c

Explanation: 20th Livestock Census was released by Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying . At present , India has the highest livestock population in the world at 125.5 crore.

Statement 1 is correct.

livestock data were collected online for the first time . The 20th livestock census is a unique attempt because for the first time such a major initiative has been taken for digitisation of household level data through online transmission from the field.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The population of the total Exotic/Crossbred Cattle had shown an increase of 26.9 % in 2019 (compared to the previous census)

total Indigenous/ Non-descript cattle population sees a decline over the previous census.

Statement 3 is correct.

This 20th census is a breed-wise Livestock Census. The Goat population in the country in 2019 is 148.88 million showing an increase of 10.1% over the previous census.

The total Pigs in the country is 9.06 Million in the current Census, declined by 12.03% over the previous Census.

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124. With reference to later vedic phase, consider the following statements:

1. Iron was known to them.
2. Agriculture was the chief means of subsistence of the people.
3. There was widespread urbanization during this phase.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is **correct**

The Vedic people succeeded in the second phase of their expansion because they used iron weapons and horse-drawn chariots.

Statement 2 is **correct**

Agriculture and various crafts enabled the later Vedic people to lead a settled life. Excavations and explorations give us some idea about settlements in later Vedic times.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**

Although the term nagara is used in later Vedic texts only the faint beginnings of towns appear towards the end of the later Vedic period. Hastinapur and Kaushambi (near Allahabad) seem to be primitive towns dating to the end of the Vedic period, and may be called proto-urban

Additional Information

Widespread Painted Grey Ware sites have been found not only in western UP and Delhi, which was the Kuru–Panchala area, but also in the adjoining parts of Punjab and Haryana, the Madra area, and in those of Rajasthan, that constituted the Matsya area.

125. With reference to administrative history of Ancient India, village headmen was referred as :  
Gramika  
Satamana  
Bhojaka  
Both (a) and (c)

Answer : D

Explanation :

Option (a) is correct as  
Village headmen were called gramika.

Option (b) is incorrect as  
During the Reign Of Buddha, Sataman was referred to as the name of coins.

Option (C) is correct as  
During the Reign Of Buddha, The village headmen were referred to as Bhojaka.

Option (d) is incorrect as  
Rich Peasant was referred to as Gahapati.

126. With reference to 3D bioprinted human skin, consider the following statements:

1. It is anatomically similar to native human skin.
2. Bioprinted skin models can also reduce testing on animals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: 3D bioprinted human skin models have certain anatomically relevant structural, mechanical and biochemical features similar to native human skin.

Statement 2 is correct: The bioprinted skin model will have wide applications in testing cosmetics and can also reduce or have probability to replace testing on animals. The bioprinted skin is already in use by ITC Ltd for experiments.

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127. Consider the following statements:

The Indo Greeks were the first to introduce gold coins in India.  
Rudradaman - I was a powerful Parthian ruler.  
Kanishka was the first ruler to issue a long inscription in Sanskrit.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- 3 only
- None of the Above

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct

The Greeks issued large number of coins and were first to issue gold coins in India, and under the Kushans increased rule the gold coins increased in number

Statement 2 is incorrect

Rudradaman I (AD 130–50) was most famous saka ruler in India He ruled over Sindh as well as major parts of Gujarat, Konkan, the Narmada valley, Malwa, and Kathiawar. He was a great lover of Sanskrit.

Statement 3 is incorrect

Rudradaman issued the first-ever long inscription in chaste Sanskrit.

Additional Information

The period from about 200 BC did not see growth of large empires like the Mauryas, but was notable for intimacy between Central Asia and India. Kushans became the most famous example of such contact

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128. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of Ajanta cave paintings belong to the Gupta period.
2. The Ajanta caves contain Buddhist, Jain and Hindu art.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is **correct**

In a way Ajanta is the birthplace of Asian art and has as many as thirty cave temples constructed between the second century BC and the seventh century AD. The paintings started in the second century AD and most of them relate to the Gupta period. Their themes were borrowed from stories about previous incarnations of the Buddha and from other ancient literature.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**

Unlike Ellora caves, it contains only Buddhist art

Additional Information

The achievement of the Indian painters of Ajanta has been justly and greatly lauded by all art connoisseurs. The lines and colours used at Ajanta display a proficiency that was unmatched in the world until the Renaissance in Europe.

---

129. Rivers and mountains formed natural boundaries which led to the development of unique cultures in different regions in India. In the light of the above assertion, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The state of Kalinga was bound by Mahanadi and Damodar.
2. The Tamil culture flourished between the Krishna and Kaveri.
3. The Chera kingdom was bounded by the western ghats.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation

Statement 1 is **incorrect**

Kalinga is in modern day Orissa. It was bound by Mahanadi and Godaveri

Statement 2 is **correct**

A major part of Tamil Nadu was situated between the Krishna to the north and the Kaveri to the south.

Statement 3 is **correct**

The coastal area in the extreme south-west of the peninsula was covered by the modern state of Kerala. The sea coast along the western part of the peninsula is called the Malabar coast. Although the coast came to have several ports and small kingdoms, communications between the coast and the adjoining areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala were rendered difficult by the Western Ghats with difficult passes to cross. Territory of the Chera polity of the early historical period consisted of the present day central Kerala and western Tamil Nadu.

Extra Information

Each of the areas bounded by rivers, in some cases by mountains, and sometimes with deltas and plateaus, constituted a political and administrative unit in which different ruling dynasties rose and fell. On account of difficult communications in a vast country and the defensibility of the natural frontiers, it was not easy for the ruling class of one region to establish its control over all the other regions.

---

130. Which of the following were Buddhist centres of learning?

1. Valabhi
2. Vikramashila
3. Manyakheta
4. Pushpagiri

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

#### Explanation

The Buddhist monasteries developed as great centres of learning, and can be called residential universities. Mention may be made of Vikramashila in Bihar, Valabhi in Gujarat, Manyakheta in Karnataka and Pushpgiri in Odisha.

#### Additional Information

Taxila was an ancient centre of learning but it cannot be termed a Buddhist centre of learning as it did not evolve from a Buddhist monastery nor was it dependent on Buddhist patrons

---

131. With reference to Hot Pursuit, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. There is no international law governing 'hot pursuit' over land.
- 2. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea grants a coastal state the right to pursue and arrest ships escaping to international waters.
- 3. The right of hot pursuit ceases as soon as the ship pursued enters the territorial sea of a foreign state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans. D

#### Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

- **Hot pursuit** refers to the urgent and direct **pursuit** of a criminal suspect by law enforcement officers under international rules of engagement for military forces
- There is no international law governing 'hot pursuit' over land.

Statement 2 is correct.

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Article 111 of the treaty grants a coastal state the right to pursue and arrest ships escaping to international waters if pursuers are competent authorities of the state and have good reason to believe that the pursued ship has violated the state's laws.

Statement 3 is correct.

- The right of hot pursuit ceases as soon as the ship pursued enters the territorial sea of a foreign state.

#### **Hot Pursuit**

- Hot pursuit owes its origin to the law of the seas against vessels that are involved in piracy or smuggling. The coastal country would take action in spite of the principle of freedom of the high seas — the rights of vessels of all nations to navigate freely on the high seas

#### **Exceptions to Hot Pursuit**

- The right of hot pursuit ceases as soon as the ship pursued enters the territorial sea of a foreign state.
- Where a coastal state, stopping or arresting a foreign ship outside the territorial sea on the basis of its right of hot pursuit, fails to justify the exercise, it shall be liable to compensate the ship for any loss or damage caused to it due to the exercise of this right.

#### **Adaptation to land**

- There is no international law governing 'hot pursuit' over land. Over the years, this doctrine has been expanded on land, to justify the breaches of territorial sovereignty of foreign states as part of the ongoing pursuit of offenders.

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132. Consider the following statements regarding Bhimbetka caves:

They were inhabited by agriculturalists.

Geometric patterns predominate in the paintings of the Mesolithic period.

The paintings of Bhimbetka are themed on daily life events, and not on royal themes.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Statement 1 is incorrect: They were inhabited by hunters and gatherers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The largest number of paintings of Bhimbetka belongs to the Mesolithic period. In this period there are multiple themes and smaller paintings with hunting scene predominates. Geometric scenes are a characteristic of paintings of the upper paleolithic period.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Bhimbetka paintings are of great variety, having themes like mundane aspects of life to sacred and royal images.

#### **Additional information**

These animal painting rituals were realistic in the context of hunting. animal paintings are conventional in Harappan context Animals continue to be depicted on the Harappan seals even though the people largely lived on the food they cultivated.

133. Consider the following pairs:

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Gandhara grave culture       | - Mahajanapada period |
| Northern Black Polished Ware | - Rigvedic period     |
| Painted Grey Ware            | - Later vedic period  |

Megalithic culture

- Sangam age

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation

Pair 1 is incorrect: The Rigveda is corroborated with the archaeological finds at the Gandhara grave culture.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Mahajanapada period is associated With NBPW.

Pair 3 is correct: Painted Grey Ware is associated with later vedic age.

Pair 4 is correct: The Megalithic burial structures are the archaeological findings associated with the Sangam age.

Additional Information

Gandhara grave culture should be taken into account to study the age of Rigveda, in which the horse was used and the dead were cremated. a correlation was to be established between the later Vedic age, , and the Painted Grey Ware and other types of archaeological finds.likewise , early Pali texts have to be related to the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) archaeology. Besides, the information derived from the we need to correlate information of Sangam texts to that of Megalithic and early inscriptions. .

134. Consider the following statements:

Charvaka's philosophy is called lokayata philosophy as it is removed from the concerns of the world. Charvaka propounded that one should borrow to eat well.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: Charvaka was the main expounder of the materialistic philosophy which came to be known as the Lokayata, which means the ideas derived from the common people. It underlined the importance of intimate contact with the world (loka), and showed a lack of belief in the other world. Many teachings are attributed to Charvaka. He was opposed to the quest for spiritual salvation. He denied the existence of any divine or supernatural agency. He accepted the existence/reality of only those things that could be experienced by human senses and organs. This implied a clear lack of faith in the existence of brahma and god. According to Charvaka, the brahmanas manufactured rituals in order to acquire gifts (dakshina).

Statement 2 is correct: According to Charvaka, a person should enjoy himself as long as he lives, he should borrow to eat well.

#### Additional Information

idealistic philosophy overshadowed materialistic philosophy by Fifth century A.D who constantly criticized it and recommended the performance of rituals and cultivation of spiritualism as a path to salvation; worldly phenomena were attributed to supernatural forces. This after as obstacle to growth of scientific inquiry and rational thinking. the privileges of the priests and warriors could not be questioned even by the enlightened .

---

135. With reference to the intellectual property rights (IPR) related tussle between potato growers and a multinational company recently in the news, consider the following statements:

1. Indian legal system confers the exclusive rights on plant breeders to sell the certified hybrid seeds they develop.
2. Under Indian law, farmers have the right to re-sow the certified hybrid seeds in the next season.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

#### **Statement 1 is incorrect**

The dominant framework of international intellectual property (IP) law — TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual property Rights) and the UPOV (Union for the Protection of Plant Varieties) — gives plant breeders exclusive rights over the varieties they develop, and mostly disregards customary rights of indigenous and farming communities to their genetic resources and associated knowledges.

Recognising the bias in international law, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001, entitles not just the breeder but also the farmer

Accommodating these twin purposes meant granting recognition of the proprietary claims of both the farmers and breeders, more accurately, of farmers as breeders (Section 2(c)). It gives the farmer the right to “save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell” produce/seeds (S. 39 (1)(iv)). Importantly, the Indian farmer is permitted to even “brown bag seeds” — sell any variety of seed on the condition that they are sold in an unbranded form

#### **Statement 2 is correct**

Under the Indian law, the farmer has the right to “save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell” produce/seeds.

---

136. With reference to cultural history of india the terms like *gavaksha*, *vyala*, *yali* are associated with:

- a) Rituals performed by the vedic people for protection from natural forces
- b) Tax or Bali collected by the rajas or kings of later vedic period
- c) Different names for the indigenous people used by the rig vedic aryan
- d) Elements of ornamentation in temple architecture

Ans.(d)

Explanation:

These terms are various elements of ornamentation used in distinct ways and places in temple architecture of both dravida and nagara.

**Gavaksha** or chandrashala describe the motif centred on horseshoe arch that decorates many Indian structural temples and other buildings.

**Vyala** consists of a composite leonine creature with the head of a tiger, elephant, bird, or other animal, frequently shown in combat with humans or pouncing upon an elephant.

**Yali** is a mythical creature seen in many South Indian temples, often sculpted onto the pillars. It may be portrayed as part lion, part elephant and part horse, and in similar shapes.

---

137. Consider the following statements:

1. The Vindhyas act as the language barrier between northern and southern India
2. Austro-Asiatic family of languages are the largest spoken language group in India.
3. Brahui, one of the languages of the Dravidian family, is spoken in the Balochistan region.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans - (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 is **correct**

The Vindhya mountains cut right across India from west to east and formed a boundary between north and south India. It acts as a language barrier as to its north, there is a predominantly hindi-language belt and to its south, predominantly dravidian languages dominate

Statement 2 is **incorrect**

Indo-Aryan languages form the highest spoken language group. The Dravidian languages, 153 in number, form the second major linguistic group of the country (24.47 per cent). After that, come sino-tebatan and Austro Asiatic languages respectively.

Statement 3 is **correct**

Among Dravidian languages, besides the four internationally known languages spread in many parts of the world, there are 26 Dravidian languages by the current count, of which 25 are spoken in India and one (Brahui) is spoken in Balochistan on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Extra Information

Indian languages belong to four important groups: the Austro-Asiatic, Tibeto-Burman, Dravidian, and Indo-Aryan.

---

138. Consider the following pairs:

City	Region
1. Samatata:	Andhra Pradesh
2. Avanti:	Madhya Pradesh
3. Atranjikhera	Uttar Pradesh
4. Suvarnabhumi	Karnataka

Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

Explanation

Statement 1 is **incorrect**

The deltaic portion of Bengal formed by the Brahmaputra and called Samatata, which was made to acknowledge the authority of Samudragupta in the fourth century, covered south-east Bengal.

Statement 2 is **correct**

In central Malwa and the adjoining parts of MP lay the state of Avanti. It was divided into two parts, the northern part with its capital at Ujjain, and the southern part at Mahishmati.

Statement 3 is **correct**

Atranjikhera was situated in the state of UttarPradesh. Antiquities belonging to the Kushan period have been unearthed from Atranjikhera in the district of Etah(UttarPradesh). The excavation revealed six periods of occupation of which period IV is assignable to early centuries of Christian era. The ceramic of this period consisted of a dominant red ware with medium fabric.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**

Indian culture also spread to Southeast Asia, but not through the medium of Buddhism. Except in the case of Burma it was mostly diffused through the brahmanical cults. The name Suvarnabhumi was given to Pegu and Moulmein in Burma, and merchants from Broach, Banaras, and Bhagalpur traded with Burma.

---

139. Consider the following statements regarding Chalukyan temple architecture:

- 1. The hallmark of the chalukyan architecture is hybridisation and incorporation of several styles.
- 2. Durga temple at aihole is known for the adoption apsidal style which is reminiscent of Buddhist chaitya halls.
- 3. They chalukyan architecture is poor in cave architecture.

Which of the statements given above 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:

**Statement 1 is correct**

The hybridisation and incorporation of several styles was the hallmark of Chalukyan buildings. The most elaborate of all Chalukyan temples at Pattadakal made in the reign of Vikramaditya II (733-44) by his chief queen Loka Mahadevi is Virupaksha temple. Another important temple from this site is Papanatha temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is one of the best early examples of the Dravida tradition. By contrast other eastern Chalukyan Temples, like the Mahakuta, five kilometres from Badami, and the Swarga Brahma temple at Alampur show a greater assimilation of northern styles from Odisha and Rajasthan.

**Statement 2 is correct**

The Durga temple at Aihole is unique having an even earlier style of an apsidal shrine which is reminiscent of Buddhist chaitya halls and is surrounded by a veranda of a later kind, with a shikhara that is stylistically like a nagara one. Finally, mention must be made of the Lad Khan temple at Aihole in Karnataka. This seems to be inspired by the wooden-roofed temples of the hills, except that it is constructed out of stone.

**Statement 3 is incorrect**

Early Chalukyan activity also takes the form of rock-cut caves while later activity is of structural temples. The earliest is probably the Ravana Phadi cave at Aihole which is known for its distinctive sculptural style. One of the most important sculptures at the site is of Nataraja, surrounded by larger-than-life-size depictions of the saptamatrikas: three to Shiva's left and four to his right. The figures are characterised by graceful, slim bodies, long, oval faces topped with extremely tall cylindrical crowns and shown to wear short dhotis marked by fine incised striations indicating pleating.

---

140. With reference to cVIGIL App, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It will be operational only where elections are announced.
- 2. After having clicked a picture or a video, the user can upload it on the app till the results are announced.
- 3. The app will receive complaints about Model Code of Conduct and other election related violations.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer c

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

- It is an Android application which will be operational at the time of elections announcement.
- Without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them.
- The identity of the complainer will be kept confidential.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- The user will get 5 minutes to report an incident after having clicked a picture or a video.
- To prevent any misuse, the app will not allow uploading of the pre-recorded or old images and videos.

Statement 3 is correct.

- cVIGIL is an innovative mobile application for citizens to report Model Code of Conduct and Expenditure violations during the elections. cVIGIL provides time stamped evidentiary proof of model code of conduct / Expenditure Violation, having live photo/video with auto location data.

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141. Consider the following statements regarding Tantrism in ancient India:

1. It admitted both women and shudras into its rank.
2. It stressed on magic rituals to satisfy material desires of the devotees.
3. It could not permeate Jainism and Vaishnavism, but permeated Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** spread of tantricism dates back to sixth century A.D. and it is about this time that tantric texts, shrines and practices also appeared. It admitted both women and shudras into its ranks.

**Statement 2 is correct:** There was great attention on the use of magic rituals to cure day to day diseases and injuries as well as satisfy the material desires of devotees from physical possessions

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tantrism permeated Jainism, Buddhism, Shaivism, and Vaishnavism. It continued to hold ground throughout the medieval age (Right since 7 AD). It is called Vajrayana in Tibet Buddhism.

---

142. Which of the following practices can be traced back to ancient times?

1. Caste system
2. Guilds
3. Kulinism
4. Bull racing

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:** Varnashrama Dharma is a vedic construct.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The ancient sources of history frequently refer to the system of guilds which began in the early Buddhist period and continued through the Mauryan period. Ancient Indian guilds are a unique and multi-faceted form of organisation, which combined the functions of a democratic government, a trade union, a court of justice and a technological institution.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kulinism, in Hinduism, caste and marriage rules said to have been introduced by Raja Vallala Sena of Bengal (reigned 1158–69). The name derives from the Sanskrit word kulina (“of good family”). Kulinism (higher social status) refers to marriage of

a kulina girl to a man in the same class as well as marriage to one in a higher class.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Bull racing is a practice of the ayar community (shepherds/pastoralists) who dwelled in the mullai (pasture/forest) region of the ancient tamil country.

---

143. With reference to architecture during Mauryan times, consider the following statements:

1. Though the empire was laced with stupa and pillars, there was an absence of cave architecture.
2. Patronage for the construction of Stupas was restricted to kings and queens, hence limiting their spread.
3. The lion capital of Ashoka was found in Lauriya Nandangarh.

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

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

Answer : a

Explanation :

**Statement 1 is incorrect :** In the Mauryan period, stone cut pillars and rock cut caves dotted the landscape. The rock cut cave at Barabar Hills in Bihar is called Lomus Rishi cave. It was patronized by Ashoka for the Ajivika sect. However many other rock cut caves dedicated to both Buddhism and Jainism were also found.

**Statement 2 is incorrect :** From 2nd BC, we get many stupa inscriptions mentioning about donors and also their professions and there are very few examples of royal patronage. Patrons ranged from lay devotees to *gahapatis and kings*.

**Statement 3 is correct :** Lauriya Nandangarh pillar near Patna in Bihar has a lion capital attached to it. However unlike the Sarnath capital which had four lions back to back, Lauriya Nandangarh pillar represents a single lion in a sitting position.

---

144. The early agricultural settlements in the Indian subcontinent were in the Himalayan foothills rather than in the gangetic plains. Which of the following statements substantiate the above assertion?

1. The rivers at the foothills of Himalayas were easier to cross.
2. The foothills could be easily cleared of vegetation.
3. Availability of iron.
4. Availability of hard rocks.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: c

**Statement 1 is correct:** the earliest routes were skirted along the foothills of the Himalayas from the west to the east and vice versa as it was easy to cross rivers in these areas because of their narrower width.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It was easier to clear Himalayas than the dense jungles on the alluvial soil of the plains.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Iron was not available, but copper was known to them. This helped in clearing the vegetation of foothills which were not dense. However, they required iron tools for clearing the dense forest of gangetic plains. Thus, they settled in foothills instead of gangetic plains.

**Statement 4 is correct:** As we come down the slope of the mountain, hard rocks remain in the upper course and soft rocks get eroded and translocated up to the plains. Thus, there was availability of hard rocks in the foothills which helped people in making sharp stone tools for carrying out agriculture. Thus, foothills were a convenient choice than gangetic plains.

