

UPSC Monthly Magazine Answer Key – April 2020

Q1. Arrange the following from North to South:

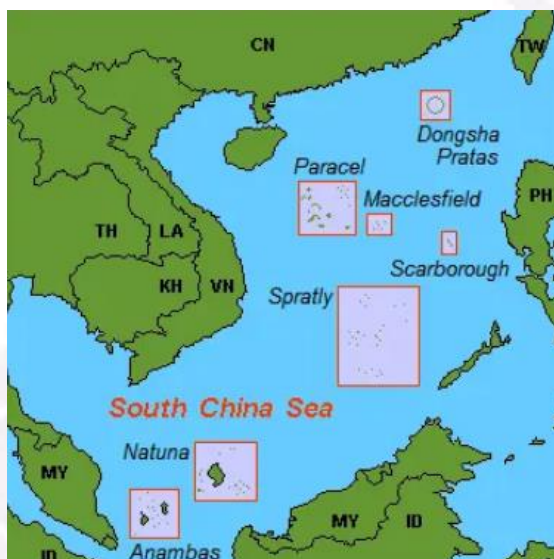
1. Spratly Islands
2. Paracel Islands
3. Scarborough shoal
4. Natuna Islands

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:



Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

1. MPLADS is a Central Sector scheme fully funded by the government of India.
2. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.
3. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

All the statements are correct. MPLADS is a Central Sector scheme fully funded by the government of India. Under the scheme, funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable. Funds not released in a particular year are carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer of pulses in the world.
2. India has the world's largest area under cultivation of pulses.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- India has the world's largest area under pulses — 27-29 million hectares in two seasons — and is the world's largest producer — 22-24 million tonnes.
- Despite being the largest producer of pulse, India resorts to large scale import of pulses owing to the large demand for pulses in India.
- Though India has the largest area under pulse cultivation, the productivity is low since most of Pulse cultivation occurs in rain fed areas.

Q4. Which of the following tribes belong to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

1. Onge
2. Toto
3. Shompen
4. Jarawa
5. Sentinelese

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Andaman and Nicobar Islands house Onge, Shompens, Sentinelese, Jarawa, Great Andamanese and Nicobarese tribes. Toto is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in West Bengal.

Q5. The Nord Stream twin pipeline system route crosses through the Exclusive Economic Zones of which of the following countries?

1. Russia
2. Finland
3. Sweden
4. Denmark
5. Germany

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Nord Stream twin pipeline system is an offshore natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea. The Nord Stream route crosses the Exclusive Economic Zones of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, as well as the territorial waters of Russia, Denmark, and Germany.

Q6. Consider the following statements with respect to National Investigation Agency (NIA):

1. The NIA can investigate terror cases across the country without having to get permission from the states.
2. NIA is not empowered to investigate terror attacks committed outside India.
3. NIA is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central counter-terrorism agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The NIA can investigate terror cases across the country without having to get permission from the states. The NIA Amendment Act of 2019 expanded the jurisdiction of the NIA. Now, it has the authority to investigate offences that are committed outside Indian territory subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other nations. NIA is headquartered in Delhi and has branches in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur and Jammu.

Q7. Consider the following statements with respect to Counter Cyclical Capital Buffer (CCCB):

1. The CCCB aims to ensure that banking sector capital requirements take account of the macro-financial environment in which banks operate.
2. It is intended to protect the banking sector against losses that could be caused by cyclical systemic risks.
3. It requires banks to add capital at times when credit is growing rapidly so that the buffer can be reduced when the financial cycle turns.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

In December 2010, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision published **Basel III: A global regulatory framework for more resilient banks and banking systems** which presents the details of global regulatory standards on bank capital adequacy and liquidity, including a countercyclical capital buffer.

- The countercyclical capital buffer aims to ensure that banking sector capital requirements take account of the macro-financial environment in which banks operate.
- Its primary objective is to use a buffer of capital to achieve the broader macro-prudential goal of protecting the banking sector from periods of excess aggregate credit growth that have often been associated with the build-up of system-wide risk.
- It is intended to protect the banking sector against losses that could be caused by cyclical systemic risks.
- It requires banks to add capital at times when credit is growing rapidly so that the buffer can be reduced when the financial cycle turns.