---

145. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Work - Subject

1. Ashtadhyayi - Grammar
2. Brihat samhita - Mathematics
3. Charaka Samhita - Medicine
4. Abhijnanashakuntalam - poetry

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans - (c)

Explanation

Statement 1 is **correct**

Astahdhyayi is a grammar by Panini that systematized Sanskrit and was written around 5 BC .

Statement 2 is **incorrect**

Varahamihira's Brihatsamhita was written in the 6 AD. In which it was stated that the moon rotates around the earth and the earth rotates around the sun. It is a work on astronomy/astrology

Statement 3 is **correct**

Charaka Samhita by Charaka is an encyclopaedia of Indian medicine in which various types of fever, leprosy, hysteria (mirgi), and tuberculosis are described.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**

Abhijnana Shakuntalam is a Sanskrit **play** written by the ancient Indian poet Kalidasa, dramatizing the story of Shakuntala told in the epic Mahabharata. It is considered to be the best of Kalidasa works. It is a play.

Additional Information

Raghuvamsa and Meghadutam are epic poems of Kalidasa

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146. The term '**Sangrihitri**' used in later vedic period refers to which of the following?

- a. It was a sacrifice, which was performed to confer supreme power on kings.
- b. It was the chariot race between the royal chariot and kinsmen of the Kings.
- c. It was a tax collecting officer who worked as the king's companion.
- d. It was a common pool of collected taxes and tributes.

Answer: c

Explanation:

**Option (a) is incorrect:** 'Rajasuya' was sacrifice to confer supreme power on kings.

**Option (b) is incorrect:** The chariot race between the royal chariot and kinsmen of the kings was referred to as the ashvamedha.

**Option (c) is correct:** sangrihitri' were tax collecting officials who worked as the king's companion.

**Option (d) is incorrect:** There was no specific term used for a common pool of collected taxes and tributes.

---

147. Harappans conducted extensive trade with the Sumerian civilisation. Which of the following statements substantiates this assertion?

1. The presence of Harappan seals in Mesopotamia.
2. The Mesopotamian records refer to trade relations with Meluha.
3. Mention of intermediate trading stations called Lothal in mesopotamian texts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

**Statement 1 is correct:** Harappans had commercial links with the people of the Tigris and the Euphrates basins. Many Harappan seals have been discovered in Mesopotamia, and it appears that the Harappans imitated some cosmetics used by the urban people of Mesopotamia.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Mesopotamian records from about 2350 BC onwards refer to trade relations with Meluha, which was the ancient name given to the Indus region. The Mesopotamian texts speak of two intermediate trading stations called Dilmun and Makan, which lay between Mesopotamia and Meluhha. Dilmun is probably identifiable with Bahrain on the Persian Gulf.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Mesopotamian text speaks of two intermediate trading stations called Dilmun and Makan. Lothal is a port in Gujarat, but not mentioned in Mesopotamian texts.

---

148. Consider the following statements regarding land grants in the deccan during Satavahanas:

The Satavahanas were the first to make land grants to Brahmanas in the Deccan.

Brahmins were bestowed with more land grants than Buddhist monks to accept the claim of Satavahanas as Brahmins.

Land grants to the Buddhist monks aided in the acculturation of the indigenous tribal people.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: The Satavahanas were the first rulers to make land grants to brahmanas.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Though it is true that Satavahanas were Hindus and claimed Brahmanical status, but in the Satavahanas period, we find more instances of land grants being made to Buddhist monks than Brahmanas.

Statement 3 is correct: The indigenous tribal people were increasingly acculturated by the Buddhist monks who were induced by land grants to settle in western Deccan. It is suggested that traders too supported the Buddhist monks, for the earliest caves seem to have been located on the trade routes.

149. Consider the following statements regarding Mahayana School of Buddhism:  
It is a puritan school of Buddhism.

Mauryas were great patrons of the Mahayana School of Buddhism

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: The new liberal form of Buddhism that developed with the coming of the foreigners (Central Asians) came to be called Mahayana or the Great Vehicle. With the rise of Mahayana the old puritan school of Buddhism came to be known as the Hinayana or the Lesser Vehicle.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Kanishka, the Kushan ruler became a great patron of Mahayana Buddhism. He convened in Kashmir a council, whose members composed 300,000 words, thoroughly elucidating the three pitakas or collections of Buddhist literature. Mauryas were the patron of puritan form of Buddhism.

150. What is 'Skai'?

Lean Manufacturing Technology

Quantum Computer

Electric Airplane

Surface to Air Missile

Ans - C

'Skai' is an electric airplane which is powered by a hydrogen fuel cell.

Its rotorcraft are run using very light hydrogen fuel cells, thus It has range of 644 km and has freight carrying capacity of 454 kilograms i

it flies for up to 300 miles at speed 118 mph, with nlaround zero emissions.

It's built to carry up to five people or 1000 pounds of total payload in either piloted, ground-piloted or fully autonomous mode.

151. Which of the following reforms was/were initiated under the rule of Lord William Bentinck?

Introduction of English as the official language of British India

Abolition of female infanticide

Abolition of human sacrifice

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1 only

2 only

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

Answer: a

Explanation :

Statement 1 is correct: English as the official language was introduced during the reign of Lord William Bentinck.

Under the rule of Lord William Bentinck following reforms were initiated.

Abolition of sati and other cruel rites (1829)

Suppression of thuggee (1830)

Charter Act of 1833

Resolution of 1835, and educational reforms

Introduction of English as the official language

Statement 2 is incorrect: Abolition of female infanticide was initiated under the rule of Lord Hardinge.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Abolition of human sacrifice was initiated under the rule of Lord Hardinge.

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152. Consider the following pairs:

**Storm Centre of the Revolt**

1. Kanpur
2. Lucknow
3. Jhansi
4. Benaras

**British Resistance/Suppression**

- Henry Lawrence  
Sir Hugh Wheeler  
Sir Hugh Rose  
Colonel Neil

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** At Kanpur, Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the last Peshwa, Baji Rao II was refused the family title and, banished from Poona, was living near Kanpur. Nana Saheb expelled

the English from Kanpur, proclaimed himself the Peshwa, acknowledged Bahadur Shah as the emperor of India and declared himself to be his governor. Sir Hugh Wheeler, commanding the station, surrendered on June 27, 1857.

**Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Begum Hazrat Mahal took over the reigns at Lucknow where the rebellion broke out on June 4, 1857 and popular sympathy was overwhelmingly in favour of the deposed Nawab. Her son, Birjis Qadir, was proclaimed the Nawab and a regular administration was organized with important offices shared equally by Muslims and Hindus. **Henry Lawrence, the British resident, the European inhabitants and a few hundred loyal sepoys took shelter in the residency. The residency was besieged by the Indian rebels and Sir Henry was killed during the siege.**

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The most outstanding leader of the revolt was Rani Laxmibai, who assumed the leadership of the sepoys at Jhansi. The Rani of Jhansi had died on the battlefield earlier in June 1858. Jhansi was recaptured through assault by **Sir Hugh Rose**.

**Pair 4 is correctly matched:** At Benaras a rebellion had been organized which was mercilessly suppressed, by Colonel Neil, who put to death all suspected rebels and even disorderly sepoys. By the end of 1859, British authority over India was fully re-established.

#### Additional Information

##### The British Resistance

Delhi -- John Nicholson, Lieutenant Willoughby, Lieutenant Hudson

Kanpur- Sir Hugh Wheeler, Sir Colin Campbell

Lucknow- Henry Lawrence, Brigadier Inglis, Henry Havelock, James Outram, Sir Colin Campbell

Jhansi- Sir Hugh Rose

Benaras - Colonel James Neill

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153. Consider the following statements regarding the economic digression towards the end of the Mughal rule:

1. The discontinuation of the Ijara system led to deterioration of state revenue.
2. Officials misappropriated state revenue.
3. The Mughal nobles' monopoly over trade led to the stagnation of crafts and industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

#### Explanation

There was marked economic digression towards the end of the Mughal rule. The financial position of the state deteriorated rapidly towards the end of the Mughal rule. It was mainly because zamindars and rebellious elements refused to pay land revenue.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Land revenue was collected through revenue farming (Ijara system) during this period. In this system, the state's share was fixed and the intermediary/zamindar was allowed to extort at will from the peasants. The system was inimical to the peasants but strengthened the finances of the zamindars. It led to peasant rebellions and rural unrest. This also contributed to the increase in political power of the zamindars which was detrimental to the power of the central authority over the zamindars. This in turn led to the fragmentation of the polity. It adversely affected trade as each local magnate started taxing traders separately. Thus, the ijara system was in no way good for the economy. Its discontinuation could have had a positive effect on the economy. But it was not abolished.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Corrupt officials misappropriated state revenue during this period. This had a considerable impact on the state exchequer.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

Even though they took part in trade, they did not place restrictions on trade by monopolising it. If anything, they only provided impetus to trade during the medieval period.

The Portuguese government tried to monopolise Indian ocean trade by exacting fees from Indian and Arab traders and even from private Portuguese traders.

Note: Tariffs/Fees on trade can be detrimental to trade. This can in turn affect manufacturing and production.

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154. What were the objectives of the introduction of 'Permanent Settlement' in Bengal and other regions of India?

1. Increase in agriculture productivity
2. Provide stability and certainty in income to the company
3. Creation of a wealthy and loyal class to the company

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer :d

Explanation:

The Permanent Settlement (also Permanent Settlement of Bengal) was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. It was an agreement between the British East India Company and the Landlords of Bengal to settle the Land Revenue. The Permanent Settlement was one of the most famous measures of Lord Cornwallis. It was agreed that the landlords would have perpetual and hereditary rights over the land, so long as they pay the fixed revenue to the British Government.

Objectives of permanent settlement system:

1. Placing revenue on a definite footing and making revenue collection sure and certain.
2. Forging an alliance between the zamindar class and the company.
3. Relieving the officials of revenue matters and engaging them to other spheres of administration.
4. Increase in agriculture productivity.

#### Additional information

Since any increase in land productivity was not subject to increase taxes, it was expected that Zamindars would make efforts to improve the conditions of the tenants. This system was that what company would levy from the zamindars was fixed as 10 percent out of 11 parts. The 11th part was the remuneration of the zamindar. However, what the zamindar would levy from the peasants was left unsettled. This implies that more the value of 11 parts, more is the remuneration of zamindar's 11th part. Thus, it was clear that if the productivity of land is improved, the company will have no right to demand anything in excess of what was already settled. But this belief of Cornwallis was belied later because unfortunately, the increased earnings were not spent on peasants. Instead, this led to increased luxuries and pleasures of the zamindars.

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155. Which of the following is not a feature of 'Study in India scheme'?

- a. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs.
- b. It's primary objective is to target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.
- c. The programme envisages participation of select reputed Indian institutes by way of offering seats for international students at affordable rates.
- d. The proposed fee waivers to meritorious foreign students in this policy will be borne by the government from the proceeds of education cess.

Answer: d

Explanation:

#### Study in India scheme:

- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs to target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.
- The programme envisages participation of select reputed Indian institutes and universities by way of offering seats for international students at affordable rates.
- The proposed fee waivers to meritorious foreign students in this policy will be decided by the Institute. The expenditure on the fee waiver will have to be borne by the Institute concerned. No additional cash flow from the Government is proposed for the same.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development has approved 'Study in India' programme with, inter-alia, the following objectives:
  - i. To improve the soft power of India with focus on the neighbouring countries and use it as a tool in diplomacy.
  - ii. To double India's market share of global education exports from less than 1 percent to 2 percent.
  - iii. Increase in contribution of international students in the form of direct spends, indirect spends, spillover effects.
  - iv. Increase in global ranking of India as educational destination.
  - v. To reduce the export – Import imbalance in the number of International students.

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156. With reference to Dharma Sabha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Radhakant Deb founded this Sabha.
2. It supported the idea of abolition of Sati.
3. It favoured the promotion of Western Education, even for girls.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Rammohan Roy wanted to purify Hinduism. But Roy's progressive ideas met with strong opposition from orthodox elements like Raja Radhakant Deb who organised the Dharma Sabha to counter Brahma Samaj propaganda. Radhakant Deb founded this sabha in 1830. An orthodox society, it stood for the preservation of the status quo in socio-religious matters.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Radhakant Deb founded this Sabha in 1830.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** It wanted to maintain the status quo in socio-religious matters, opposing even the abolition of sati. Dharma Sabha was an orthodox society. So, it tried to maintain status quo in socio religious practices.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Although Dharma Sabha was an orthodox society, it favoured the promotion of western education in our country.

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157. Which of the following was not a consequence of the Revolt of 1857?

- a. Indian states were to henceforth recognise paramountcy of the British Crown and were to be treated as a part of a single charge.
- b. Reduction in the number of Indian soldiers in the Army, while the number of European soldiers were increased.
- c. Promise of equal and impartial protection under law to all Indians, besides equal opportunities in government services.
- d. The army was to henceforth be in constant touch with the civilian population, for better awareness of the mindset of the locals thereby, preventing further uprisings.

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Option (a) is correct:** As per the Queen's proclamation of 1858, the era of annexations and expansion had ended and the British promised to respect the dignity and rights of the native princes.

**The Indian states were henceforth to recognise the paramountcy of the British Crown and were to be treated as parts of a single charge.**

**Option (b) is correct:** After the revolt of 1857, the British could no longer depend on Indian loyalty, so **the number of Indian soldiers was drastically reduced even as the number of European soldiers was increased.** The concept of divide and rule was adopted with separate units being created on the basis of caste/community/region.

**Option (c) is correct:** The proclamation also promised equal and **impartial protection under law to all Indians, besides equal opportunities in government services irrespective of race or creed.** It was also promised that old Indian rights, customs and practices would be given due regard while framing and administering the law. The people of India were promised freedom of religion without interference from British officials.

**Option (d) is incorrect:** Effort was made to **keep the army away from civilian population.** The Army Amalgamation Scheme, 1861 moved the Company's European troops to the services of the Crown.

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158. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Press before independence:

1. The first newspaper to be printed in India was the Bengal Gazette by James Hickey.
2. Amrita Bazar Patrika was published in English.
3. The Illustrated Weekly was a news magazine founded in Madras presidency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Although the British were responsible for bringing the printing press in India, they were most allergic to the emergence of a newspaper in this country.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Bengal Gazette was the first English-language newspaper published on the Indian subcontinent. It was founded in Calcutta, capital of British India at the time, by Irishman James Augustus Hicky in 1779.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Amrita Bazar Patrika was first published in Bengali and then shifted to English

With the appearance of the Amrita Bazar Patrika in 1868, first in Bengali and then dramatically changing over to the English language, the complexion of journalism in India transformed suddenly and radically.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

The Illustrated Weekly was a news magazine founded in Bombay. It was launched in 1880. The Illustrated Weekly was considered to be an important English-language publication in India for more than a century.

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159. What was/were the consequences of securing the Diwani rights by the East India Company over Bengal?

1. The 'investments' of the company increased.
2. India's exports to England exceeded its imports.
3. Expenditures incurred by the British government in agriculture led to surplus production.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:c

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

The company purchases or procurement of goods and cloth from weavers and handicrafts men were known as 'Investments'. In 1765 the company acquired the diwani rights or revenue collection rights from mughal emperor. The company used its political control over Bengal to push its indian trade.

Moreover it utilised the revenue of Bengal to finance its exports of indian goods. The company used its political power to dictate terms to the weavers of Bengal who were forced to sell their products at a cheaper and dictated price,even at a loss. Moreover, their labour was no longer free. Many of them were compelled to work for low wages and were forbidden to work for Indian merchants. The company eliminated its rival traders both Indian and foreign and prevented them from offering higher prices and wages to Bengal handicrafts men.The servants of the company monopolised the sale of raw cotton and made the Bengal weaver pay exorbitant prices for it. Thus, the weaver lost both ways as buyer as well as seller.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Due to newly acquired political power combined with large revenue, the company exported large volumes of goods and clothes. Even in the second half of the eighteenth century the British industries were still in nascent stage, not able to compete with superior hand made Indian products. Import from Britain to India was minimal. The drain of wealth from Bengal began in 1757 when the Company's servants began to carry home immense fortunes extorted from Indian rulers, zamindars, merchants and the common people. They sent home nearly £ 6 million between 1758 and 1765. This amount was more than four times the total land revenue collection of the Nawab of Bengal in 1765.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

East India company at the time did not spend a single penny for indian agriculture. Instead the economic policies of the company led to decline in agriculture and productivity. Artisanal production was in decline, and agricultural cultivation showed signs of collapse. Then in 1770 a terrible famine killed ten million people in Bengal. About one-third of the population was wiped out.

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160. With reference to Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) seen in news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a web portal to block stolen and lost mobile phones.
2. It is developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
3. The Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) is integrated with the CEIR to effectively track increasing mobile thefts.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

The government has launched a web portal, Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), to facilitate blocking and tracing of stolen/lost mobile phones.

It aims to curtail the counterfeit mobile phone market, discourage mobile phone theft and protect consumer interest.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

The CEIR has been undertaken by the Centre for Development of Telematics under the Department of Telecom (DoT).

Statement 3 is incorrect:

The Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) is not integrated with the CEIR.

CEIR acts as a central system for all network Operators to share black listed mobile devices so that devices blacklisted in one network will not work on other networks even if the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card in the device is changed.

161. With reference to Permanent Settlement System, which of the following statements is/are correct?

Under this system, landlords were recognized as only revenue collectors of the land but not as owners of land.

The settlement system had a sunset clause.

Bengal and Bihar were covered under this settlement system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Permanent Settlement System:

The Izaredar system was based on annual assessment of revenue. To streamline the revenues of the company, Cornwallis changed the settlement schedule from annual to decennial (10 years). This new form of revenue settlement was called the Permanent Settlement system.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Under this system, landlords were recognized as owners of land and not only revenue collectors of the land.

Statement 2 is correct: The settlement system had a sunset clause. The Zamindar needed to pay a fixed amount of land revenue on a fixed date every year. If the Zamindar failed to pay the amount on a fixed date, the Company could sell their land via public auction. This was the sunset clause provisions in this settlement system.

Statement 3 is correct: Under Permanent Settlement areas like Bengal, Bihar, Banaras, division of the Northern Western Provinces and northern Karnataka were covered.

162. With reference to Social Reform Movements in India, consider the following statements: Swami Dayanand Saraswati's slogan of 'Back to the Vedas' was a call for the revival of Vedic times.

The founders of the Paramahansa mandali were primarily interested in breaking caste rules. The 'Pledge Movement' was launched by the Indian Social Conference to inspire people to take a pledge against child marriage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Arya Samaj Movement, was a kind of reaction Western influences and was revivalist one. The first Arya Samaj was established at Bombay in 1875 and later the headquarters were shifted at Lahore. Dayananda launched a frontal attack on Hindu orthodoxy, caste rigidities, untouchability, idolatry, polytheism, belief in magic, charms and animal sacrifices, taboo on sea voyages, feeding the dead through shraddhas, etc. Dayananda's slogan of 'Back to the Vedas' was a call for a revival of Vedic learning and Vedic purity of religion and not a revival of Vedic times. He accepted modernity and displayed a patriotic attitude to national problems.

Statement 2 is correct: Paramahansa Mandali was founded in 1849 its founders were Dadoba Pandurang, Mehtaji Durgaram and others—initially it started as a secret society and worked to reform Hindu religion and society in general. It was mainly interested in breaking caste rules.

Statement 3 is correct: The Indian Social Conference was founded by M.G. Ranade and Raghunath Rao. It focussed attention on the social issues of importance; it could be called the social reform cell of the Indian National Congress, in fact. The conference advocated inter-caste marriages, opposed polygamy and kulinism. It launched the 'Pledge Movement' to inspire people to take a pledge against child marriage. At their meetings, food cooked by lower caste

people was taken by the members. These mandalis also advocated widow remarriage and women's education.

163. Consider the following statements pertaining to the successor states of the Mughal empire:

1. The Hyderabad state was founded by the Mughal viceroy of the Deccan.
2. The province of Carnatic was under the formal control of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The successor states emerged as a result of the decline of the Mughal empire. They were the 'subahs' (provinces) of the Mughal empire but in practice they asserted their independence.

Statement 1 is correct :

The state of Hyderabad was founded by Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah in 1724. He was one of the leading nobles of the post-Aurangzeb era. He played a leading role in the overthrow of the Sayyid brothers and was rewarded with the viceroyalty of the Deccan.

From 1720 to 1722 he consolidated his hold over the Deccan by suppressing all opposition to his viceroyalty and organising the administration on efficient lines.

From 1722 to 1724 he was the wazir of the Empire. But he soon got disgusted with that office as the Emperor Muhammad Shah frustrated all his attempts at reforming the administration.

**Statement 2 is correct :**

The Carnatic was one of the subahs of the Mughal Deccan and as such came under the Nizam of Hyderabad's authority. But just as in practice the Nizam had become independent of Delhi, so also the Deputy Governor of the Carnatic, known as the Nawab of Carnatic, had freed himself of the control of the Viceroy of the Deccan and made his office hereditary.

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164. With reference to British rule in India, the purpose of the Lottery committee (1817) was:

- (a) To raise the funds for famine relief
- (b) To raise the funds to meet company's purchase of goods
- (c) To raise the funds to meet the expenditure on education and agriculture development
- (d) To raise the fund for development of town

Answer: d

Explanation:

The work of town planning was carried on by the Lottery Committee (1817) with the help of the government. The Lottery Committee was so named because funds for town improvement were raised through public lotteries. In other words, in the early decades of the nineteenth century raising funds for the city was still thought to be the responsibility of public-minded citizens and not exclusively that of the government. The Lottery Committee commissioned a new map of the city so as to get a comprehensive picture of Calcutta. Among the Committee's major activities was road building in the Indian part of the city and clearing the river bank of "encroachments". In its drive to make the Indian areas of Calcutta cleaner, the committee removed many huts and displaced the labouring poor, who were now pushed to the outskirts of Calcutta.

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165. With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act 2019, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The central government is now empowered to designate individuals as terrorists.
2. The amendment gives powers to Director General, National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
3. The law takes away powers of the state police and empowers NIA when there is a imminent threat from terrorism.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- Previously the central government could designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation, if it, prepared or participated or was otherwise involved in terrorism.
- Now the government is empowered to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- Earlier the law required that NIA take prior permission from the respective state DGP to attach the proceeds of terrorism. The Amendment gives powers to Director General, NIA to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

- The Home Minister said in the Parliament the law does not take away powers of the state police. Currently, the law requires that NIA take prior permission from the respective state DGP to attach the proceeds of terrorism. This delays the process as often such properties are in different states. So to reduce delays NIA is adequately empowered.
- The Minister also said that the NIA's conviction rate is 91%, which is exceptional by global standards.

166. Which of the following land revenue system/systems had no provisions for intermediary like zamindar between peasant and the government?

1. Permanent Settlement
2. Mahalwari system
3. Ryotwari system

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** In Permanent Settlement, there was a provision for zamindar to collect the revenue. In the permanent settlement, the company recognized them as owners of soil. They were given permanent hereditary rights to collect revenue. So in permanent settlement, there were provisions for intermediary in the form of zamindar.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** In the Mahalwari system the ownership and occupancy right was reserved for individual peasants. Even cultivation was to be done individually. But for the payment of the land revenue, the peasants were jointly responsible. Usually the village as a whole would be designated a Mahal and it paid the revenue via its headman called Lambardar. Thus, Lambardars worked as a link between the individual tillers and the government. So Lambardars act as intermediary between government and peasants.

**Statement 3 is correct:** In Ryotwari System the ownership rights were handed over to the peasants. British Government collected taxes directly from the peasants. So there were no provisions for intermediary in this land revenue system. Ryotwari System was introduced by Thomas Munro in 1820. Major areas of introduction include Madras, Bombay, parts of Assam and Coorgh provinces of British India.

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167. Consider the following passage :

“He organised a powerful movement against upper caste domination and brahminical supremacy. His works, Sarvajanic Satyadharma , became sources of inspiration for the common masses. He was a pioneer of the widow remarriage movement in Maharashtra.”

Which of the following social reformers is mentioned in the above passage?

- a. Jyotiba Phule
- b. D.K.Karve
- c. B.M. Malabari
- d. Mahadeo Govind Ranade

**Answer: a**

**Explanation :**

Jyotiba Phule organised a powerful movement against upper caste domination and brahminical supremacy. His works, *Sarvajanik Satyadharma* and *Gulamgiri* became sources of inspiration for the common masses. **He was a pioneer of the widow remarriage movement in Maharashtra. Mahadeo Govind Ranade also worked for widow remarriage but, the book Sarvajanik Satyadharma was not written by him.**

Phule, a firm believer in gender equality, was a pioneer in women's education; he with the help of his wife, Savitribai, opened a girls' school at Poona. He also opened a home for widows in 1854. **Phule was awarded the title 'Mahatma' for his social reform work.**

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168. Which of the following measures were taken by Murshid Quli Khan in Bengal to improve the finances of the state?

1. Abolition of Ijaradari system
2. Fresh revenue settlement was carried out
3. Loans were advanced to farmers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Murshid Quli Khan introduced the system of revenue-farming (Ijaradari system) in Bengal. The system of revenue-farming led to increased economic pressure on the peasant. Moreover, even though he demanded only the standard revenue and forbade illegal cesses, he collected the revenue from the zamindars and the peasants with utmost cruelty. Another result of his reforms was that many of the older zamindars were driven out and their place taken by upstart revenue-farmers.

In choosing revenue farmers Murshid Quli Khan gave preference to local zamindars and mahajans (money-lenders) who were mainly Hindus. He thus laid the foundations of a new landed aristocracy in Bengal.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Murshid Quli Khan effected economies in the administration and reorganised the finances of Bengal by transferring large parts of jagir lands into khalisa lands by carrying out a fresh revenue settlement

**Statement 3 is correct:**

He also granted agricultural loans (taccavi) to the poor cultivators to relieve their distress as well as to enable them to pay land revenue in time.

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169. Consider the following statements regarding the consequences of the Buxar war:

1. It led to the Treaty of Allahabad.
2. It led to the establishment of dual administration or double government by Lord Clive.
3. It led to the establishment of a company as the real master of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer :d

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

The treaty of Allahabad was a direct result of the Battle of Buxar, which was fought against the East India Company against the combined forces of Mir Kasim, Nawab of Oudh Sujha-ud-daula and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. In this war Mughal emperor and allies were defeated by British. Which led to the conclusion of The Treaty of Allahabad on August 12, 1765, and it was one of the turning points of Indian history. This event marks the advent of British political presence in the Indian subcontinent.

**Statement 2 and 3 are correct:**

The East India Company became the real master of Bengal at least from 1765. Its army was in sole control of its defense and the supreme political power was in its hands. The Nawab depended for his internal and external security on the British. As the Diwan, the Company directly collected its revenues, while through the right to nominate the Deputy Subahdar, it controlled the nizamat or the police and judicial powers. This arrangement is known in history as the 'dual' or 'double' government. It held a great advantage for the British: they had power without responsibility.

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170. Recently the Centre has granted "in-principle" clearance for uranium exploration in which of the following Reserves in India?

- (a) Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.
- (b) Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana.
- (c) Palamu Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand.
- (d) Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Recently, Centre granted "in-principle" clearance for uranium exploration in Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana.
- India's second-largest tiger reserve Amrabad is next only to its sibling, the original Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve. Together they form what is probably India's largest protected dry forest.
- It lies in the Nallamala hills, a landscape that is recovering after over two centuries of degradation by the British and the Nizam of Hyderabad. Environmentalists argue the mining will destroy the landscape rich in biodiversity and one that supports a hunter-gatherer Scheduled Tribe.

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171. The Sarda Act was an important legislation for social reforms in British India. It was related to :

- a. Controlling Child Marriage
- b. Abolition of female infanticide
- c. Widow remarriage
- d. Abolition of Sati System

**Answer: a**

**Explanation :**

**Option (a) is correct :**

The Sarda Act was an important legislation for social reforms in British India. It was related to control the child marriage. The Sarda Act (1930) pushed up the marriage age to 18 and 14 for boys and girls. It is popularly known as the **Sarda Act**, after its sponsor Harbilas Sarda. The Act lacked implementation from the British Indian government, largely due to the fear of British authorities losing support from their loyal Hindu and Muslim communalist groups.

**Option (b) is incorrect :**

The **Female Infanticide Prevention Act, 1870**, also **Act VIII of 1870** was a legislative act passed in British India, to prevent murder of female infants. The Act was introduced during the reign of governor general Lord Hardinge I. The Act made it compulsory for parents to register the birth of all babies and provided for verification of female children for some years after birth, particularly in areas where the custom was resorted to in utmost secrecy.

**Option (c) is incorrect :**

Due to the efforts of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-91), the principal of Sanskrit College, Calcutta, that the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856, was passed. It legalised marriage of widows and declared issues from such marriages as legitimate. Vidyasagar cited Vedic texts to prove that the Hindu religion sanctioned widow remarriage.

**Option (d) is incorrect :**

Due to the efforts of Raja Rammohan Roy, the government declared the practice of sati illegal and punishable by criminal courts as culpable homicide. The regulation of 1829 was applicable in the first instance to Bengal Presidency alone, but was extended in slightly modified forms to Madras and Bombay Presidencies in 1830.

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172. With reference to the Ramakrishna Mission, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was founded by Narendranath Datta in 1897.
- 2. The mission does not consider itself to be a sect of Hinduism.
- 3. The Mission recognises the utility and value of image worship.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

d. 1,2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation :

**Statement 1 is correct: Narendranath Datta (1862-1902), who later came to be known as Swami Vivekananda** spread Ramakrishna's message and tried to reconcile it to the needs of contemporary Indian society. He emerged as the preacher of neo-Hinduism. In 1897 he founded the Ramakrishna Mission. Vivekananda was a great humanist and used the Ramakrishna Mission for humanitarian relief and social work.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Mission has developed into a worldwide organisation. It is a deeply religious body, but it is not a proselytising body. **It does not consider itself to be a sect of Hinduism. In fact, this is one of the strong reasons for the success of the Mission.**

**Statement 3 is correct: Unlike the Arya Samaj, the Mission recognises the utility and value of image worship in developing spiritual fervour and worship of the eternal omnipotent God,** although it emphasises on the essential spirit and not the symbols or rituals.

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173. With reference education system in British India ,consider the following statements:

1. The 'Downward filtration theory' was aimed to educate the masses in oriental languages and subjects.
2. Wood's Dispatch recommended that the education imparted in government institutions should be secular.
3. The General Committee of Public Instructions was responsible for the introduction of English language in the country.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer.b

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Based on the recommendations of lord macaulay's minute (1835) government soon made english as the medium of instruction in its schools and colleges and opened a few english schools and colleges instead of a large number of elementary schools ,thus neglecting mass education. The british planned to educate a small section of upper and middle classes,thus creating a class,"indian in blood and colour but english in tastes,in opinions,in morals and in intellect" who would act as interpreters between government and masses and would enrich the vernaculars by which knowledge of western sciences and literature would reach the masses.this was called the "downward filtration theory'.

**Statement 2 is correct :**

In 1854 Charles Wood prepared a dispatch on the educational system for India. Considered the “Magna Carta of English education in India”, this document was the first comprehensive plan for the spread of education in India. One of its recommendations was that education imparted in government institutions should be secular.

**Statement 3 is correct :**

The General Committee of Public Instruction was appointed in 1823, a decade before the arrival of Macaulay in the country. The members of the committee were divided into Anglicists and Orientalists. Macaulay being the head of the committee sided with the Anglicists. Subsequently, in 1828, English was introduced in the University of Delhi. Macaulay in his minutes clarified his stand further and paved way for the Anglicization of education in India.

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174. With reference to the tribal uprising in British India, consider the following pairs:

Tribes	Regions
1. Pahariyas	Rajmahal hills (West Bengal)
2. Santhals	Kaimur hills (Madhya Pradesh)
3. Munda	Khasi hills (Meghalaya)

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:**

Pahariyas rebellion led by the martial Paharias (1778, Rajmahal hills) was against the British expansion on their lands.

**Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:**

Santhal rebellion by the Santhals was led by Sido and Kanhu (1855-56) against the practices of zamindars and moneylenders, the rebellion later turned anti-British and was suppressed. The Santal, or Santhal, are an ethnic group native to India and Bangladesh in South Asia. Santals are the largest tribe in the Jharkhand state of India in terms of population and are also found in the states of Assam, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal.

**Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:**

The Mundas are found in the northern areas of East India concentrated in the states of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. The Munda Rebellion is one of the prominent 19th century tribal rebellions in the subcontinent. Birsa Munda led this movement in the region south of Ranchi in 1899-1900. The Ulgulan, meaning 'Great Tumult', sought to establish Munda Raj. These revolts were because of the undue interference by the administration and the attitude of the landlords. It had not occurred in the region of Khasi hills.

175. With reference to The Servants of India Society, consider the following statements :

1. Gopal Krishna Gokhale founded the Society.
2. It was the social arm of Indian National Congress.
3. At present, it works for providing education to tribal girls.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915), a liberal leader of the Indian National Congress, founded the Servants of India Society in 1905 with the help of **M.G. Ranade**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was not the social arm of Indian National Congress. The society chose to remain aloof from political activities and organisations like the Indian National Congress.

**Statement 3 is correct:** At present, it works in the field of education, providing ashram type of schools for tribal girls.

**The Servants of India Society :**

- Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915), a liberal leader of the Indian National Congress, founded the Servants of India Society in 1905 with the help of M.G. Ranade.
- The aim of the society was to train national missionaries for the service of India; to promote, by all constitutional means, the true interests of the Indian people;
- In 1911, the Hitavada began to be published to project the views of the society.
- The society still continues to function, though with a shrunken base, at many places in India.

176. With reference to women who played a key role in socio-religious reform movements, consider the following pairs:

Name of the Reformer	Significance/Contribution
1. Ramabai Ranade	Founded the Arya Mahila Samaj
2. Sarla Devi Chaudhurani	Founder of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal
3. Cornelia Sarabji	India's first lady barrister

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

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

d. 1,2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation

**Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:**

**Pandita Ramabai Saraswati founded the Arya Mahila Samaj** to serve the cause of women. She pleaded for improvement in the educational syllabus of Indian women before the English Education Commission which was referred to Queen Victoria. This resulted in medical education for women which started in Lady Dufferin College.

**Ramabai Ranade founded the Ladies Social Conference (Bharat Mahila Parishad)**, under the parent organisation National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched:**

**In 1910, Sarla Devi Chaudhurani was the founder and convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad.** Its objectives included promotion of education for women, abolition of the purdah system and improvement in the socio-economic and political status of women all over India.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:**

Cornelia Sorabji was an Indian woman who was the first female graduate from Bombay University. She was also the first woman to study law at Somerville College, Oxford University. Consequently, she was the first lady barrister of British India.

Additional Information

In 1925, the National Council of Women in India, a national branch of the International Council of Women, was formed. Meherbai Tata played a vital role in its formation and advancement.

The All India Women's Conference (AIWC), founded by Margaret Cousins in 1927.

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177. Consider the following statements pertaining to one of the Mughal successor states, Bengal:

1. Nawab Alivardi Khan did not allow the French and the English to fortify their factories
2. Nawab Siraj-ud-daula did not allow the East India Company to recruit or station troops in Bengal.
3. Dastak, the permit exempting the company servants from customs duty was introduced during the rule of Nawab Mir Qasim

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Alivardi Khan, the nawab of Bengal did not permit the English and the French to fortify their factories in Calcutta and Chandranagar.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

The Bengal Nawabs proved to be short-sighted and negligent, in one respect, They did not firmly put down the increasing tendency of the English East India Company after 1707 to use military force, or to threaten its use, to get its demands accepted. Nawab Siraj ud Daula was defeated in the battle of Plassey in 1757 because of this negligence.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

The Mughal license (dastak) permitting the English company to trade without paying customs was introduced after the battle of Plassey and was introduced during the rule of Mir Jaffer installed as the nawab of Bengal by the company in 1757

Mir Qasim was installed as Nawab with the support of the British East India Company. But he opposed the British East India Company's position that their imperial Mughal licence (dastak) meant that they could trade without paying taxes. Frustrated at the British refusal to pay these taxes, Mir Qasim abolished taxes on the local traders as well. This upset the advantage that the British traders had been enjoying so far, and hostilities built up.

**Additional Information**

The nawabs had the power to deal with the Company's threats, but they continued to believe that a mere trading company could not threaten their power. They failed to see that the English Company was no mere company of traders but was the representative of the most aggressive and expansionist colonialism of the time. Their ignorance of, and lack of contact with, the rest of the world was to cost the state dear. Otherwise, they would have known of the devastation caused by the Western trading companies in Africa, South-East Asia, and Latin America.

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178..Consider the following statements about 'Charter Act of 1813' :

1. It ended the company's monopoly of trade in tea and trade with China.
2. It allowed missionaries to preach in India .
3. It directed the company to sanction one lakh rupees annually to promote Indian literature and modern science.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer.(c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

The company monopoly over Indian trade terminated and thrown open to all the British subjects by the Charter act of 1813. But company's monopoly over tea and trade with china were retained until enactment of Charter Act of 1833.

Statement 2 is correct:

By the Enactment of Charter Act of 1813, The company allowed the christian missionaries to preach Gospels of God to Natives. i.e to Indians. This policy was adopted in the hope that christians will be a good market for British Made products.

Statement 3 is correct:

The act incorporated the principle of encouraging learned Indians and promoting knowledge of modern sciences in the country. The Act directed the company to sanction one lakh rupees annually for this purpose.

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179. With reference to the reign of Tipu Sultan, consider the following statements:

1. He introduced a new calendar, a new system of coinage and new scales of weights and measures in his kingdom.
2. He became a member of the Jacobian club drawing inspiration from the French Revolution.
3. He sent embassies to Iran and Pegu to forge alliance against British.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer. (a)

Explanation:

Tipu Sultan, who ruled Mysore till his death at the hands of the British in 1799, was a man of complex character. He was for one an innovator.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

His desire to change with times was symbolised with the introduction of a new calendar, new coinage system and new scales of weights and measures. His personal library contained books on such diverse subjects: religion, history, military, science, mathematics, medicine.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

He showed a keen interest in French Revolution. He planted a tree of liberty at Srirangapatna and became a member of the Jacobian club.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

Tipu also seems to have grasped the modern trade and industry. In fact, he understood the importance of economic strength as the military strength. He made some attempts to introduce modern industries in India by importing foreign workmen as experts and state support to many industries. He sent embassies to Iran and Pegu to develop foreign trade. He even tried to set up a trading company on the pattern of western companies.

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180. With reference to Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
2. It provides for adequate reservations in the field of education as directed by the Supreme Court in the NALSA verdict.
3. It guarantees the right to self-identification without the need for medical intervention.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

#### Explanation

Recently, the Lok Sabha passed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019.

#### **Statement 1 is correct:**

- The bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.

#### **Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- Bill does not provide for any reservations in the field of employment and education as directed by the Supreme Court in the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) verdict.
- The Supreme Court recognized transgenders as the third gender in a landmark NALSA ruling. "Recognition of transgenders as a third gender is not a social or medical issue but a human rights issue," the court said.

#### **Statement 3 is incorrect:**

- The bill contravenes the Supreme Court's judgment in NALSA v Union of India (UOI), which guarantees the right to self-identification without the need for medical intervention. They cannot self-identify their gender themselves. They have to obtain a certificate of identity from the District Magistrate.
- The Bill appears to continue to mandate sex reassignment surgery for transgender people.

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181. With reference to Social Service league, Consider the following statements :

1. It was founded by M.G Ranade.
2. It was mainly operating in the region of Bombay.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : b

Explanation :

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Narayan Malhar Joshi founded the Social Service League.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It was mainly operating in the region of Bombay.

**Social Service league :**

- A follower of Gokhale, Narayan Malhar Joshi founded the Social Service League in Bombay with an aim to secure for the masses better and reasonable conditions of life and work.
- They organised many schools, libraries, reading rooms, day nurseries and cooperative societies.
- Their activities also included police court agents' work, legal aid and advice to the poor and illiterate.

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182. With reference to the Akali movement, consider the following statements:

1. It was an offshoot of the Singh Sabha Movement.
2. It aimed at liberating the Sikh gurudwaras from the corrupt Udasi Mahants.
3. The Akalis launched a non-violent satyagraha in 1921.

Which of the above given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Explanation

The Singh Sabha Movement was started at Amritsar in 1873 with a two-fold objective—(i) to make available modern western education to the Sikhs, and (ii) to counter the proselytising activities of Christian missionaries as well as the Brahmo Samajists, Arya Samajists and Muslim maulvis.

**Statement 1 is correct.**

The Akali movement (also known as Gurudwara Reform Movement) was an offshoot of the Singh Sabha Movement.

**Statement 2 is correct.**

It aimed at liberating the Sikh gurudwaras from the control of corrupt Udasi mahants (the post having become hereditary).

**Statement 3 is correct.**

These mahants were a loyalist and reactionary lot, enjoying government patronage. The government tried its repressive policies against the non-violent non-cooperation satyagraha launched by the Akalis in 1921, but had to bow before popular demands; it passed the Sikh Gurudwaras Act in 1922 (amended in 1925) which gave the control of gurudwaras to the Sikh

masses to be administered through Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) as the apex body.

#### Additional Information

The Akali Movement was a regional movement but not a communal one. The Akali leaders played a notable role in the national liberation struggle though some dissenting voices were heard occasionally.

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183. Consider the following statements:

1. Lucknow became the capital of Awadh during the rule of the nawabs

2. Bara Imambara in Lucknow was built by Nawab Asaf Ud Daula as part of a famine relief programme

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

#### Explanation

Statement 1 is correct

Awadh was established as one of the twelve original subahs under Akbar. It became a Mughal successor state around 1722, with Faizabad as its initial capital and Saadat Ali Khan as its first Nawab and progenitor of a dynasty of Nawabs of Awadh. The traditional capital of Awadh was Faizabad, but the capital was later moved to Lucknow

Lucknow, for long an important city of Awadh, became the capital of the Awadh Nawabs after 1775. It soon rivalled Delhi in its patronage of arts and literature. It also developed as an important centre of handicrafts.

Statement 2 is correct

Lucknow is home to 'Bara Imambara', a historical edifice with marvellous architecture. The Imambara was built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784 and its designer was Kifayat-ullah who is said to be a relative of the architect of the Taj Mahal. Built by the Nawab as part of a famine relief programme, this fort-like huge and elegant structure is also called Asafai Imambara. The structure shows the mixture of Rajput and Mughal architectures with Gothic influences. The Bara Imambara is an interesting building. It is neither a mosque, nor a mausoleum, but a huge building having interesting elements within it.