Q8. Consider the following statements with respect to “Ways and Means Advances” (WMA):

1. It is a loan facility given by the Reserve Bank of India to the Centre and State governments.
2. Interest rate for WMA for the Government of India is charged at the repo rate.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India gives temporary loan facilities to the centre and state governments as a banker to government. This temporary loan facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA). The WMA scheme was designed to meet temporary mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government. This facility can be availed by the government if

it needs immediate cash from the RBI. The WMA is to be repaid after 90 days. Interest rate for WMA is currently charged at the repo rate.

Types of WMA for States:

There are two types of Ways and Means Advances — normal and special.

- Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility is provided against the collateral of the government securities held by the state.
- After the state has exhausted the limit of SDF, it gets normal WMA.
- The interest rate for SDF is one percentage point less than the repo rate.
- The amount of loan given under normal WMA is based on a three-year average of actual revenue and capital expenditure of the state.

Q9. Which of the following countries are currently under FATF “Grey List”:

1. Iran
 2. Pakistan
 3. Yemen
 4. Zimbabwe
 5. North Korea
- a. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
b. 2, 3, and 4 only
c. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
d. 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: b

Explanation:

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

Q10. Recently, tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables were airlifted by the Indian Air Force to Maldives under:

- a. Operation Sanjeevani
b. Operation Amrut
c. Operation Sahyog
d. Operation Vanilla

Answer: a

Explanation:

An Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J transport aircraft delivered 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables to Maldives under Operation Sanjeevani.

Q11. "BCG vaccine" or "Bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine" is administered to children to prevent:

1. Measles
 2. Tuberculous Meningitis
 3. Miliary Tuberculosis
 4. Leprosy
- a. 1 and 2 only
b. 2 and 3 only
c. 2, 3 and 4 only
d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: c

Explanation:

BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guérin) vaccine offers partial protection against some forms of Tuberculosis like Tuberculous Meningitis, Miliary disease and also leprosy. Tuberculous meningitis (TBM) is the most common form of central nervous system tuberculosis (TB) and has very high morbidity and mortality.

Q12. Consider the following statements with respect to Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve:

1. It is a protected area in the Eastern Ghats.
2. It is a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
3. Shendurney, Peppara and Neyyar wildlife sanctuaries are located in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is located in the southernmost end of the Western Ghats. It was added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the UNESCO, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in 2016. Three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara and Neyyar, are located in the site, as well as the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve.

Q13. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to 'Voluntary Retention Route'

1. It deals with Foreign Investments in India.
2. It is applicable to both equities and debt market transactions.

Options:

- a. 1 only
b. 2 only

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

Answer: Option a

Explanation:

- The Reserve Bank of India has opened a window of foreign investment in **local debt** via the “Voluntary Retention Route”, which allows investors easier rules in return for a commitment to remain invested for a longer period.
- The move aims to open a new window for foreign investors in government and corporate debt to draw in longer-term funds. The scheme was aimed at drawing in foreign investors who are willing to commit to keeping money in India for a minimum period of time. In return, they will get more operational freedom than regular foreign debt investors.
- The minimum retention period shall be three years.
- The VRR route is not applicable to equities.

Q14. In which of the following agricultural products, is India both the largest producer and the largest exporter in the world?

1. Rice
2. Cotton
3. Mango

Options:

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

Answer: Option d

Explanation:

- As per the data available by 2019
- For rice, China is the largest producer, but India is the largest exporter.
- For cotton, India is the largest producer, but U.S. leads in cotton exports.
- For mango, India is the largest producer but is not the largest exporter of it.

Q15. The Energy Statistics 2019 document is published by:

- a. Ministry of Power
- b. Ministry of New and renewable energy
- c. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- d. Ministry of Commerce and industry

Answer: Option c

Explanation:

- The Energy Statistics 2019 document is published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Q16. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to Minimum support price Based procurement for Minor Forest Produce?

1. The Scheme has been implemented in eight States having Schedules Areas as listed in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. The Ministry of Tribal affairs will directly undertake the purchasing of Minor Forest Produce at Minimum Support Price.

Options:

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

Answer: Option c

Explanation:

- The Scheme was initially being implemented in States having areas under the Vth Schedule of the Constitution of India for non-nationalized and abundantly available 12 Minor Forest Produce.
- From November 2016, the scheme is applicable in all States.
- The responsibility of purchasing MFP at MSP will be with State designated agencies.

Q17. The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence report has been prepared by:

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- c. Ministry of Science and Technology
- d. PM scientific advisory council

Answer: Option a

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog has prepared a discussion paper on National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence identifying following five sectors to be focused upon: Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Smart Cities and Infrastructure, Smart Mobility and Transportation.

Q18. Which of the following types of power plants are capable of handling sudden changes in demand loads?