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184. Consider the following pairs

Movement	Leader
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1. Ho uprising : Raja Parahat

2. Kandh uprising : Chakra bisoi
3. Rampa Revolts : Alluri sitarama Raju

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

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

Answer.d

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:**

The Ho uprising(1827; singhbhum and chotanagpur)led by Raja parahat against the occupation of Singhbhum by british.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched:**

The Kandh uprising was led by Chakra Bisoi (1837-56). It had spread in Ghumsar, China- ki -Medi, Kalahandi(Odisha) and Patna. The Kandhs retaliated under Chakra Bisoi against the British efforts to put an end to the Kandh's practice of human sacrifice (Mariah) first through persuasion and later through force.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:**

The Rampa revolt was led by Alluri sitrama raju of the koyas (1916 Rampa region of andhra pradesh) against the british interference.

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185.Which of the following best describes a new class of celestial objects called Ploonets?

- (a) They are orphaned moons which have escaped from their parent planet.
- (b) They are a part of planetary nuclei which contains ices dating back to the origin of the solar system.
- (c) They are giant spherical and bubble shaped exoplanets orbiting two stars.
- (d) It is a remnant of a disintegrated rogue comet or an exoplanet.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Recently a team of astronomers from Royal Astronomical Society have defined a new class of celestial objects called 'Ploonets'.
- Ploonets are the orphaned moons that have escaped the bonds of their parent planet and start orbiting their stars instead.

- They could help explain some bizarre exoplanetary features and can also provide details on planet formation processes.

186. Consider the following pairs:

War	Outcome
1. First Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Mangalore
2. Second Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Madras
3. Third Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Seringapatam

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation :

**Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** The first Anglo- Mysore war was fought between Haidar Ali and the English Forces. The war ended with the **treaty of Madras**. The treaty provided for the exchange of prisoners and mutual restitution of conquests. Haidar Ali was promised the help of the English in case he was attacked by any other power. The Second Anglo-Mysore War ended with the Treaty of Mangalore.

**Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** When Marathas attacked Mysore, The English did not come to help the Hyder Ali. It was a breach of the Treaty of Madras. Due to this, Haidar forged an anti-English alliance with the Marathas and the Nizam. In the Second Anglo Mysore war - He followed it up by an attack in the Carnatic, capturing Arcot, and defeating the English army under Colonel Baillie in 1781. After the death of Hyder Ali, his son Tipu Sultan continued the war for one year.

- Fed up with an inconclusive war, both sides opted for peace, negotiating the Treaty of Mangalore (March, 1784) under which each party gave back the territories it had taken from the other.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Third Anglo–Mysore War (1790–1792) was a conflict in South India between the Kingdom of Mysore and the East India Company and its allies, including the Maratha Empire and the Nizam of Hyderabad . In this war Tipu Sultan was defeated and the treaty of Seringapatam was Signed.

Provisions of treaty of Seringapatam

- Under this treaty of 1792, nearly half of the Mysorean territory was taken over by the victors. Baramahal, Dindigul and Malabar went to the English, while the Marathas got the regions surrounding the Tungabhadra and its tributaries and the Nizam acquired the areas from the Krishna to beyond the Pennar.

187. With reference to the Revolt of 1857, which of the following statements is *not* correct?

- There was a lack of cooperation between Hindus and Muslims.
- Most Indian rulers refused to join the revolt, and often gave active help to the British.

- c. The British attempts at socio-religious reforms was one of the reasons for the revolt.
- d. The Indian sepoy was discriminated against racially in matters of promotion and privileges.

Answer : a

Explanation

**Statement 1 is incorrect.**

During the entire revolt, there was complete cooperation between Hindus and Muslims at all levels—people, soldiers, leaders. According to Maulana Azad, “Two facts stand out clearly in the midst of the tangled story of the Rising of 1857. The first is the remarkable sense of unity among the Hindus and the Muslims of India in this period. The other is the deep loyalty which the people felt for the Mughal Crown.”

**Statement 2 is correct.**

Most Indian rulers refused to join, and often gave active help to the British. Rulers who did not participate included the Sindhia of Gwalior, the Holkar of Indore, the rulers of Patiala, Sindh and other Sikh chieftains and the Maharaja of Kashmir.

**Statement 3 is correct.**

The British attempts at socio-religious reform such as abolition of sati, support to widow-marriage and women's education was seen by a large section of the population as interference in the social and religious domains of Indian society by outsiders. These fears were compounded by the government's decision to tax mosque and temple lands and making laws such as the Religious Disabilities Act, 1856, which modified Hindu customs, for instance, declaring that a change of religion did not debar a son from inheriting the property of his 'heathen' father.

**Statement 4 is correct.**

The Indian sepoy was made to feel a subordinate at every step and was discriminated against racially and in matters of promotion and privileges. The discontent of the sepoys was not limited to military matters; it reflected the general disenchantment with and the opposition to British rule. The sepoy, in fact, was a 'peasant in uniform' whose consciousness was not divorced from that of the rural population.

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188. Consider the following statements regarding Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore:

1. Tipu successfully defended his capital Seringapatam in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war.
2. He was the pioneer of rocket technology in India.
3. He was opposed to European political ideas like equality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

### Explanation

#### **Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Tipu of Mysore would never agree to a Subsidiary Treaty. He worked incessantly to strengthen his forces for the inevitable struggle with the British. He entered into negotiations for an alliance with Revolutionary France. He sent missions to Afghanistan, Arabia and Turkey to forge an anti-British alliance.

Lord Wellesley was no less determined to bring Tipu to heel and to prevent any possibility of the French re-entering India.

The British army attacked and defeated Tipu in a brief but fierce war in 1799, before French help could reach him. Tipu still refused to beg for peace on humiliating terms. He proudly declared that it was "better to die like a soldier, than to live a miserable dependent on the infidels, in the list of their pensioned, rajas and nabobs." He met a heroic end on 4 May 1799 while defending his capital Seringapatam. His army remained loyal to him to the very end. The British took over Seringapatam.

#### **Statement 2 is correct:**

Tipu Sultan grasped the importance of modern trade and industry. He understood the importance of economic strength. He made some attempts to introduce modern industries in India by importing foreign workmen as experts on state support. Mysore was the base for manufacture of weapons, rockets and armoury.

Tipu took advantage of India's long tradition of producing and handling ferrous metals like iron and steel to create the predecessor of the modern rocket that was more effective than the "firecracker-like missiles" used by the Chinese. Tipu created iron tubes filled with gunpowder, hoisted them on flags or bamboo poles and mounted them on ramps for better accuracy and range.

#### **Statement 3 is incorrect:**

Tipu's association with the French to counter the British led him to be fascinated by the Jacobin Club (popular political group of the French Revolution that identified with egalitarianism and violence). "He wanted to create a Republic in Srirangapatna on similar lines. He supported political ideas like equality.

### Additional Information

Tipu Sultan was an innovator. His desire to change with the times was symbolised in the introduction of a new calendar, a new system of coinage, and new scales of weights and measures. His infantry was armed with muskets and bayonets. He made efforts to build a modern navy after 1796.

As a statesman, Tipu Sultan, more than any other ruler of the 18th century, recognised to the full extent the threat that the English posed to India. He stood forth as a foe of the rising English power. The English, in turn, also regarded him as their most dangerous enemy in India.

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189. Which of the following were the outcomes of economic policies of British?

1. Commercialisation of Indian agriculture.
2. Stagnation and deterioration of agriculture
3. Deindustrialisation.
4. Ruin of Artisans and Handicraftsmen
5. Ruralisation of India.

Select the correct answer using code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, another significant trend was the emergence of the commercialisation of agriculture. So far agriculture has been a way of life rather than a business enterprise. Now agriculture began to be influenced by commercial considerations. Certain specialised crops began to be grown not for consumption in the village but for sale in the national and even international markets. Commercial crops like cotton, jute, groundnut, oilseeds, sugarcane, tobacco, etc. were more remunerative than foodgrains. Perhaps the commercialisation trend reached the highest level of development in the plantation sector i.e. in tea, coffee, rubber, indigo, etc.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

**Stagnation and deterioration of agriculture**

The cultivator had neither the means nor any incentive to invest in agriculture. The zamindar had no roots in the villages, while the government spent little on agricultural, technical or mass education. All this, together with fragmentation of land due to sub-infeudation, made it difficult to introduce modern technology which caused a perpetually low level of productivity.

**Statement 3 and 4 are correct**

**Deindustrialisation -ruin of artisans and handicraftsmen.**

Cheap and machine made imports flooded the Indian market due to one-way free trade for the British citizens. After 1820 European markets were virtually closed to Indian exports. The newly introduced rail network helped the European products to reach the remotest corners of the country.

The loss of traditional livelihood was not accompanied by a process of industrialisation in India, as had happened in other rapidly industrialising countries of the time. This resulted in deindustrialization of India at a time. This resulted in deindustrialisation of India at a time when Europe was witnessing a reintensified industrial revolution. This happened at a time when Indian artisans and handicraftsmen were already feeling the crunch due to loss of patronage by princes and the nobility, who were now under the influence of new Western tastes and values.

**Statement 5 is correct:**

Another feature of deindustrialisation was the decline of many cities and the process of ruralisation of India. Many artisans faced with diminishing returns and repressive policies of British, abandoned their profession moved to villages and took to agriculture. This resulted in increased pressure on land. An overburdened agriculture sector was a major cause of poverty during the British rule and this upset the village economy. From being a net exporter, India became a net importer.

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190. Register of Indigenous Inhabitants frequently seen in news is related to the affairs of which of the following states in India?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Nagaland

- (c) Meghalaya  
(d) Tripura

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Government of Nagaland has decided to set up a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN). It will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state based on an extensive survey.
- Once the RIIN is finalised, no fresh indigenous inhabitant certificates will be issued. The only exception is newborn babies of the indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland.
- The entire exercise will be monitored by the Commissioner of Nagaland.

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191. Consider the following passage

He founded the Seva Sadan in 1908. Due to his efforts, the Age of Consent Act was enacted to regulate the age of consent for females. He vigorously fought against child marriage and for widow remarriage among Hindus.

Which of the following social reformers is mentioned in the above passage ?

- a. Behramji M. Malabari
- b. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- c. Keshab Chandra Sen
- d. Mahadeo Govind Ranade

Answer : A

Explanation :

Behramji M. Malabari founded the Seva Sadan in 1908. Due to his efforts, the Age of Consent Act was enacted to regulate the age of consent for females. He vigorously fought against child marriage and for widow remarriage among Hindus.

**Behramji M. Malabari**

- Behramji M. Malabari (1853-1912), founded the Seva Sadan in 1908 along with a friend, Diwan Dayaram Gidumal.
- Seva Sadan specialised in taking care of those women who were exploited and then discarded by society.
- It catered to all castes and provided the destitute women with education, and medical and welfare services.

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192. The US Senate has recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Which of the following is the possible advantage likely to be gained by India?

- (a) It will provide freedom from unilateral sanctions.
- (b) India will be granted major defence partner status.
- (c) India will be treated on par with NATO allies.
- (d) India will be effectively under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.

Answer: c

Explanation:

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, which contains the proposal to bring India on par with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, was passed by the US Senate recently. The Act also provides for increased US-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean in the areas of humanitarian assistance, counterterrorism, counter-piracy and maritime security. The upgrade will also smoothen the passage of sales of high-end US military hardware to India. The US has already recognized India as a "major defence partner" in 2016.

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193. Which of the following factors led to the ruin of Indian traditional industry after the British conquest of India?

- 1. Import of machine-made goods from Britain
- 2. Indian craftsmen were compelled to abandon their professions
- 3. Disappearance of the courts of Indian rulers
- 4. Introduction of the railways

Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The British never became an integral part of Indian life. They always remained foreigners in the land, exploiting Indian resources and carrying away India's wealth as tribute.

With the British conquest of India, there was a sudden and quick collapse of the urban handicrafts which had for centuries made India's name a byword in the markets of the entire civilised world.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Indian goods were not able to compete with the machine made goods of Britain.

The British imposed a policy of one-way free trade on India after 1813 and the invasion of British manufactures, in particular cotton textiles, immediately followed. Indian goods made with primitive techniques could not compete with goods produced on a mass scale by powerful steam-operated machines.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Indian craftsmen had to abandon their professions as they were forced by the British to provide their services below the prevailing wages. A profession cannot flourish without practitioners.

The oppression practised by the East India Company and its servants on the craftsmen of Bengal during the second half of the 18th century, forcing them to sell their goods below the market price and

to hire their services below the prevailing wage, compelled a large number of them to abandon their ancestral professions. In the normal course Indian handicrafts would have benefited from the encouragement given by the company to their export, but this oppression had an opposite effect.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

The disappearance of the courts of Indian rulers led to the loss of patronage for Indian craftsmen. The gradual disappearance of Indian rulers and their courts who were the main customers of Indian handicrafts also gave a big blow to these industries. For instance, the production of military weapons depended entirely on the Indian states. The British purchased all their military and other government stores in Britain. Moreover, Indian rulers and nobles were replaced as the ruling class by British officials and military officers who patronised their own home- products almost exclusively.

**Statement 4 is correct:**

The ruin of Indian industries, particularly rural artisan industries, proceeded even more rapidly once the railways were built. The railways enabled British manufactures to reach, and uproot the traditional industries in the remotest villages of the country. As the American writer, D, H. Buchanan, has put it, "The armour of the isolated self- sufficient village was pierced by the steel rail, and its life blood ebbed away."

**Additional Information**

There were other factors as well:

- The export of raw materials to Britain made them costlier for Indian industries.
- The high import duty charged on Indian manufactures made them costlier for Europeans which made them unattractive.

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194. Which of the following were the recommendations of the Wood's Despatch of 1854 to the British Indian administration?

1. Conversion of vernacular schools to English medium schools
2. Creation of a department of public instruction in each province
3. Establishment of university at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras

Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Sir Charles Wood, the president of the Board of Control, in 1854 laid down the policy which became the guiding principle of the education programme of the government of India.

Statement 1 is incorrect:

The despatch recommended the promotion of vernacular schools

Statement 2 is correct:

The creation of a department of public instruction in each of the five provinces of the company's territory was one of the major recommendations of the despatch.

Statement 3 is correct:

The establishment of university at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras was another important recommendation

Additional Information

Other major recommendations were:

- the establishment of a network of graded schools-high schools, middle schools and elementary schools
- the establishment of teachers training institutions
- the introduction of a system of grants-in-aid for financial help to the schools

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195. With reference to buyback tax seen in news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A buyback is essentially a scheme by which a company repurchases a certain amount of its outstanding shares.
2. The tax was introduced to check companies avoiding dividend payouts because of the dividend distribution tax.
3. The tax is now applicable to both listed and unlisted companies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Union Budget has proposed to introduce 20 percent tax on buybacks by listed companies. Until now, such provisions were applicable only to unlisted companies.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- A buyback is essentially a scheme by which a company repurchases a certain amount of its outstanding shares.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- Many companies were avoiding dividend payouts because of the dividend distribution tax (DDT). So the companies were returning cash to shareholders through share buybacks.
- The value of buybacks went up from ₹1,724 crore in 2015 to ₹39,246 crore in 2018. In this process, there is a drop in government revenue as it was not getting paid DDT.
- The proposed tax on share buybacks is aimed at plugging this loophole.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

- The tax is now applicable to both listed and unlisted companies.

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196. Consider the following statements regarding the kingdom of Travancore of the 18th century :

1. King Martanda Varma of Travancore ended the political power of the Dutch in Kerala

2. Tipu Sultan annexed the kingdom of Travancore with French assistance

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct

The kingdom of Travancore rose into prominence after 1729 under King Martanda Varma, one of the leading statesmen of the 18th century. He defeated the Dutch and thus ended their political power in Kerala.

Statement 2 is incorrect

- Haidar Ali began his invasion of Kerala in 1766 and in the end annexed northern Kerala up to Cochin, including the territories of the Zamorin of Calicut.
- Tipu Sultan's attack on Travancore was a reason for the opening of hostilities in the Third Anglo-Mysore War. In the battle of Nedumkotta, Tipu's army was defeated by the Travancore army.
- Both Tipu Sultan and his father used their French-trained army in alliance with the French in their struggle with the British, and in Mysore's struggles with other surrounding powers, against the Marathas and rulers of Malabar, Kodagu, Bednore, Carnatic, and Travancore.

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197. Which of the following movements was/were revivalist in nature?

1. Wahabi movement
2. Bharat Dharma Mahamandal
3. Dharma Sabha
4. Aligarh Movement
5. Deoband Movement

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Basically, there were two kinds of reform movements in the 19th century in India:

### Reformist

These movements responded with the time and scientific temper of the modern era.

### Revivalist

These movements started reviving ancient Indian traditions and thoughts and believed that the western thinking ruined Indian culture and ethos

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Wahabi/Waliullah movement

Shah waliullah (1702-62) inspired this essentially revivalist response to western influences and degeneration which had set in among indian muslims. He was the first indian muslim leader of the 18th century to organise muslims around the two fold ideals of this movement : (i) desirability of harmony among the four schools of muslim jurisprudence which had divided the indian muslims (he sought to integrate the best elements of the four schools); (ii) recognition of the role of individual conscience in religion where conflicting interpretations were derived from the quran and the hadis.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Bharat Dharma Mahamandal

An all india organisation of the orthodox educated Hindus, it stood for a defence of orthodox Hinduism against the teachings of the Arya sammajists, the Theosophists, and the Ramakrishna Mission.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

Dharma sabha "Radhakant deb founded this sabha in 1830. An orthodox society, it stood for the preservation of the status -quo in socio-religious matters, opening even the abolition of sati. However, it favoured the promotion of western education, even for girls.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:**

The Aligarh movement was reformist in nature. The Aligarh Movement emerged as a liberal, modern trend among the Muslim intelligentsia based in Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh. It aimed at spreading (i) modern education among Indian Muslims without weakening their allegiance to Islam; (ii) social reforms among Muslims relating to purdah, polygamy, widow remarriage, women's education, slavery, divorce, etc.

**Statement 5 is correct:**

Deoband Movement was revivalist in nature. The Deoband Movement was organised by the orthodox section among the Muslim ulema as a revivalist movement with the twin objectives of propagating pure teachings of the Quran and Hadis among Muslims and keeping alive the spirit of jihad against the foreign rulers.

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198. With reference to 'Young Bengal Movement', consider the following statements:

1. The movement was revivalist in nature.
2. The movement was able to achieve its objectives due to mass support.
3. Supporters of the movement were called "The Derozians".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The movement was radical in nature. It was not aimed to revive the old Indian tradition. Henry Vivian Derozio, leader of the movement, inspired his pupils to think freely and rationally, question all authority, love liberty, equality and freedom, and oppose decadent customs and traditions.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The movement was not able to achieve its objectives. It had limited success due to lack of mass support. There was a lack of any real link with the masses. Even social conditions were not ripe to take such radical ideas.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Henry Vivian Derozio was the leader of the Young Bengal Movement. Supporters or members of this movement were called The Derozians.

### Young Bengal Movement :

- During the late 1820s and early 1830s, there emerged a radical, intellectual trend among the youth in Bengal, which came to be known as the 'Young Bengal Movement'.
- Henry Vivian Derozio, was the leader and inspirer of this progressive trend. Drawing inspiration from the great French Revolution, Derozio inspired his pupils to think freely and rationally, question all authority, love liberty, equality and freedom, and oppose decadent customs and traditions.

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199. Consider the following pairs:

Name of the Commission	Purpose
1. Campbell Commission	Famine
2. Strachey Commission	Education
3. Fraser Commission	Police

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

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

Answer : a

### Pair 1 is correctly matched.

In 1865-66, a famine engulfed Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, and Madras and took a toll of nearly 20 lakhs of lives with Orissa alone losing 10 lakh lives, since the famine was most severe in Orissa; it is called the Orissa famine. The Government officers though forewarned took no steps to meet the calamity.

The Government adhered to the principles of free trade and the law of demand and supply, the Government did provide employment to the table booked men leaving the work of charitable relief to voluntary agency. The government appointed the Campbell Commission to examine the condition of famine in these areas.

### Pair 2 is incorrectly matched.

The great famine of 1876-78 was perhaps the most grievous calamity experienced since the beginning of the 19th century. It affected Madras, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab. About five million people perished in a single year. . In 1880, the Government of Lytton appointed a commission under

Richard stretchy to formulate general principles and suggest particular' measures of preventive or protective character.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

In 1902-03, a Police Commission was established for the Police reforms under Sir Andrew Frazer and Lord Curzon got much success in the Police intelligence. It was the rule of Lord Curzon , in which the basic structure of Indian domestic intelligence got developed and remained so till 1947, when India became independent.

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200. Consider the following pairs:

- | Newspaper         | Founder              |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Samvad Kaumudi | Ram Mohan Roy        |
| 2. Shom Prakesh   | Devendra Nath Tagore |
| 3. Indian Mirror  | Sir Syed Ahmed Khan  |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Samvad Kaumudi was founded by Ram Mohan Roy. It was a Bengali weekly newspaper.

**Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Shom Prakesh was founded by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. It is remembered for its contribution to the Indigo Movement. It was published in Bengali.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Indian Mirror was founded by Devendra Nath Tagore. This newspaper was published in English.

201. Recently the term Angel Tax appeared frequently in the news. Which of the following statements are correct about angel tax?

1. It is the tax imposed on the capital raised only by unlisted companies through shares above its 'fair market' value.
2. It was introduced to fight money laundering.
3. The tax is not applicable for the investments made by non resident Indians.

Select the correct answer using the following codes:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:** Angel tax is levied on the capital raised via the issue of shares by unlisted companies from an Indian investor if the share price of issued shares is seen in excess of the fair

market value of the company. The excess realization is considered as income and it is taxed at rate of 30.9% on net investments.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The tax, under section 56(2)(viib), was introduced in 2012 to fight money laundering. The stated rationale was that bribes and commissions could be disguised as angel investments to escape taxes. But given the possibility of this section being used to harass genuine startups, it was rarely invoked. The angel tax could not be scrapped as money laundering is a major problem. There is a network of 200 shell companies and they have been under control since 2012, so it cannot be scrapped.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Angel tax is imposed only on investments made by a resident investor. But the angel tax is not applicable in case the investments are made by any non-resident or venture capital funds.

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202. In recent days India eased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by expanding the number of sectors under automatic route. Which of the following sectors are permitted for 100% FDI under automatic route?

1. Food processing industries
2. Non Scheduled air transport services
3. Coal and Lignite mining
4. Chemicals manufacturing
5. Digital Media

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Foreign Direct Investments in India is allowed under three categories of 100% FDI through automatic route; 100% FDI through government route and 100% FDI through government + automatic route. The sensitivity of the sector under consideration determines the category of investments allowed to it. Some of the sectors eligible for 100% FDI through automatic route are as follows:

1. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
2. Non Scheduled air transport services
3. Airports
4. Automobiles
5. Broadcasting carriage services
6. Coal and Lignite mining
7. Chemicals manufacturing
8. Food processing industries
9. Renewable Energy
10. Tourism and hospitality

In the case of digital media like FDI is allowed upto 26% and that too under the government approval route. Hence the except option 5, all other options are correct.

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203. Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) has been started by-

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) Asian Development bank
- (c) Asian infrastructure investment Bank
- (d) New development Bank

Answer: a

Explanation: A structural adjustment is a set of economic reforms that a country must adhere to in order to secure a loan from the International Monetary Fund and/or the World Bank. Structural adjustments are often a set of economic policies, including reducing government spending, opening to free trade and so on.

Structural adjustment programs have demanded that borrowing countries introduce broadly free-market systems coupled with fiscal restraint—or occasionally outright austerity. Countries have been required to perform some combination of the following:

- Devaluing their currencies to reduce balance of payments deficits.
- Cutting public sector employment, subsidies, and other spending to reduce budget deficits.
- Privatizing state-owned enterprises and deregulating state-controlled industries.
- Easing regulations in order to attract investment by foreign businesses.
- Closing tax loopholes and improving tax collection domestically.

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204. Which of the following reports is not published by the World Economic Forum?

- a. Global Competitiveness Report
- b. Global IT report.
- c. Global Risk Report
- d. World Economic Outlook

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Option (a) is correct: Global Competitiveness Report**-published by World Economic Forum (WEF). This monitors the performance of countries based on a set of 12 categories called 'pillars of competitiveness', namely institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business application and innovation.

**Option (b) is correct: Global IT Report**-WEF along with INSEAD, and Cornell University publishes this report which examines the increasing proliferation of technology and its effects on advancing global prosperity.

**Option (c) is correct: Global Risk Report**-Published by WEF. It enlists the threats which the world will face in future ranging from geopolitical and geo-economic tensions to environmental degradation and disruptions of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

**Option (d) is incorrect: World Economic Outlook**-Published by IMF. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a report by the International Monetary Fund that analyzes key parts of the IMF's surveillance of economic developments and policies in its member countries. It also projects developments in the global financial markets and economic systems. The WEO is usually prepared twice a year and is used in meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

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205. With reference to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a group of high income countries founded in 1961.
2. It publishes the International Migration Outlook.
3. India has been an observer member of this organisation since 1991.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation-

**Statement 1 is correct:** The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade. Most OECD members are high-income economies with very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries. It was founded in 1961 and headquartered in Paris.

**Statement 2 is correct:** OECD publishes reports like-

- Government at a Glance 2017 report
- International Migration Outlook
- OECD Better Life Index

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** India is neither a member nor an observer but a key economic partner.

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206. With reference to the GST council, consider the following statements:

1. Parliament has the authority to constitute the GST council.
2. The GST council is a non constitutional body making recommendations to the government.

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

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under Article 279 (1), The President of India has the authority to constitute the GST council.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The GST council is a constitutional body. The GST council will take all important decisions regarding the GST. The GST Council decides the tax rate, tax exemption, the due date of forms, tax laws, and tax deadlines, keeping in mind special rates and provisions for some states. The predominant responsibility of the GST Council is to ensure to have one uniform tax rate for goods and services across the nation.

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207. Consider the following Statements about International Finance Corporation (IFC):

1. It is one of the largest global development institutions focused on the private sector.
2. A company or entrepreneur seeking to establish a new venture or expand an existing enterprise can approach IFC directly.
3. In order to achieve Sustainable Development, the IFC does not provide funding to projects in oil, gas and mining sectors.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financing institution that is a part of World Bank Group and offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in developing and less developed countries. in the United States. Since inception it has expanded its membership to 184 countries and extended its developmental assistance to countries from Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and other developed regions.

**Statement 2 is correct:** IFC can be directly approached by a company or entrepreneur seeking to establish a new venture or expand an existing enterprise. The investment proposal can be submitted to the IFC, which then analyses the proposal and grants clearance based on credibility of the business/enterprise.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The IFC has extended debt financing to many private companies for Liquefied Natural Gas projects, Natural Gas exploration etc.

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208. With reference to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of International Monetary Fund (IMF), consider the following statements:

1. The SDR was created in 1969 to accommodate surplus foreign exchange reserve assets held by member countries.
2. The SDR can be used by member countries governments only and not by private parties.
3. The SDR is withdrawn by the government to meet their investment programme and deficit financing.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer : d**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Special drawing rights are supplementary foreign exchange reserve assets defined and maintained by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). SDR is not a currency rather they are units of account for the IMF. The aim was to **supplement foreign exchange reserve assets**, namely gold and U.S. dollars.

**Statement 2 is correct:** SDRs are allocated by the IMF to countries, and cannot be held or used by private parties. They provide liquidity to the global economic system and supplement member countries' official reserves .

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim against IMF assets, but a potential claim against the freely usable currencies of IMF members. The member states can exchange them for freely usable currencies IMF member countries can borrow SDRs from its reserves at favorable interest rates, mostly to adjust their balance of payments to favorable positions.

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209. Consider the following statements about Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

1. It is a multilateral regional investment bank.
2. India is a founding member and one of the largest shareholders in the bank.
3. The bank would provide assistance to only government led and sponsored projects.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a **multilateral regional investment bank**. Its aim is to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. The bank presently has 76 members and 26 prospective members from around the world. Established on intergovernmental lines, The AIIB is a multilateral development organization for Asia.

**Statement 2 is correct:** India along with 56 members was the founding member of Asian infrastructure investment bank and holds a stake of 7.5% which is the second largest after China.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) began to offer local-currency financing to private-sector clients from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey and Russia, in 2019. In its articles of agreement it has been stated that the bank would mobilise and support both private and government led projects.

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210. With reference to the New Development Bank, consider the following Statements:

1. The Bank's governance and management decisions are based on a weighted voting system.
2. The Bank was established only to cater to the needs of BRICS countries.
3. The Bank would supplement the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in development efforts and will have interoperability with it.

- The initial subscribed capital of the bank was equally distributed among the founding members.

Which of the above given statements are **incorrect**?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The New Development Bank (BRICS Bank), is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). It was set up to counterbalance the Western-led financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF by providing funding for infrastructure and development projects in BRICS countries. **Each nation will have an equal say in the bank's management, regardless of GDP size and capital subscriptions unlike world bank.**

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** One of the major objectives of banks is to support Economic development projects in Asian and African Countries. The bank aims to contribute to development plans established nationally through projects that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The NDB is viewed as a competitor to Western-led global-development institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

**Statement 4 is correct:** The New Development Bank has an initial subscribed capital of US\$50 billion and an initial authorized capital of US\$100 billion. The initial subscribed capital is equally distributed among the founding members. The payment of the amount initially subscribed by each founding member to the paid-in capital stock of the Bank will be made in dollars in seven installments. If a member wants to increase its share of capital, it needs the consent of remaining four members.

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211. With reference to Foreign Exchange reserves, consider the following Statements:

- The foreign exchange reserves help a country to maintain the value of their currency at fixed rate.
- Countries with a fixed exchange rate regime use forex reserves to keep the value of their currency lower than US Dollar.
- Depreciation of rupee in India will lead to increase in foreign exchange reserves.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Forex reserves or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves) are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority. Forex is used to back the liabilities – like the native currency issued and also reserves deposited by financial institutions or the government with the central bank.

The forex helps in keeping the value of their currency at a fixed rate.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** In a floating exchange rate system the currency price of a nation is set by the forex market based on supply and demand relative to other currencies. On the other hand, in fixed exchange rates, the rates are entirely or predominantly determined by the government. Countries with a floating exchange rate system use forex reserves to stabilize their currency with respect to the US Dollar.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Currency appreciation refers to an increase in value of the currency compared to other currencies whereas depreciation is a fall in its value, which can affect the trade deficit. The trade deficit may worsen if the local currency appreciates because appreciation makes the imports cheaper and exports less profitable. Appreciation is directly linked to demand. If the value of the currency appreciates (or goes up), demand for the currency also rises. On the other hand, if the value of currency depreciates, it loses value against the currency against which it is being traded. The appreciating rupee helps boost returns in dollar terms for foreign investors pumping money in Indian markets.

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212. With reference to relation between Sterilization intervention and Foreign Exchange Reserves, consider the following statements:

1. Foreign Exchange reserves are used for sterilization during both appreciation as well as depreciation of currency.
2. There is a reduction in size of reserves during Sterilization operations by Central Bank, especially in case of depreciation.
3. Sterilized intervention is taken up by Central Bank to manage depreciation in the long run, when the underlying causes of currency's loss of value is not known.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** sterilization is a measure used by the country's central bank to balance the effects on the money supply caused by a balance of payments surplus or deficit. This may involve open market operations by the central bank is to neutralize the impact of associated foreign exchange operations. It is used to negate potentially harmful impacts of capital inflows like currency appreciation and inflation – both of which can impact export competitiveness adversely. Assume that a country's currency is depreciating. To prevent this, the central bank creates artificial demand for the currency. It does so by using some of its foreign exchange reserves to buy local currency. The resulting demand though stops the currency from depreciating but also leads to reduction in the domestic money supply in two ways. First, as the bank directly removes some of the nation's currency from circulation by

buying it. Secondly, in case it is done in excess, the intervention can worsen the current account deficit due to the propped-up exchange rate being more favorable for importers than for exporters.

**Statement 2 is correct:** During the time of financial crisis and instability in the foreign exchange market there are chances that the Central Bank may intervene to prevent any liquidity crisis or fall in the value of currency i.e. depreciation. By doing this the central bank seeks to protect domestic currency from any shocks. For this purpose, the central bank may resort to creating artificial demand for its currency by using some of its foreign exchange reserves to buy local currency. Hence, buying local currency using reserves will lead to a reduction in the stock.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** A sterilized intervention against depreciation can only be effective in the medium term if the underlying cause behind the currency's loss of value can be addressed. In practice, the cause driving sterilized interventions is often that a high money supply results in local interest rates being lower than they are internationally, creating the conditions for a carry trade (involves borrowing at a low-interest rate and investing in an asset that provides a higher rate of return). Thus the market participants will be borrowing domestically and lending internationally at a higher rate of interest, a side effect of which is to exert downwards pressure on the currency being borrowed. Because a sterilizing intervention holds the money supply unchanged at its high level, the locally available interest rates can still be low. The carry trade therefore continues to be profitable and the central bank must intervene again if it still wants to prevent depreciation. This can only go on so long before the central bank runs out of foreign currency reserves with which to intervene. Hence, it can not go on forever which requires that the underlying causes of depreciation are urgently addressed.

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213. With reference to the 'GEMINI' device, consider the following statements:

1. It provides disaster warnings, Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ), Ocean State Forecasts (OSF) services to fishermen.
2. It is developed by ISRO and Airport Authority of India (AAI).
3. This device receives and transfers the data received from GAGAN satellites to a mobile through Bluetooth communication.
4. The device only allows one-way communication.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:**

20 fishermen went missing in the aftermath of Cyclone Okchi in 2017 due to communication blackouts. To avoid such scenarios in future, government departments, research agencies and private companies have developed GEMINI. GEMINI is a portable receiver which is linked to ISRO-satellites and is "fail-proof" and can warn fishermen of danger.

To overcome this difficulty, the Government has developed the GEMINI device to disseminate seamless and effective emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) and Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and Airports Authority of India (AAI). INCOIS also collaborated with Accord (a private company) to develop a box-shaped receiver that has an antenna and in-built battery that can last three to four days, according to a brochure describing the device.

**Statement 3 is correct:** This device receives and transfers the data received from GAGAN satellites to a mobile through Bluetooth communication.

**Statement 4 is correct:** The device only allows one-way communication — it can't be used by fishermen to make calls, for instance. At ₹9,000 a device, it's also relatively expensive for the average fisherman, say officials, but attempts are on to subsidize it by as much as 90.

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214. With reference to 'G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance' which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is a league of 15 of the world's leading city networks for advancing responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies.
2. It was established during the G20 summit 2015 held in Antalya, Turkey.
3. India is a member of this league.
4. The World Economic Forum serves as its secretariat.

Select the correct answer using given codes below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** 'G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance' is a league of 15 of world's leading city networks and technology governance organizations. Their agenda will be to promote responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies. India's also joined the league which is a critical first step towards accelerating global best practices, fostering greater openness and public trust as well as mitigating risks regarding the collection of data in public spaces.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was established in June 2019, in conjunction with the G20 Summit held in Osaka, Japan.

**Statement 3 is correct:** India has joined the league that will work towards advancing the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies.

**Statement 4 is correct:** The partners represent more than 2, 00,000 cities and local governments, leading companies, start-ups, research institutions, and civil society organizations. The World Economic Forum serves as the secretariat.

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215. With reference to Domestic- Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), consider the following statements:

1. The RBI consider those banks whose size is equal to or more than 2% of GDP as D-SIBs.
2. Presently, ICICI bank and SBI bank are the only ones to be categorized as D-SIBs in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Systemically Important Banks are perceived as banks that are 'too big to fail'. This perception of TBTF creates an expectation of government support for these banks at the time of distress. Due to this perception, these banks may resort to risk taking and there could be lack of market discipline on behalf of these banks. Hence, there is a need for a stronger regulatory environment for the SIBs. In this regard, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) came out with a framework in November, 2011 for identifying the Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs).

Similarly, the RBI has been mandated to identify the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) and lay down suitable regulatory requirements to prevent their failure. In order to identify the D-SIBs, the RBI takes into account only those banks whose size is equal to or more than 2% of GDP. Further, these banks are categorized as D-SIBs only when they fulfill the mentioned criteria: size, interconnected-ness, lack of readily available substitutes or financial institution infrastructure, and complexity.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Presently, the SBI bank, ICICI bank and HDFC bank have been identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

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216. Bhashan char island frequently seen in news is related to-

- (a) Multimodal inland waterway terminal
- (b) Rohingya Refugees
- (c) Bio-mining of monazite sand

(d) Nesting grounds of Olive Ridley

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The US has urged Bangladesh to postpone the relocation of Rohingyas to the newly built camp on uninhabited island of Bhashan Char.
- The Bhashan Char has emerged less than two decades back from the sea and according to the environmentalists it is an ecologically fragile area which is prone to floods, erosion and cyclone.

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217. With reference to the School Education Quality Index, which of the following statements are incorrect?

1. The index is jointly released by the the National Council of Educational Research and Training and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. To facilitate comparisons, the index groups states as large states and small states.
3. Delhi has bagged the first rank among the seven Union Territories in the first edition of the SEQI.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The first edition of the School Education Quality Index (SEQI) has been released by NITI Aayog.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

- SEQI helps in evaluating the performance of States andUTs in the school education sector.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- It groups the states and UTs as Large States, Small States and Union Territories in order to facilitate like-to-like comparisons. Kerala occupied first rank among 20 large states in terms of quality of school education, followed by Rajasthan and Karnataka, while Uttar Pradesh was ranked at the bottom position during 2016-17.
- Manipur topped the list of small states followed by Tripura and Goa .

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

- Among the seven UTs Chandigarh was ranked first followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Delhi .

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218. With reference 'Exercise SHAKTI' which of the following statements is/are **incorrect**?

1. It is a joint naval exercise between India and France.
2. The exercise will showcase its naval dominance over the entire extended area of the Indian Ocean region.
3. The exercise will focus on Counter Terrorism operations under United Nations Mandate.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a joint **military exercise and not naval exercise** between India and France. The joint military exercise of India and French troops was held between 31st October and 13th November 2019 in Rajasthan.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The exercise is a military exercise and hence cannot showcase its naval dominance over the entire extended area of the Indian Ocean region. It's a biennial exercise and is conducted alternately in India and France. The bilateral training exercise was conducted at Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The joint exercise will focus on Counter Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-desert terrain under United Nations Mandate. The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

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219. With reference to European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It has members from all over the world with the biggest shareholder being the United States.
2. It is owned by EU member states and is used to support EU policy.
3. India has a shareholding in the EBRD but it is not eligible for EBRD financing.
4. The EBRD is unique among development banks in a sense that it will not finance coal power plants due to their environmental impact.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** EBRD is a multilateral development bank which was set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It promotes private and entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe. It includes members from all over the world but only lends regionally in its countries of operations.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The EBRD is different from the European Investment Bank (EIB), which is owned by EU member states and is used to support EU policy. It invests in 38 emerging economies of three continents with an aim to make its countries more competitive, better governed, greener, more inclusive, more resilient and more integrated.

**Statement 3 is correct:** India takes a shareholding in the EBRD but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing as to get EBRD funding, "a project must be located in an EBRD country of operations (not in India)"

**Statement 4 is correct:** The EBRD is unique among development banks in a sense that it will not finance coal power plants due to their environmental impact. It has pledged to dedicate above 40 percent of its financing to green investment by 2020.

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2220. With reference to the Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), consider the following statements:

1. The beneficiaries are identified by the state governments under a fixed quota system.
2. All below poverty line families with HIV positive members are covered under the AAY.
3. AAY allows the families to lift the rations for six months in advance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) targets poorest of the poor families from amongst the number of BPL families covered under TPDS within the states and provides them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.3 per kg for rice and Rs.2 per kg for wheat .

**Statement 1 is correct:** The identification of the Antodaya families and issuing of distinctive Ration Cards to these families is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The number of beneficiaries is fixed to every state and the list has to be updated periodically.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The guidelines for the AAY family identification given by the Department of Food and Public Distribution. It includes the following sections of the society:

1. marginal farmers, Landless agricultural labourers, rural artisans, slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitute and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas.

2. Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/ persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support;

Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence;

3. All primitive tribal households;
  4. All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV positive persons.
- Statement 3 is correct:** The Department of Food and Public Distribution permitted the State/UT governments to allow the beneficiary to lift the rations for upto six months in one go. Those who are financially not capable of paying for a six months ration can continue with monthly lifting of ration.
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221. Insolvency Professionals (IP) play a central role in working of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Which of the following statements is/are correct about IP?

1. Corporates and Partnership firms are eligible to function as Insolvency Professionals.
2. Both Indian citizens and Foreigners can be registered as an Insolvency Professionals.
3. Insolvency Professionals make arrangements to sell all the assets of the liquidating individual or company.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Only individuals are eligible to become an Insolvency Professionals subject to other terms and conditions, as may be applicable. Hence, a non-individual like body corporate and partnership firm cannot become an Insolvency Professional.

**Statement 2 is correct:** A resident in India above 18 years of age is eligible to get registered as an insolvency professional. A foreigner becomes a resident of India when he stays for a minimum of 182 days in India during the previous year.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The major functions of the Insolvency Professionals are as follows:

1. Understand the position of the company by Analysing the financial statement.
  2. Make arrangements to sell all the assets of the liquidating Individual or company.
  3. Indulge in formal discussions with debtors/creditors and manage their settlement process.
  4. Check and agree on the creditors claims as per the available funds. This is one of the main duties of Insolvency professionals.
  5. Involve in the fund distribution process after setting aside money required to pay the cost of liquidation.
  6. Deal with the other competing interest, if any. In addition they have to submit a status report to the National Company Law Tribunal(NCLT).
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222. With reference to the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Composition Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Businesses which supply goods through an e-commerce operator are not eligible for the scheme.
2. It benefits the small and medium enterprises (SME) engaged in inter state supply of goods and services.