1. Coal based power plants
2. Wind turbine power plant
3. Gas fired power plants
4. Hydropower based plants
5. Nuclear power plants

6. Solar photovoltaic based plants

Options:

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

Answer: Option c

Explanation:

- Different types of power plants have different abilities to handle sudden increase or decrease in load. The control we have on these plants varies.
- Unlike, coal fired plants and nuclear plants, where it is hard to suddenly reduce or increase their power generation, hydro plants and gas fired plants are capable of catering to fast changing loads more effectively.
- The solar photovoltaic and wind turbine based power plants too are not capable of handling fluctuating demands.

Q19. Which of the following constitutes the largest share among the renewable energy capacity in India?

- a. Hydroelectricity
- b. Solar power
- c. Wind power
- d. Bio energy

Answer: Option a

Explanation:

- Previously hydroelectric power plants above 25MW (classified as large hydro power plants) were outside the definition of renewable energy. With the reclassification and inclusion of hydro plants above 25MW also under renewable energy, hydroelectricity now constitutes the largest proportion of renewable energy capacity in India. It is followed by wind energy and solar power in terms of installed capacity.

Q20. Which of the following states has the largest percentage of forest cover with respect to its total geographical area?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Mizoram
- d. Assam

Answer: Option c

Explanation:

- While Madhya Pradesh has the largest area of forest cover, it is Mizoram which has the largest percentage of forest cover with respect to its total geographical area. It stands around 85% according to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) of 2019.

Q21. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) method helps measure the amount of a specific RNA in a sample.
2. RT-PCR method can identify both active cases as well as identify people with previous exposure to virus.

Options:

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

Answer:

Option a

Explanation:

- RT-PCR is a laboratory technique combining reverse transcription of RNA into DNA and amplification of specific DNA targets using polymerase chain reaction. It is primarily used to measure the amount of a specific RNA.
- RT-PCR test can only identify active cases and cannot identify people with previous exposure.
- Given the increasing number of cases and the calls for higher amount of testing, ICMR has approved the use of antibody-based testing for COVID-19.
- The antibody tests, which use blood, detect the body's response to the virus. A positive result in the antibody test tells that the person was exposed to the virus.

Q22. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?

1. The AarogyaSetu App has been developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The AarogyaSetu App will help assess the risk of being infected by Coronavirus.

Options:

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

Answer:

Option a

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT has launched a mobile app called AarogyaSetu which will help assess the user's risk of getting affected by the Coronavirus.
- The app has been built through public private partnership. It will calculate the risk of infection based on the app user's interaction with others, using cutting edge Bluetooth technology, algorithms and artificial intelligence.

Q23. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Ayushman Bharat

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)?

1. It provides free health coverage at the primary, secondary and tertiary level to the poor and vulnerable population.
2. The scheme provides a cover of 5 lakh per individual per year for medical treatment in empanelled hospitals, both public and private.
3. The National Health Authority is the apex body responsible for implementing AB PM-JAY.
4. All the states and union territories have adopted the scheme.

Options:

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

Answer:

Option c

Explanation:

- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is a flagship scheme of the Indian government's National Health Policy which aims to provide free health coverage at the secondary and tertiary level to its poor and vulnerable population.
- PM-JAY is the world's largest and fully state sponsored health assurance scheme. It was launched in September 2018, under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India.
- PM-JAY covers 10.74 crores households across India or approximately 50 crore Indians.
- **Major provisions:**
 - It provides a cover of 5 lakh per family per year for medical treatment in empanelled hospitals, both public and private.
 - It provides cashless and paperless service to its beneficiaries at the point of service.
 - Eligible beneficiaries are selected based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011).
 - It covers 3 days of hospitalisation and 15 days of post hospitalisation, including diagnostic care and expenses on medicines.
 - The scheme is portable and a beneficiary can avail medical treatment at any PM-JAY empanelled hospital outside their state and anywhere in the country.
- So far, 25 States and Union Territories have adopted the PM-JAY scheme, except three states: Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana and the Union Territory of Delhi.
- The National Health Authority or the NHA is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana'.

Q24. Which of the following Indian Biosphere Reserves is not part of the UNESCO's World Network of Biospheres?