- No input tax credit is allowed under the composition scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

The composition scheme is an alternative method of tax levy under GST designed to simplify compliance. The main feature of this scheme is that the business or person under this scheme can pay tax at a flat percentage of turnover every quarter, instead of paying tax at normal rate every month.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Businesses which supply goods through an e-commerce operator are not eligible for the scheme.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Enterprises which are engaged in the inter state supply of goods and services are not eligible for the composition scheme. In addition the manufacturers of ice cream, pan masala, tobacco; casual taxable persons or non-resident taxable persons also not eligible for the scheme.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Input tax credit under GST is not available to the entities registered under the composition scheme. They are also not allowed to collect the GST charges from their customers.

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223. Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) is employed in highways construction in India. Consider the following statements about the HAM:

- It reduces the financial risks and increases liquidity to the stalled infrastructure projects.
- Majority of the investments are made by the Government in fixed installments over a term of five years.
- The developer has no role in the maintenance and toll collection from the projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** HAM brings certainty in the returns to the investments by the private players. For the investment made by the Private they will be paid a variable annuity amount after the completion of the project depending on the value of the assets created. This arrangement reduces financial risks and increases liquidity as there is availability of credit due to certainty in returns.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) the government will contribute 40% of the project cost in the first five years through annual payments. Remaining 60% of the project cost has to be raised by the private developer in the form of equity or loans. So the majority of the investments are not made by the Government.

**Statement 3 is correct:** After completion of the project the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes the responsibility of revenue collection through tolls and maintains the project. The developer has no role in the maintenance of the project.

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224. With reference to 'IndiGen Genome project' which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) with WHO.
2. It will have applications in predictive and preventive medicine for faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases.
3. It will undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indians from different populations across the country. It was implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. There is no connection with WHO in this project.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The outcomes of the IndiGen will have applications in a number of areas including predictive and preventive medicine with faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases. The data will be important for building the knowhow, baseline data and indigenous capacity in the emerging area of Precision Medicine. The outcomes of the IndiGen will be utilized towards understanding the genetic diversity on a population scale, make available genetic variant frequencies for clinical applications and enable genetic epidemiology of diseases. The benefits of this initiative include epidemiology of genetic diseases to enable cost effective genetic tests, carrier screening applications for expectant couples, enabling efficient diagnosis of heritable cancers and pharmacogenetic tests to prevent adverse drug reactions.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indians from different populations across the country. IndiGen

programme aims to undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.

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225. Which of the following acts as a funding mechanism for “Integrated irrigation project for climate resilient agriculture?”

- a. Asian infrastructure Investment Bank
- b. World Bank
- c. Green Climate Fund
- d. New Development Bank

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A US\$165 million loan agreement was signed between The Government of India, the state Government of Odisha and the World Bank to support smallholder farmers in strengthening the resilience of their production systems, diversifying and improving the marketing of their produce, to realize more income.
  - The project will be implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture.
  - The project will strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers against adverse climate.
  - It will try to improve access to resilient seed varieties and production technologies, diversifying towards more climate-resilient crops, and improving access to better water management and irrigation services.
  - The project will support the rehabilitation of 532 water tanks; promote productivity improvements at the farm level; support farmers to reduce the current emphasis on food grains (especially paddy and wheat) and increase the share of high-value and more nutritious products like fruits and vegetables; and provide marketing support to farmers who are able to generate a marketable surplus.
  - The project will also support aquaculture in rehabilitated tanks, help farmers to access affordable and quality fingerlings, and disseminate improved aquaculture practices and post-harvest management.
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226. With reference to “Colombo declaration”, consider the following statements:

1. It is related to Sustainable Nitrogen Management.
2. It is a joint activity of UNEP and Global Environment Facility (GEF).
3. It aims to halve the Nitrogen waste by 2030.
4. India played a key role in bringing this declaration.

Which of the statements given above 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

Answer: c

Explanation: recently “**Colombo Declaration**” which calls for **tackling the global nitrogen challenge** was adopted by **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** member states..

**Highlights of the declaration:**

1. The International Nitrogen Management System (INMS), **a joint activity of the UNEP and the International Nitrogen Initiative supported by the Global Environmental Facility** provided the technical support.
2. **The target is to halve the nitrogen waste by 2030.**
3. A campaign called “Nitrogen for Life” for **sustainable nitrogen management will** be launched.
4. It calls UN agencies, other international organizations, development partners, philanthropic agencies, academic and civil society organizations to support its implementation.
5. It also urges countries to conduct a comprehensive assessment on nitrogen cycling covering policy, implementation, regulation, and scientific aspects at a national level plus sensitize the citizens to understand the natural nitrogen cycle and how human impacts alter its balance.
6. It is an initiative of the Global Environment facility and other international organisations, so India did not play any role in bringing this declaration.

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227. The term ‘Automatic Exchange of Information’ often seen in news, relates to which of the following?

- a. It involves the sharing of information relating to terrorism between two countries.
- b. It is an agreement between India and Pakistan, whereby both countries share information pertaining to the location of Nuclear power plants.
- c. It is a systematic and periodic transmission of “bulk” taxpayer information by the source country to the residence country.
- d. It is an agreement between India and China, whereby both countries share information pertaining to the Brahmaputra river data.

**Answer : c**

Explanation: Automatic exchange of information facilitates the systematic and periodic transmission of “bulk” taxpayer information by the source country to the residence country. It provides timely information on non-compliance. Recently, *the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) Regime* between Switzerland and India has kicked off. India will start receiving information on all financial accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland, for the year 2018. It *aims* to reduce global tax evasion *and is to be* carried out under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) of OECD.

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228. Consider the following statements regarding the ‘Build for Digital India’ programme:

1. It is a platform for engineering students to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions to key social problems.
2. It is an initiative under the Global Initiative of Academic Network.

3. Under the programme, the students will be provided training in technologies like Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Build for Digital India' program provides engineering students a platform to build technology-based and market ready solutions to address key social problems. The initiative will motivate college students across India to innovate and provide technological solutions for social challenges of India. The programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is not an initiative under the GIAN. GIAN is a programme titled **Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN)** in Higher Education. The program is aimed at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally and will encourage their engagement with Higher Education institutes in India. The aim is to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence. It will initially include all IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, IISc Bangalore, IISERs, NITs and IIITs subsequently cover good State Universities. GIAN will initially include participation of foreign faculty in Institutes as Distinguished / Adjunct / Visiting faculty / Professors of Practice, etc., to participate in delivering Short or Semester-long Courses. Other activities will be included in the due course.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Google's Developer Student Club network and other Google Developer networks will provide online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies like Machine Learning (ML), Cloud and Android along with mentorship sessions in fields like product design, strategy and technology to the most promising products and prototypes.

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229. With reference to the foreign investments in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Any investment above 10% in a company is classified as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
2. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) can invest only in the shares of listed companies.
3. The domestic policies affect the flow of FDI more than the FII.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** On the basis of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations 2014, any foreign investment beyond 10% in a company is called as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Investments upto 10% in a company is called Foreign Institutional Investment (FII).

**Statement 2 is correct:** Foreign Portfolio investors are not allowed to invest in the equity of the unlisted companies while they can invest in the listed companies through stock exchanges. They can also invest in the to be listed companies through Initial Public Offerings (IPO).

**Statement 3 is correct:** FDI is the form of long term investment and more stable in nature. The inflow of the FDI depends on the favourable business climates and government policies in a country. On the other hand the FII are short term investments and less stable in nature. The flow of the FII is majorly governed by the global liquidity conditions.

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230. Strategic partnership council is an initiative of which of the following countries?

- a. India
- b. United States of America
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. China

Answer: c

The Strategic Partnership Council was formed between India and Saudi Arabia to coordinate on strategically important issues. The council will be headed by the Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed. The council will meet every two years. After the UK, France and China, India is the fourth country with which Saudi Arabia has formed a strategic partnership.

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231. Consider the following statements regarding 'Rheumatic Fever', seen in the news recently:

1. It is endemic in India and remains one of the major causes of cardiovascular disease.
2. 'Penicillin' is the cheapest option for 'rheumatic fever' treatment.
3. The risk of developing rheumatic heart disease is up to two times higher for females than males.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:** Rheumatic fever is endemic in India and remains one of the major causes of cardiovascular disease, accounting for nearly 25-45% of acquired heart disease. The most devastating effects are on children and young adults in their most productive years.

**Statement 2 is correct:** In October 2019, the government was planning to procure penicillin centrally for three years and give it to all children between 5-15 years who have a sore throat, at least once. The Government is trying to revive penicillin availability because it is the cheapest option for rheumatic fever treatment.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Rheumatic heart disease disproportionately affects girls and women. The risk of developing rheumatic heart disease is up to two times higher for females than males.

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232. Consider the following statements:

1. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is exclusively meant for children from 0-6 years of age.
2. ICDS aims to provide pre-school non formal education for children.
3. Various other schemes like SABLA are also implemented using ICDS platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** ICDS is a scheme for children from 0-6 years as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. Anganwadis are day care centres for children and are set up under ICDS. They are honorary workers who are paid a monthly honoraria.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It offers six services supplementary nutrition, pre-school non formal education, nutrition and health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) or SABLA is implemented under ICDS through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). The scheme is aimed at self-development, empowerment, improve awareness on nutrition and health status of adolescent girls.

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233. With reference to the process of adjudication of the insolvency cases in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Company Law Tribunal's order will be final and binding on the parties in this regard.

2. Civil courts do not contain jurisdiction over these cases.
3. One can be insolvent without being bankrupt, but can not be bankrupt without being insolvent.
4. Reserve Bank of India will be the nodal agency for overseeing insolvency proceedings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Any aggrieved person may make an appeal to the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** against the order of the Adjudicating Authority under this part. Any person aggrieved by an order of the Tribunal may file an appeal to the **Supreme Court** on a question of law arising out of such order within 45 days.

**Statement 2 is correct:** No civil court or authority shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any matter under this Code on which National Company Law Tribunal or the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has jurisdiction.

**Statement 3 is correct: Insolvency** is the inability to pay debts when they are due. Fortunately, insolvency can be resolved by borrowing money or increasing income so that you can pay off debt. You also could negotiate a debt payment or settlement plan with creditors. Whereas, **bankruptcy** is usually a final alternative when other attempts to clear debt fail.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings. RBI is not the nodal agency. The Board will regulate insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities set up under the Code. The Board will consist of representatives of the Reserve Bank of India, and the Ministries of Finance, Corporate Affairs and Law.

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234. Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Securities Exchange Board of India” (SEBI)?

1. It is a statutory body established to regulate the securities market in India.
2. It is an autonomous organization that works under the administration of the Ministry of corporate affairs.
3. It consists of members from both the Central government and Central Bank of India.

Which of the above mentioned statements is/are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was first established as a non-statutory body in the year 1988 for regulation of the securities market. It was accorded the statutory status on 30th January 1992 in accordance with the SEBI Act 1992.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** SEBI is an autonomous organization that works under the administration of Union Finance Ministry.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is managed by the following members:

- The chairman was nominated by the Union Government of India.
- Two members, i.e., Officers from Union Finance Ministry.
- One member from the Reserve Bank of India.
- The remaining five members who are nominated by the Union Government of India.

Three of the five members should be a whole-time members.

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235. Which of the following is/are the functions of “Information Utility” as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, 2016?

1. Creating and storing financial information in a universally accessible format.
2. Registering the insolvency professional agencies in the country.
3. Specifying the regulations standards for the functioning of insolvency professional agencies.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Information utilities have to create and store financial information in a universally accessible format.

**Statement 2 and 3 are incorrect:** It is the “Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India” to register and specify by regulations standards for the functioning of insolvency professional agencies, insolvency professionals and information utilities in the country.

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236. With reference to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (1999), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It replaced Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA).
2. It’s objective is to facilitate external trade and to develop and maintain foreign exchange markets.

3. The act is applicable to all branches, offices and agencies outside India, owned or controlled by a person who is a resident of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Foreign Exchange Management Act (1999) or in short FEMA has been introduced as a replacement for earlier Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA). FEMA came into action on the 1st day of June, 2000.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The main objective of FEMA (1999) is to consolidate and amend the laws relating to foreign exchange to facilitate external trade and payments. It also aims to promote the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** FEMA is applicable to all parts of India. The act applies to all branches, offices and agencies outside India owned or controlled by a person who is a resident of India.

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237. With reference to the measures taken by the government in Budget 2020-21 to augment the GST revenue collection which of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- (a) Cash reward system to customers
- (b) GST rate restructuring
- (c) Aadhaar based verification of taxpayers
- (d) Electronic invoice

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Cash reward system to customers incentivise them to seek invoice for the purchases done thus improving the transactions under the GST net.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** There is no such decision yet, it is still being deliberated. Such decisions are taken at GST Council meetings.
- **Option (c) is correct:** Aadhaar based verification of taxpayers being introduced to weed out dummy or non-existent units.
- **Option (d) is correct:** Electronic invoice to capture critical information in centralised system to be implemented in a phased manner.

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238. Which of the following are the advantages of 'Spot markets' in India?

1. Efficient price realization for the traders.
2. Transparency by meeting the buyer or seller directly.

3. Elimination of cartelization of commodities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation: Spot Exchanges** are electronic trading platforms which facilitate purchase and sale of specified commodities, including agricultural commodities, metals and bullion by providing spot delivery contracts in these commodities.

**Advantages of Spot Exchanges:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** It can lead to efficient price determination as price is determined by a wider cross-section of people from across the country, unlike the present scenario where prices are determined through local participation. This also ensures transparency in price discovery.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Anonymity ensures convergence of different price perceptions, as the buyer or seller merely expresses their desire to trade without even meeting directly.

**Statement 3 is correct:** If spot exchanges can ensure participation in large numbers by farmers, traders and processors across the country. Cartelization and other such unhealthy practices prevalent in commodity markets can be avoided by spot exchanges.

**Extra Information:**

- Spot Exchanges can also usher in some best Practices in commodity trading like, system of grading for quality, creating network of warehouses with assaying facilities, facilitating trading in relatively smaller quantities, lower transaction cost etc.
- Bank finance available against the goods in the warehouse on easier terms improves holding capacity and can actually incentivize farm production and hence reduce rural poverty.
- Since the trades are guaranteed, counterparty risk is avoided.

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239. Which of the following is the best description of the term "Insider trading" seen in the news?

- (a) Trading the shares within their employees only by the financial institutions.
- (b) Allowing only certain high net worth individuals for the trading of equities purpose.
- (c) Making financial agreements only with non-sovereign entities.
- (d) Selling a publicly traded company's stock to someone having non-public material information about that stock.

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:** Insider trading refers to the buying or selling of a publicly traded company's stock by someone who has non-public, material information about that company. Insider trading is illegal if the material information is still not in public.

240. With reference to proposed new definitions of MSME, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The basis of classification has been changed from “Annual Turnover” to “Investment in plant & machinery/equipment”.
2. The objective of new classification is to encourage ‘ease of doing business and align them to the new tax regime revolving around GST.
3. According to the new definition, businesses with revenue of as much as Rs 5 crore will be called a micro enterprise.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

**Explanations:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The government is in the process of finalising a new definition for micro small and medium enterprises which will be linked to annual turnover of the units. In the process it will do away with the current system of classifying units based on the capital deployed in plant and machinery.

**Statement 2 is correct:** it can be pegged with reliable figures available, e.g., in GST Network and other methods of ascertaining, which will help in having a non-discretionary, transparent and objective criterion and will eliminate the need for inspections, make the classification system progressive and evolutionary.

**Statement 3 is correct:** According to the new definition, a micro enterprise will now be defined as a unit where the annual turnover does not exceed ₹5 crore, a small enterprise will be defined as a unit where the annual turnover is more than ₹5 crore but does not exceed ₹75 crore. A medium enterprise will now be a unit where the annual turnover is more than ₹75 crore but does not exceed ₹250 crore.

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241. Consider the following statements:

1. Under SFURTI scheme a network of artificial intelligence based incubation centres were set up to accelerate entrepreneurship.
2. The objective of ASPIRE scheme is to organize the traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive.
3. Aadhaar Number is mandatory for registration under Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM) which is available online.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) 3 only

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) is a Central Sector Scheme to make the traditional industries more productive and competitive. It is not related to AI based incubation centres.

Few of objectives of SFURTI are:

- To make traditional industries and artisans competitive by organizing them into clusters
- To provide support for their long-term sustainability and economy of scale.
- To provide employment to traditional industry artisans and rural entrepreneurs
- Enhancing the marketability of their products

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** SFURTI scheme aims to organize the traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and not ASPIRE scheme.

A Scheme for promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) main objectives are:

- Create new jobs and reduce unemployment
- Promote entrepreneurship culture in India
- Boost Grassroots economic development at district level
- Facilitate innovative business solutions for unmet social needs.
- To strengthen the competitiveness of the MSME sector by Promoting innovation

**Statement 3 is correct:** Under, MSME Development Act, 2006, every MSME unit shall file Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM) which replaces the filing of Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (EM part-I & II) with the respective States/UTs. The entrepreneurs in the MSME sector just need to file online, a simple one-page UAM to instantly get a unique Udyog Aadhaar Number (UAN). The information sought is on self-certification basis and no supporting documents are required at the time of online filing of UAM. At present Aadhaar Number is mandatory for registration under UAM.

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242. With reference to the recent Corporate Income Tax reduction, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It reduces the revenue collection and increases the fiscal deficit in the short run.
2. The reduction of the tax rate is applicable to both domestic and foreign firms operating in India.
3. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) enjoys the highest reduction in tax liability.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Around 18% of the budget revenue comes from the corporate tax collection. The tax rate cut brings down the effective tax from 35% to 25%, which will reduce the revenue collections of the government. It further increases the fiscal deficit due to paucity of resources. The revenue will increase due to increased economic activity in the medium to long run.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The tax reduction is only applicable to the domestic firms and the tax rate applicable to the foreign companies remained unchanged.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The small and medium enterprises get the reduction of 3.2 percent to 13.5 percent of present tax liability while large scale industries gets the reduction of 18.5 percent to 27.3 percent of present tax liability. Hence, the large companies get more reduction.

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243. Which of the following statements is correct about Graded Surveillance Measure (GSM)?

- a. It is a tool by the RBI to check increasing non-performing assets in the Public Sector Banks.
- b. It is a mechanism to safeguard domestic manufactures by reducing dumping of imported goods.
- c. It is a mechanism to safeguard the interest of stock market investors.
- d. It is an e-governance tool used by the Monetary Policy Committee to monitor headline inflation.

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:** Graded Surveillance Measure (GSM) has been introduced by the SEBI and the Exchanges in order to enhance market integrity and safeguard the interest of investors. The main objective is to alert and advise investors to be cautious and to advise market participants to carry out necessary due diligence while trading in these securities.

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244. With reference to the government bonds, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Development of the bond market will reduce credit pressure of the public sector banks.
- 2. The Foreign Portfolio investment in government bonds in India is capped at 20%.
- 3. Reduction in repo rate will increase the yields of government bonds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

### Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:** Development of the bond market gives alternative channels for the credit needs of the corporates. It will reduce the pressure on the public sector banks which are the largest source of finance for Indian business. This in turn will reduce the share of non performing assets which increases the profitability of banks.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The FPI in the bond markets of India is restricted by the Reserve Bank of India. The short-term investment limit has now been increased from 20% to 30% for FPI investment in Government securities (G-secs) and corporate bonds.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The interest rate and bond yields are directly proportional to each other. Reduction in the repo rate will see an reduction in the yields of government bonds. At the same time the bond price is inversely proportional to the interest rate.

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245. With reference to the Uday Kotak Committee on Corporate Governance, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was set-up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to overhaul the corporate governance mechanism in the country.
2. It recommended that for listed companies chairmanship should be limited to only non-executive directors in the board.
3. The committee recommended increasing the number of independent directors in the board of listed companies to 50%.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

### Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Committee on Corporate Governance was constituted by SEBI to overhaul the corporate governance mechanism in the country. The committee was composed of 21 members headed by Uday Kotak. The main objective is to increase the transparency in corporate governance and protect the minority shareholders.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It recommended that the roles of chairman and managing director at listed firms should be separated and chairmanship should be limited to only non-executive directors. Listed firms with more than 40% public shareholding should have separate roles of chairperson and MD or CEO.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It recommended that at least half of board members to be independent directors at listed companies, while all directors must attend at least half of board meets. Independent

directors must get minimum remuneration of Rs 5 lakh per annum and sitting fee of Rs 20,000-50,000 for each board meet.

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246. With reference to Atal Pension Yojana, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Unorganised workers of age below 60 years can join the scheme.
2. Government contributes 50 percent of the premium amount for all subscribers.
3. In case of death the spouse receives 100% of the pension given to the subscriber.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is a pension scheme which focuses on the unorganised sector workers. Under the APY, guaranteed minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- or 2,000/- or 3,000/- or 4,000 or 5,000/- per month will be given at the age of 60 years depending on the contributions by the subscribers.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The age of the subscriber should be between 18 - 40 years. Hence, a person who is in the age group of 18 years to 39 years 364 days can only join Atal Pension Yojana.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Government contributes 50 percent of the premium amount for all subscribers. The scheme is open for Indian citizens only.

**Statement 3 is correct:** In case of death of subscriber, pension would be available to the spouse and on the death of both of the subscriber and spouse, the pension wealth accumulated till age 60 of the subscriber would be returned to the nominee. Here, the pension to spouse will be 100% rather than 50%.

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247. With reference to Treasury bills in India, which of the following statements is/are **incorrect**?

1. They are short term debt instruments with a maximum maturity of up to 91 days.
2. They can be issued only by the Government of India and the state governments.
3. The treasury bills pay interest at the rate equal to repo rate.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Treasury bills are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day. They are part of the money market.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Only the Government of India can issue Treasury bills while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. They are issued at a discount and are redeemed at the face value on maturity. This discount is deemed as the margins or profit in the treasury bill operations.

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248. With reference to NBFC-P2P (peer to peer) lending, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a crowdfunding platform which provides unsecured loans to borrowers.
2. The NBFC cannot provide any credit to the members.
3. A person can borrow a sum of up to Rs. 1 crore through peer to peer lending platforms.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** NBFC Peer to Peer Lending Platform means an intermediary providing loan facility via online medium or otherwise, to the participants. In simple terms it is like crowdfunding where the loans are raised and repaid with interest without having to get it from a financial institution. An individual borrower can use the platform to borrow or lend money. And the loans given here are unsecured loans. This is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The NBFC P2P acts as an intermediary providing an online marketplace or platform to the participants involved in Peer to Peer lending. They are not allowed to engage in lending activities to its members. They cannot raise any deposits or provide or arrange any credit enhancement or credit guarantee.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The aggregate loans taken by a borrower at any point of time, across all P2Ps, shall be subject to a cap of Ten lakh rupees. The exposure of a single lender to the same borrower, across all P2Ps, shall not exceed fifty thousand rupees. The maturity of the loans shall not exceed 36 months.

249. With reference to the balance of Payment crisis in the 1990s, India had not implemented which of the following IMF bailout conditions?

- a. Devaluation of rupees.
- b. Reduction in custom duties.
- c. Reduction in excise duties.
- d. Reduction in government expenditure.

**Answer:** c

**Explanation:**

**Option (a) is correct:** Rupee was devalued by 22 percent from Rs 21 to Rs 27 against 1 US\$.

**Option (b) is correct:** Drastic reduction in custom duties from 130 per cent for all goods to 30 per cent.

**Option (c) is incorrect:** Excise duty was increased by 20 per cent to neutralise the loss of revenue due to custom cut.

**Option (d) is correct:** Government expenditure was to be cut by 10 percent per annum.

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250. With reference to the Masala Bonds which of the following statements is/are **incorrect**?

- 1. RBI mandates that the money raised through such Masala bonds cannot be used for affordable housing projects.
- 2. Masala Bonds can only be issued in a country that is a member of the financial action task force and International Organisation of Securities Commission.
- 3. Maharashtra was the first indian state to issue a masala bond.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** c

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** RBI has mandated that the money raised through masala bonds cannot be utilized for real estate activities except for the development of integrated township or affordable housing projects.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Masala Bonds can only be issued in a country and subscribed by a resident of such country that is a member of the financial action task force and also whose securities market regulator is a member of International Organisation of Securities Commission.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Recently, the state-owned Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) debuted its 'masala bond' issue of ₹ 2,150 crore on the London Stock Exchange.

251. Which is common to the places known as Kanampalli, Tummalapalli and the Turamdih?

- (a) Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation (KLIP) Project
- (b) Uranium deposits
- (c) Underground cave systems
- (d) Tropical rainforest

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Tummalapalle uranium mine lies in the Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh. According to the Department of Atomic Energy, it has the potential to become the largest uranium mine in the world.
- With an investment of about Rs 6,000 crore, the mine at Kannampalli will beat the Tummalapalli mines located nearby and also the Turammdih mine of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) located at Jharkhand.

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252. Consider the following pairs:

<b>Waterfalls</b>	<b>State</b>
1. Shivasamudram	Kerala
2. Duduma	Odisha
3. Dhuandhar	Madhya Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:**

- Shivasamudram, located in the Mysore district of Karnataka, is the second biggest waterfall in India.
- The spectacular waterfall is surrounded by hill forests of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched:**

- Duduma waterfall lies on the Machkund River in Odisha. Its waters support a large hydroelectric project.
- Machhkund is an important place for pilgrimage. It is called Matsya Tirth.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:**

- Dhuandhar waterfall is the most spectacular waterfall near Jabalpur. It flows over a marble gorge.
- They are located on Narmada River, the waterfall is 30 m high and is magnificent to look at.

253. With reference to Project SURE recently seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
2. It aims at the sustainable use and recycling of water from industrial and household discharge.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer : d

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Project SURE was recently launched by the Union Textile Minister, along with Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), United Nations India, and IMG Reliance.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** SURE stands for 'Sustainable Resolution' - a firm commitment by the India's apparel industry to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment. It aims to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, especially SDG-12 for responsible consumption and production.

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254. Which of the following rivers are the tributaries of river Kaveri?

1. Amravati
2. Bhavani
3. Periyar
4. Manjra

Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Kaveri originates in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats and after travelling a distance of about 760kms, it reaches the Bay of Bengal in the south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu.

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The main tributaries of Kaveri are **Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabini**. Its basin drains parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Periyar is another river that originates in the western ghats. It is the largest river of Kerala and flows into the Arabian Sea.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** Manjra is a tributary of Godavari river.

255. Consider the following statements regarding 'Majuli island', recently in the news:

1. Majuli is a riverine island formed by the Brahmaputra river.
2. It was formed due to changes in the river course caused by earthquakes and floods.
3. The island is expanding due to silt deposition.

Which of the statements given above is/ are **not** correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Majuli Island of Brahmaputra River is the largest inhabited riverine island in the world.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Majuli, in Assam, is a riverine island formed by the Brahmaputra river..

**Statement 2 is correct:**

Frequent major earthquakes caused the Brahmaputra to change its course, as well as high floods led to the formation of the island.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

Majuli is a fast-disappearing which is a matter of serious concern. It was once the largest mid-river deltaic island in the world, unfortunately, it has now shrunk to less than half its size. The main reason is the regular floods which inundate the island and cause erosion, washing away villages and displacing residents.

256. Which of the following peninsular rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal?

1. Bharathapuzha
2. Sharavati
3. Baitarani
4. Palar

Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Bharathapuzha River, also called Ponnani River, flows through Kerala state. The Ponnani rises in the Western Ghats range northeast of Palakkad. Flowing first southwest and then west across the coastal plain, the river empties into the Arabian Sea at Ponnani after a course of about 100 miles.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

The Sharavati also called Gersoppa or Banaganga river has its origin in Shimoga district. After a northerly course for about 64 km from Nagar, it forms the South-East boundary of Uttara Kannada for about 13 km and then passes towards West, covering 134 km in all to join the Arabian sea at Honavar

**Statement 3 is correct:**

**The Baitarani River** originates near Dumuria village in the hill ranges of Kendujhar district of Odisha and has a length of about 355 km. It is known as Dhamra in its lower reaches. It is an east flowing river and flows into the Bay of Bengal.

**Statement 4 is correct:**

**The Palar River:** It originates at Talagvera village in the Kolar district. The Poini on the left and the Cheyyar on the right are the important tributaries of the Palar river. It flows into the Bay of Bengal.

257. Consider the following statements about Kolleru lake:

1. It is located between Krishna and Godaveri deltas.
2. The lake has many streams flowing into it but has no outlet to the sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Kolleru lake is located between Krishna and Godaveri deltas in Andhra Pradesh. The lake is an important habitat for resident and migratory birds. The shape and area of the lake are difficult to assess because large areas are submerged during floods. The average depth of the lake varies from 0.5 metres to two metres.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

Supplying the lake with water are four streams, 15 major channels and 15 drains. It has only one outlet, the *Upputeru channel*, which empties into the Bay of Bengal.

258. Which of the following geographical features can be observed in the great Indian desert?

1. Playas

2. Barchans
3. Piedmont plains
4. Mushroom rocks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:** the Great Indian desert lies northwest of the Aravali hills. During the Mesozoic era, this region was under the sea. The underlying rock structure of the desert is an extension of the Peninsular plateau, yet, due to extreme arid conditions, its surface features have been carved by physical weathering and wind actions.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Playa , a flat-bottom depression is found in interior desert basins and adjacent toere, causing the deposition of salt, sand, and mud along the bottom and around the edges coasts within arid and semiarid regions. It is periodically covered by water that slowly filtrates into the groundwater system or evaporates into the atmosphere of the depression.

The lakes and the playas have brackish water which is the main source of obtaining salt.

**Statement 2 is correct:** the desert is a land of undulating topography dotted with longitudinal dunes and barchans. Barchans are crescent shaped dunes.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Piedmont plains are created at the foot of mountains by debris deposited by either rainwash, sheetwash, slow continuous downslope creep. These features are also found in the Great Indian desert. In the central Luni basin, the hills are flanked at the bases by piedmont plains.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Some of the well pronounced desert land features present here are mushroom rocks, shifting dunes and oasis (mostly in its southern part). A mushroom rock is a naturally occurring rock whose shape, as its name implies, resembles a mushroom.

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259. With reference to the Kosi-Mechi River interlinking project, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to transfer part of the surplus water of Kosi basin to the Mahananda basin.
2. The Mechi river originates from Tibet and forms a boundary between Nepal and India.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:** the Union Government has recently approved the Kosi-Mechi river-interlinking project. This is the second major river interlinking project in the country after the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Mechi is a tributary of River Mahananda. The interstate link aims to transfer part of the surplus water of Kosi basin to the Mechi river. So indirectly, there will be transfer of water from the Kosi basin to Mahananda basin.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kosi is an international river originating from Tibet. The Mechi river originates in the Mahabharat Range of Nepal. It flows through Nepal, forms the boundary between India and Nepal and then flows through the Indian state of Bihar to join the Mahananda in Kishanganj district.

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260. Consider the following Indian cities-

1. Bhopal
2. Gandhi nagar
3. Ranchi
4. Aizawl
5. Agartala

Which of the cities mentioned above lie south of the Tropic of cancer?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: The tropic of cancer in India passes through Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, West Bengal, Tripura and Jharkhand (total 8 states). The cities of Aizawl and Agartala lie north of the Tropic of cancer.

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261. With reference to Chilika Lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The cyclone Fani has created four new mouths in Chilika Lake.
2. It is located at the mouth of the Daya and Bhargavi rivers.
3. It is the largest brackish water lagoon with estuarine character in India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- Cyclone fani, which wreaked havoc in Odisha on May 3 2019, has created four new mouths in Lake Chilika.
- The lake earlier had two mouths. Due to waves of intense energy lashed by the extreme severe cyclone, four new mouths were formed.
- Mouth refers to narrow openings which connect the lake with an open ocean. Thus saline water from the ocean enters into the lake through the mouth of the lake. The fishermen fear the new mouths could make the lake water more saline.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- It is located at the mouth of the Daya and Bhargavi rivers.
- Freshwater comes from 52 small and large rivers that drain into the lake, largely from Daya and Bhargavi rivers.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

- It is the largest brackish water lagoon with estuarine character in India.
- High tides near this inlet mouth drive in saltwater through the channel during the dry months, from December to June.
- With the onset of the rains, the 52 rivers and rivulets falling into the Chilika are in spate, causing fresh water currents which gradually push the seawater out.

**Extra Information:**

- A lagoon is a shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by barrier islands or reefs. Lagoons are commonly divided into coastal lagoons and atoll lagoons. Chilika Lake is also a lagoon.

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262. Consider the following statements:

1. The Zaskar, the Ladakh and the Karakoram are the main ranges of the Trans-Himalayan system.
2. Trans-Himalayan Zone is an extension of Tibetan plateau around the Himalayas.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- The Zaskar range, the Ladakh range and the Karakoram range are the main ranges of the Trans-Himalayan system.
- The Trans-Himalayas spread over a distance of about 1000 Km in east-west direction and their average elevation is 3000 m above mean sea level.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- It is an extension of Tibetan plateau around the Himalayas. It is also called the Tibetan Himalaya because most of it lies in Tibet.

- Gilgit-Baltistan is located in the trans-Himalayan region on the northwestern corner of the Kashmir Valley.

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263. With reference to earthquake swarms, consider the following statements:

1. It is a series of many low magnitude earthquakes without a discernible main shock.
2. The phenomenon called “hydro-seismicity” is a prerequisite cause for occurrence of earthquake swarms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:** The Palghar district in northern Maharashtra has witnessed an unusual frequency of earthquakes since November, 2018. Palghar experienced a series of minor earthquakes (6 tremors) in a single day. The magnitudes ranged between 3 and 4.1 on the Richter scale. Dahanu town Palghar district (Maharashtra) has been hit by some 30 low-intensity earthquakes.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- Earthquake swarms are a series of many low magnitude earthquakes without a discernible main shock.
- They occur in a localised region and over a period of time ranging from days, weeks to even months, without a clear sequence of foreshocks, main quakes and aftershocks.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- “Hydro-seismicity” is a phenomena, where water from heavy rainfall enters small fractures in rocks, which raises the pressure within them. This pressure is released in earthquake swarms
- It is not a prerequisite cause for occurrence of earthquake swarms. Different regions have different reasons. For example - while it was concluded that the swarms in Palghar were related to the monsoon, and were attributable to a phenomenon called “hydro-seismicity”, but swarms recorded in Himachal Pradesh in August 2016, were attributed to low strength of the earth’s crust in the area which could not hold the tectonic energy.
- It is a hypothesised reason for earthquake swarms in peninsular India.

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264. With reference to the Motor Vehicles Accident Fund mentioned in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It is mandatory for the Central and State governments to constitute the fund.
2. It will provide a compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.
3. The fund will be utilized for treatment of persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- a. 2 only

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

Answer : c

Explanation

The aim of the The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 is to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country's transportation system.

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Although the Motor Vehicles Act falls under the concurrent list of the constitution, it requires the Central Government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

The fund is to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India. The amended act provides for a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

The fund will be utilized for:

- Treating the persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme
- Providing compensation to representatives of a person who died in a hit and run accident
- Providing compensation to a person grievously hurt in a hit and run accident
- Providing compensation to any other persons as prescribed by the central government.

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265. Consider the following statements:

1. Luni which originates from the western slopes of the Aravalli range is an endorheic river.
2. Endorheic basins occur only in deserts or in climatic regions with low rainfall.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:** An endorheic basin is a closed drainage basin. It lacks any water outflow to other external bodies of water. They are located in a watershed where the topography does not allow their drainage into the oceans. They are often referred to as terminal lakes or sink lakes.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Luni which originates from the western slopes of the Aravalli range is an endorheic river.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- Endorheic basins are most common in deserts with low rainfall or stream flow but they can occur in any climate.
- They may form either permanent or seasonal lakes or swamps.
- Examples of the Endorheic basins and lakes include Lake Vanda, Lake Bonney, the Caspian Sea.

266. Consider the following pairs:

Important passes	Region
1. Rohtang pass	Uttrakhand
2. Lipu Lekh	Himachal Pradesh
3. Nathu La	Sikkim
4. Debas Pass	Union territory of Ladakh
5. Diphu Pass	Arunachal Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

**Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:**

- Rohtang pass connects Kulu Valley with the Lahul and Spiti valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- The pass is open for a limited time, only from June to September as it has a reputation for being very dangerous due to unpredictable snowstorms.

**Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:**

- Lipu Lekh situated in the Greater Himalayas in Uttarakhand, it connects India (Almora) with Tibet.
- The pilgrims to Mansarovar Lake pass through this route.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:**

- Nathu La is located on the Indo-China border connecting the Indian state of Sikkim with Tibet.
- The pass forms a part of an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road.

**Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:**

- Debas Pass is a high mountain pass in Greater Himalayas between Kullu and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh.
- It remains closed during the winter season.

**Pair 5 is correctly matched:**

- Diphu Pass is situated in Arunachal Pradesh at an altitude of about 4000 metre, it connects Arunachal Pradesh with Mandalay (Myanmar). It remains open throughout the year.

267. Nalaban Island (a bird sanctuary) frequently seen in news is located in-

- a. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- b. Sunderbans
- c. Chilika Lake
- d. Gulf of Mannar

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- The Nalaban Island in the Chilika Lake is a notified Bird Sanctuary under Wildlife (Protection) Act.
  - It supports some of the largest congregation of migratory birds in the country, particularly during the winter.
  - Migratory waterfowl arrive here from Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, remote parts of Russia, Ladakh and the Himalayas, to feed and breed.
- 

268. Someswari, Jinjiram and Kalu rivers flow through which of the following states of India?

- a. Tripura
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Jharkhand
- d. Meghalaya

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- Someswari is the second longest and the biggest of all the rivers in Meghalaya. Its local name is Simsang. It originates from the Nokrek mountains. It divides the Garo Hills into two parts.
  - Jinjiram, the longest river of the two districts of the Garo Hills. Kalu river is locally called Ganol. It originates at the Tura peak and runs westward. Its chief tributaries are Dilni and Rongram rivers.
- 

269. Which of the following have been included in the final framework for regulatory sandbox for financial technology space, recently issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ?

1. Money transfer services
2. Credit registry
3. Cybersecurity products
4. Crypto currency
5. Digital know-your customer

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- It is a safe harbour to test innovative products under relaxed regulatory conditions. Participating companies can release their new products in a controlled environment for experiments.
- The RBI issued the final framework for the regulatory sandbox.
- **RBI has included Money transfer services, digital know-your customer, financial inclusion and cybersecurity products**
- **RBI has left out Crypto currency, credit registry and credit information.**
- Participating entities should meet the criteria of minimum net worth of ₹25 lakh as per their latest audited balance sheet.
- The participating company should either be a company incorporated and registered in the country or banks licensed to operate in India.
- It will help companies to experiment with fintech solutions.

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270. With reference to coal in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The maximum concentration of coal fields occur in the north-eastern part of the Peninsular plateau.
2. Gondwana coal contributes to 99% of the total coal production.
3. The drawback of Gondwana strata is the paucity of coking coal, which makes it unfit for industrial use.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- In India, the maximum concentration of coal fields occur in the north-eastern part of the Peninsular plateau.
- It comprises parts of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and western part of West Bengal.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- The coal-bearing strata of India are geologically classified into two main categories, viz., the Gondwana coal and the Tertiary coal fields.
- Gondwana coal is said to be about 250 million years old.
- In India, Gondwana coal contributes to 99% of the total coal production.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

- Gondwana coal includes coking as well as non-coking and bituminous and sub-bituminous coal.
- It is the storehouse of India's metallurgical as well as superior quality coal.
- Metallurgical coal is very important for iron and steel industry making it the backbone of industrial production.

**Additional Information:**

The Tertiary rock system bears coals of younger age from 15 to 60 million years and are mainly confined to the extra-peninsula.

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271. Which among the following are the tributaries of Yamuna which originate from peninsular India?

1. Punpun
2. Chambal
3. Betwa
4. Son
5. Purna

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Punpun originates from the Chottanagpur hills of Palamau district in Jharkhand. It flows in a northeast direction and joins the Ganga river at Fatawh, downwards of Patna. It is a tributary of the Ganga and not of the Yamuna.

**Statement 2 is correct:** River Chambal originates in the Vindhyan escarpment in Madhya Pradesh. It is a tributary of the river Yamuna.

**Statement 3 is correct:** River Betwa is a tributary of the Yamuna. It rises in the Vindhya Range (Raisen) just north of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Son originates near Amarkantak in Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh. It is not a tributary of Yamuna even though it originates in the peninsula. It is a tributary of the Ganga.

**Statement 5 is incorrect:** The Purna is the principal tributary of Tapi. It rises in the Gawilgarh hills in Betul district and flows in a southwestern direction. It drains three districts Amravati, Akola and Buldhana of Vidarbha Region.

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272. 'FEDOR' recently seen in the news is:

- a. The first humanoid robot to be sent to space by Russia.
- b. The only space telescope dedicated to searching for asteroids that might have a threat to the earth.
- c. A theoretical computing machine to act as an ideal model for mathematical calculation.
- d. A human-made object which has gone closest to the Sun.

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Option (a) is correct:** FEDOR (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research), the Skybot F-850 is the first humanoid robot to be sent to space by Russia. The robot will be used in operations that are especially dangerous for humans onboard spacecraft and in outer space.

**Option (b) is incorrect:** The Near Earth Object Surveillance Satellite (NEOSSat) is a Canadian microsatellite designed in 2013. The space telescope is dedicated to searching for asteroids that might have a threat to the earth.

**Option (c) is incorrect;** A Turing machine is a mathematical model of computation that defines an abstract machine, which manipulates symbols on a strip of tape according to a table of rules.

**Option (d) is incorrect:** Recently, NASA's Parker Solar Probe completed a year in service. The probe seeks to gather information about the Sun's atmosphere. It is the closest a human-made object has ever gone to the Sun.

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273. Consider the following statements regarding Indian physiography:

1. Garo, Khasi and Jaintia hills are part of the Purvanchal or eastern Himalayas.
2. Meghalaya is an extension of the Deccan Plateau in the north east.
3. The Eastern Ghats are comparatively more continuous than the Western Ghats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

The Deccan Plateau is separated by a fault from the Chotanagpur Plateau. The Garo, the Khasi and the Jaintia Hills are respectively the western, northern and southern escarpments of the Shillong plateau.

Escarpment: Long cliff that forms as a result of faulting or erosion and separates two relatively level areas having different elevations.

The Purvanchal hills include the Patkai hills, the Naga hills, Manipur hills and the Mizo hills.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

An extension of the Deccan Plateau is visible in the northeast– locally known as the Meghalaya, Karbi-Anglong Plateau and North Cachar Hills.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:**

Western Ghats are comparatively higher and more continuous than the Eastern Ghats. The Eastern Ghats do not form a continuous range except in the Cuddapah and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh.

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274. What is the objective of the 'NISHTHA' programme?

- a. To motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.

- b. To train academic heads, who are likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
- c. To provide a fully IT based Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor scholarship as well as Educational Loan Schemes.
- d. To encourage economically weaker differently-abled students to pursue technical education at Diploma and Degree levels.

Answer: a

Explanation

**Option (a) is correct:**

- The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20.
- The aim is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in their students, handle diverse situations and act as first level counsellors.

**Option (b) is incorrect:**

- Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) is a flagship leadership development training programme to train academic heads, who are likely to assume leadership roles in the future.

**Option (c) is incorrect:**

- The Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram scheme aims to provide a fully IT based Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor Scholarship as well Educational Loan Schemes.
- It is a first of its kind portal for students seeking education loan.
- It provides a single window electronic platform for students to access information and prepare applications.

**Option (d) is incorrect:**

- The Saksham Scholarship scheme was launched to encourage economically weaker differently-able students to pursue technical education at Diploma and Degree levels.
- Rs.30,000 is provided towards tuition fee reimbursement and Rs.20000 as contingency allowance for 1000 persons/annum.

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275. Consider the following statements regarding Indus river basin:

1. Ambala water divide separates the Indus and the Ganga river systems.
2. The Indus river enters India through Nathula
3. Gomol and Kabul are right bank tributaries of the Indus

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Indus is one of the longest rivers of the world. Approximately a third of the Indus basin is located in India in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and the rest is in Pakistan.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

Ambala divides the Indus and the Ganga river systems. Water divide is an elevated area like a mountain or upland that separates two drainage basins.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**

Flowing west, the river Indus enters India in Ladakh (Union territory). Nathu la is a mountain pass in Sikkim.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

Himalayan tributaries of Indus are the Shyok, the Gilgit, the Zaskar, the Hunza, the Nubra, the Shigar, the Gasting and the Dras. near Attock it receives the Kabul river, its right bank.

276. With reference to humidity, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Temperature entirely decides the ability of air to hold water vapour.
2. The actual amount of water vapour present in the atmosphere is known as absolute humidity.
3. Relative humidity is greater over continents and is least over the oceans.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Humidity: The amount of water vapour present in the air. It indicates the probability for precipitation, dew, or fog to be present. Statement 1 is correct. The ability of air to hold water vapour depends entirely on temperature. Statement 2 is correct. Absolute Humidity is known as the actual amount of water vapour present in the air. It is the weight of water vapour per unit volume of air and expressed in grams per cubic metre. Statement 3 is incorrect. The percentage of moisture in the atmosphere as compared to its full capacity at a given temperature is known as the relative humidity. It is greater over the oceans and is least over continents

277. Caspian Sea is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Iran
2. Uzbekistan
3. Turkmenistan
4. Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Caspian Sea, also called Mazandaran Sea is a landlocked sea between Asia and Europe.
- It is the world's largest inland body of water. It has characteristics which are common to both seas and lakes. It is the world's largest lake, though it is not a freshwater lake.
- It is surrounded by 5 countries, namely Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Azerbaijan.
- From the above map, it is clear that Uzbekistan is a landlocked country.

278. With reference to tropical cyclones, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cyclones develop and mature over water bodies only.
  2. Majority of tropical cyclones form from easterly waves.
  3. The low pressure in the center of tropical cyclones causes the storm surge.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Hurricanes or typhoons are well known tropical cyclones. Hurricanes develop and mature over water bodies only.

Statement 2 is correct.

- Warm surface ocean water ( > 27-degree Celsius), low values of vertical wind shear, Coriolis force and pre-existing low pressure are favourable environmental conditions for tropical cyclone to form.
- Easterly Waves is an inverted trough of low pressure generally moving westward in the tropical easterlies. The majority of tropical cyclones are formed from the easterly waves.
- A trough is a region of relatively low pressure.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

- Actually, the low pressure at the centre has little effect on storm surge. Of greater importance are the high wind speeds acting on the ocean surface, combined with the size and forward speed of the storm.
- The height of the surge is also determined by the coastline and the angle the storm takes to it, the width and slope of the continental shelf offshore, and such local features as bays, rivers, headlands, islands, etc..

279. Sahibganj recently seen in news is associated with?

- (a) Strategic petroleum reserves facilities
- (b) Riverine multi-modal terminal
- (c) New launching pad of ISRO
- (d) Terminal to import super-cooled natural gas.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Option b is correct.

- India's second riverine Multi-Modal terminal has been built at Sahibganj in Jharkhand. Total three MultiModal Terminals are being constructed on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- It will help in transportation of domestic coal from the Rajmahal area to various thermal power plants located along NW-1. It will open up industries in Jharkhand and Bihar to the global market and provide cargo connectivity to the Indo-Nepal region through waterways route.

280. Which of the following feature is found on the mouths of large rivers such as Ganga, Congo, Hudson, Mississippi?

- (a) Seamounts
- (b) Trenches
- (c) Submarine canyons
- (d) Guyots

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option C is correct.

- Submarine canyons occur around all the coasts of the world. It is strikingly deep valleys which have cut the plain sharply.
- Many canyons are associated with the mouths of large rivers such as Ganga, Congo, Hudson, Mississippi.
- Hudson canyons is the best-known canyon in the world.
- A submarine canyon is a steep-sided valley cut into the seabed of the continental slope. They sometimes extend well onto the continental shelf, having nearly vertical walls.

Submarine canyons are believed to occur as the result of at least two main process:

- 1) erosion by turbidity current erosion; and
- 2) slumping and mass wasting of the continental slope.

281. Lake Titicaca is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Chile
2. Peru
3. Bolivia

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement C is correct.

- Lake Titicaca, in the Andes Mountains, is one of South America's largest lakes and the world's highest navigable body of water.
- From the above map, it is clear Lake Titicaca is bordered by Bolivia and Peru.

282. Consider the following statements

1. Tropical cyclones formed in one hemisphere sometimes travel to another hemisphere.
2. The Coriolis force acts perpendicular to the object's axis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect.

- The Coriolis force is an invisible force that appears to deflect the wind.
- Coriolis force is directly proportional to the angle of latitude. So it is absent at the Equator. Coriolis force is required to make the cyclone circulate. For these reasons, cyclones never cross the Equator.

Statement 2 is correct.

- The Coriolis force is an invisible force that appears to deflect the wind.
- It depends on the mass of the object and the object's rate of rotation. The Coriolis force acts perpendicular to the object's axis.
- Though useful in mathematical equations, there is actually no physical force involved. Instead, it is just the ground moving at a different speed than an object in the air.

283. These clouds are black or dark grey in colour. They form at the mid level atmosphere or very near to the surface of the earth. They are extremely dense and opaque to the rays of the sun. It is also a shapeless mass of thick vapour. Which of the following clouds is defined above? (a) Cirrus

- (b) Cumulus
- (c) Nimbus
- (d) Stratus

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect.

- Cirrus clouds are formed at high altitudes, and they are generally thin, having a feathery appearance. They are always white in colour.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- Cumulus clouds look like cotton wool with a flat base. They exist in patches.

Statement 3 is correct.

- Nimbus clouds are black or dark grey in colour and are extremely dense. They are a shapeless mass of thick vapour. They form at middle or very near to the surface of the earth.

Statement 4 is incorrect.

- Stratus is layered clouds which cover a large portion of the sky.

284. Consider the following statements

1. A thunderstorm is characterised by an intense updraft of rising cold air.
2. Local wind called 'Loo' in Northern India, is an outcome of the advection process.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect.

- A thunderstorm is characterised by intense updraft of rising warm air, which causes the clouds to grow bigger and rise to greater heights.
- Later downdraft brings down cool air and the rain.

Statement 2 is correct.

- When transfer of heat takes place through horizontal movement of air, then it is called advection. During the summer season in north India, local winds called loo" are the outcome of the advection process.

285. With reference to El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which of the following statements are correct?

1. El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. It stops upwelling of cold, nutrient rich water to the euphotic zone, in eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
3. During ENSO, the westward blowing trade winds weaken along the Central Pacific Ocean near the Equator.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

- El Niño is a climate pattern which describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean
- El Niño Modoki is characterized by changes in sea-surface temperatures in the central Pacific.

Statement 2 is correct.

- The thick layer of warm water accumulated due to unusual warming of surface waters does not allow normal upwelling to occur
- Without an upwelling, the euphotic zone can no longer support its normally productive coastal ecosystem in eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Statement 3 is correct.

- During an El Niño event, westward-blowing trade winds weaken along the Equator along the areas of the central Pacific ocean.
- This causes warm surface water to move eastward along the Equator, from the western Pacific to the coast of northern South America.

286. Which of the following are long term solutions to farmers' distress in India?

1. Raising Minimum Support Price
2. Loan waivers
3. Unified agricultural market
4. Land consolidation

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:

(b)

Explanation:

Option 1 is incorrect

MSP helps in incentivizing production over a short term. But it distorts the market mechanism as a result of which proper agricultural demand and supply curve remains disturbed.

Option 2 is incorrect

It is a short term measure

Option 3 is correct

Unified agricultural market would mean doing away with intermediaries and better price discovery

Option 4 is correct

Land consolidation can provide the advantage of economy of scale.

Extra Information

Agricultural markets have witnessed only limited reforms. They are characterised by inefficient physical operations, excessive crowding of intermediaries, and fragmented market chains. Due to this, farmers don't get the fair share of the price paid by final consumers. States have been slow in reforming agricultural markets. For better realization of income for farmers, there is a need to develop a value chain comprising farming, wholesaling, warehousing, logistics, processing and retailing. A competitive,

stable and unified national market should be created for farmers to get better prices. Policies for land consolidation along with land development activities are required in order to tackle the challenge of the low average size of holdings. Farmers can voluntarily come together and pool land to gain the benefits of size. Through consolidation, farmers can reap the economies of scale both in input procurement and output marketing.

287. With reference to heating and cooling of the atmosphere, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Equator receives relatively less insolation than tropics.
2. Only in the troposphere, vertical heating of atmosphere and subsequent convective transfer of energy takes place.
3. Conduction takes place only when two bodies are in contact and the bodies are of uneven temperature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Maximum insolation (energy received from incoming solar radiation) is received over subtropical deserts where clouds are least. In the equatorial regions, there is presence of cloud cover which reflects some of the solar radiation.

Statement 2 is correct.

The process of vertical heating of the atmosphere is known as convection. The convective transfer of energy is confined only to the troposphere.

Statement 3 is correct.

Conduction takes place only when two bodies are in contact and bodies are of uneven temperature. Conduction is important in heating lower layers of the atmosphere.

288. Consider the following statements

1. Hot magma is considered to be the basic source of all minerals in the earth.
2. Half of the earth's crust is composed of Quartz.
3. Cement which is used for construction is a mixture of various non-metallic minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Hot magma is the basic source of all minerals in the interior of the earth. On cooling of magma, crystals of minerals appear and a series of minerals are formed.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

Half of the earth's crust is composed of Feldspar. It is a mineral which chiefly consists of elements of oxygen and silicon. It is used for glass making.

Statement 3 is correct.

Cement is a mixture of non-metallic minerals. Non-metallic minerals do not contain metal content. For example - Sulphur, Nitrates etc.

289. With reference to localization of data which was recently in the news, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It would help develop data related technology in India
2. It would help utilise data for developmental needs
3. It would help in advancing ecommerce
4. It would lead to data dependency

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

Data localization refers to the act of storing data in servers within the boundaries of a country. It has both strategic and security implications for a country concerned. With increased cases of data breach coming to light, this gains much significance as far as the process of storing data is concerned.

Statement 1 is correct

Data, considered the next oil, can be leveraged only with appropriate technology. Data localisation requirement can help in the development of indigenous expertise for the utilisation of that data.

Statement 2 is correct

Data localisation would lead to the use of data for local developmental needs

Statement 3 is incorrect

Data localization requirements can adversely affect e-commerce MNCs but shall have little to no impact on the local eCommerce industries.

Statement 4 is incorrect

If anything, it can decrease the dependence of developing countries on big companies

Extra Information

In a show of strength, on the last day of the annual World Economic Forum meeting, nearly 70 countries, including China, issued a joint Statement confirming their intention to commence WTO negotiations on trade related aspects of electronic commerce.

What do these oligarchs of the digital world want through the WTO negotiations on digital economy and e-commerce? First, they want to access free and unrestricted flow of data — the raw material that fuels their business. Their main targets are large developing countries, such as China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa, which generate large volumes of digital data.

Second, they seek to curtail the role of governments in regulating the digital economy. Third, they want to leverage the negotiation to reduce their cost of doing business and enhance their incomes, including, by prohibiting countries

290. Which of the following can be categorized as advantages of the implementation of Universal Basic Income?

1. Lower taxation
2. Freedom of choice
3. Improved beneficiary targeting
4. Less corruption

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Option 1 is incorrect

Taxation is likely to increase to fund UBI

Option 2 is correct

Unconditional transfer would give freedom to the beneficiaries to choose how to spend the money received.

Option 3 is incorrect

As it is universal, no targeting is done and all those needing beneficiary help from the government are covered.

Option 4 is correct

As cash is transferred directly to all, there is little room for corruption

Extra Information

Basic Income Pilot Projects:

- In 2010-2013, two important studies were conducted by Indian policymakers to test the impact of unconditional cash transfers in Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.
- The first study was conducted from January to December 2011 in New Delhi and it tested the impact of cash transfers when offered in conjunction with existing public welfare.
- The Indian government in partnership with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and the Madhya Pradesh state government, carried out a controlled trial. In this experiment randomly selected households were given a fixed amount per month.

- Under this pilot project, over 6,000 men, women and children were provided with modest basic incomes, paid in cash, monthly, without conditions.
- The money was not much, coming to about a third of subsistence but it was paid individually, with men and women receiving equal amounts and with children receiving half as much, paid to the mother or surrogate mother.
- The pilot projects involved the (SEWA) and financial assistance was provided by UNICEF and the UNDP. Outcomes of the pilot project:
- The outcomes exceeded expectations, partly because everybody in the community (not just select people) received their own individual transfer.
- Nutritional levels improved
- Sanitation was improved
- Health and health care improved
- School attendance and performance improved
- Status of the Women and their well-being improved
- Disabled and vulnerable groups benefited the most.
- The amount and quality of work improved. Most importantly, the basic incomes improved the community spirit and were emancipatory.

291. Which of the following are demand side problems affecting India's power industry?

1. Low sustainability
2. High taxation
3. poor availability

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Option 1 is incorrect

It is a supply side problem referring to the fiscal calculations and efficiency in production process.

Option 2 is correct

High taxation in the form of coal cess etc. increases prices thus affects affordability

Option 3 is correct

Discoms purchase less power due to cash crunch thus affecting availability

Extra Information

Through Finance Bill 2010-11 a corpus called National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) was created out of cess on coal produced/imported (—polluter pays principle) for the purposes of financing and promoting clean energy initiatives, funding research in the area of clean energy or for any other purpose relating thereto. The 42nd standing committee on energy in its report on stressed gas-based power plants which was tabled in Parliament has pulled up the government for diverting coal cess to compensate States for revenue loss post-GST. It recommended financial support to the stressed gas-based power projects in the country from National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)

292. With reference to Llanos, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a vast savanna or grassland region to the east of the Andes.
2. It is the primary biome of the Orinoco river basin.

3. It serves as a perfect habitat for many bird species.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Llanos is a vast savanna or grassland region to the east of the Andes in Colombia and Venezuela.

Statement 2 is correct.

The Orinoco River flows north of the Amazon. The river basin covers approximately 80% of Venezuela and 25% of Colombia. Llanos forms the primary biome of the Orinoco river basin.

Statement 3 is correct.

Like most grassland biomes, it is a perfect habitat for many bird species.

293. Baltic Sea is enclosed by which of the following countries?

- 1. Norway
- 2. Russia
- 3. Finland
- 4. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Option C is correct.

- The Baltic is the youngest sea on the earth. It emerged from the retiring ice masses only some 10,000-15,000 years ago.
- Countries that are surrounded by The Baltic Sea are: Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Denmark, and Sweden.
- From the above map, it is clear that Norway is a wrong option.

294. With reference to the Sahel region, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It forms a transition zone between the Sahara to the north and Savannas in the south.
- 2. The region encompasses the fertile delta of the Niger River.
- 3. The region serves as a perfect habitat for wildlife.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Sahel is a narrow band of semi-arid land that forms a transition zone between the Sahara to the north and Savannas in the south.

Statement 2 is correct.

It stretches almost 5400 kilometres across Africa, from Senegal to Sudan. The region encompasses the fertile delta of the Niger River.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

Sahel's animals are constantly scavenging for scarce water and vegetation resources. The region is also worst affected by Desertification.

295. Consider the following statements

1. Near the equator, the ocean water level is higher than in the middle latitudes.
2. Without ocean currents, the earth would be super hot at the equator and frigid toward the poles.
3. The oceanic circulation pattern roughly corresponds to the earth's atmospheric circulation pattern.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

water expands when heated. That is why near the equator, the ocean water is about 8cm higher than in the middle latitudes.

Statement 2 is correct.

- Ocean currents act like a conveyor belt, transporting warm water from the equator toward the poles and cold water back to the tropics. It counteracts the uneven distribution of solar radiation.
- Without currents in the ocean, regional temperatures would be more extreme—super hot at the equator and frigid toward the poles

Statement 3 is correct.

- The oceanic circulation pattern roughly corresponds to the earth's atmospheric circulation pattern.
- At middle latitudes, the air circulation over the oceans is mainly anti-cyclonic. The oceanic circulation pattern also roughly corresponds to the same.

- Instability, climate change, and increasing pressures from unsustainable land use activities pose growing threats to the resilience of the Sudano-Sahel's iconic wildlife and people. Therefore it is not a perfect habitat, but there is some wildlife which have adapted to this adverse region.

296. With reference to the ocean currents in the Indian Ocean, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Indian Ocean in the Northern Hemisphere is not favourable for the development of permanent ocean currents.
  2. If winds stop blowing, then ocean currents in the Indian Ocean will cease to exist.
  3. The currents in the north Indian ocean change their flow direction due to monsoon winds. Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Indian ocean, surrounded by Indian subcontinent, Africa and Australia does not present favourable conditions for the development of permanent ocean currents.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

- Though the currents of the North Indian Ocean, demonstrate most convincingly the dominant effects of winds on the circulation of ocean currents, winds alone are not reason for movement of ocean currents.
- It is also influenced by temperature and salinity gradient in the ocean.

Statement 3 is correct.

The currents in the northern Indian ocean change their direction twice a year due to north-east and south-west monsoon winds

297. Consider the following statements

1. In a polar vortex, we can find wind speeds in the upper atmosphere matching the strength of the winds in the strongest hurricanes.
  2. When the polar vortex weakens, the jet stream also tends to weaken and become distorted. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 Only  
(b) 2 Only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

- The polar vortex is a circulation of winds in the stratosphere. The wind speed regularly exceeds 250 km per hour i.e., the strength of the winds in the strongest hurricanes (Category 5).

- It is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both North and South poles. It ALWAYS exists near the poles. It weakens in the summer and strengthens in the winter. "vortex" means the counterclockwise flow of air that helps in keeping the colder air near the Poles.

Statement 2 is correct.

- A strong polar vortex favours a strong jet stream. Conversely, when the polar vortex is weak, the jet stream also tends to be weak and distorted.
- Jet streams follow the boundaries between hot and cold air. Since a strong polar vortex increases the temperature difference between hot and cold air, the jet streams are strong

298. Consider the following statements

1. India's first LNG import terminal on the east coast is located at Ennore port.
2. Mundra LNG terminal can import super-cooled natural gas in cryogenic ships.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans:(c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

India's first LNG import terminal on the east coast is located at Ennore in Tamil Nadu.

Statement 2 is correct.

Mundra, in Gujarat, will be the third import terminal to import super-cooled natural gas (liquefied natural gas) in cryogenic ships and then re-converting the liquid fuel into its gaseous state before transporting it by pipelines to customers.

299. With reference to new GDP methodology, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It uses the IIP for measuring manufacturing and trading activity
2. It is consumption based and not production based
3. The base year of measurement has been changed

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect

Production and trading activity is measured by corporate data obtained from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Statement 2 is correct

It is not based on factor cost but market prices

Statement 3 is correct

The base year has been changed from 2004-5 to 2011-12

Extra Information The revised data does not reflect the other macroeconomic parameters - tax revenues, credit growth, trade performance, corporate sales, profits, more importantly the level of investment in the economy etc

Though this would be very difficult but India could look into Chain Linking methodology or index, wherein the developed economies keep updating their GDP calculation methodology very often The government has already announced that it is likely to change the base year to 2018-19.

300. With reference to 'Kadaknath chicken', recently in the news, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is the first meat to be GI tagged in India
2. It is bred and raised in Madhya Pradesh
3. Its enormous size is its unique feature

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans:(a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct

It is the first meat to be GI tagged in India. It is classified under class 29 - Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, fruit sauces; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats

Statement 2 is correct

It is bred and raised in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

Statement 3 is incorrect

This chicken is in high demand due to its high protein and very low fat and cholesterol levels

Extra Information

They are a breed of chicken local to Jhabua and Dhar districts of western Madhya Pradesh.