- a. Great Nicobar
- b. Nokrek

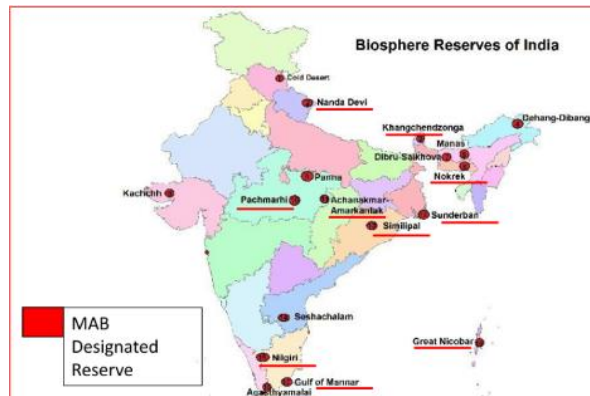
- c. Nilgiri
- d. Manas

Answer:

Option d

Explanation:

- India has a total of 18 Biosphere Reserves. 11 of these are part of UNESCO's World Network of Biospheres under its Man and Biosphere Mission.



Q25. Consider the following statements:

1. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers and Uttarakhand, the second highest.
2. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of Tiger Reserves in India.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

As per the 4th Tiger Census, Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka at 524 with Uttarakhand at number 3 with 442 tigers. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of Tiger Reserves in India. The six Tiger Reserves in the state of Madhya Pradesh are Kanha Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Panna Tiger Reserve, Satpura Tiger Reserve, and Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve.

Q26. Which of the following countries border the Red Sea?

1. Egypt
2. Libya
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Sudan
5. Djibouti

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:



Q27. Consider the following statements with respect to BIMSTEC:

- It came into force through the Bangkok Declaration.
- BIMSTEC does not have a permanent secretariat.
- The regional multilateral organisation has members from South Asia and Southeast Asia only.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional multilateral organisation. It came into force in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. The regional group constitutes a bridge between South and South East Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries. Its permanent secretariat was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2014. The regional multilateral organisation has members from South Asia (5) and Southeast Asia (2) only.

Q28. Consider the following statements:

- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a protected area located in Tamil Nadu.
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve implements the Participatory Forest Management Scheme (PFMS).

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a protected area located in Kerala. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve implements the Participatory Forest Management Scheme (PFMS). People from tribal colonies inside the reserve are engaged as guides for treks and safaris, and are provided employment through various eco-tourism initiatives.

Q29. Consider the following statements with respect to Interpol:

- 1. Interpol is global police co-operation agency and a non-governmental organization (NGO).
- 2. It is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.
- 3. Interpol Purple Notice is issued to locate, identify or obtain information on a person of interest in a criminal investigation.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Interpol is global police co-operation agency and a non-governmental organization (NGO). It was established as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) in 1923. Its headquarters is located at Lyon, France. Interpol Purple Notice is issued to provide information on modus operandi, procedures, objects, devices, or hiding places used by criminals.

Q30. Which of these South Indian state/s share boundaries with the maximum number of states?

- a. Karnataka only
- b. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
- c. Karnataka and Telangana
- d. Andhra Pradesh only

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Karnataka shares its boundary with 6 states: Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Andhra Pradesh shares its boundary with 5 states: Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- Telangana shares its boundary with 4 states: Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Chhattisgarh.



Q31 Consider the following statements:

1. Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) is a public platform started by India in 2008.
2. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) is a public platform started by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2008 for countries to share genome sequences. The GISAID platform was launched on the occasion of the Sixty-first World Health Assembly in May 2008. Since its launch GISAID plays an essential role in the sharing of data among the WHO Collaborating Centers and National Influenza Centers for the bi-annual influenza vaccine virus recommendations by the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). It is headquartered in Munich, Germany.

Q32. Consider the following statements:

1. Gaganyaan is an Indian human space flight programme.
2. GSLV Mk III will be used to launch Gaganyaan.
3. India has its own Cryogenic engine technology.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Gaganyaan is an Indian human space flight programme under which Indian astronauts will go into space. GSLV Mk III, also called the LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) the three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle, will be used to launch Gaganyaan. GSLV MK-III placed the country's heaviest satellite till date, GSAT-19, into a precise orbit. With it, India became a nation having its own indigenous cryogenic engine technology.

Q33. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):

1. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. It is a statutory organisation.
3. No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL.
4. Its recommendations are binding on the Central Government while framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- The National Board for Wildlife is a "Statutory Organisation" constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL.
- Its role is "advisory" in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.

Q34. Arrange the following water bodies in South East Asia from North to South:

1. South China Sea
2. East China Sea
3. Yellow Sea
4. Bohai Sea

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:



Q35. Consider the following statements about Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

1. He was the youngest person to serve as President of Indian National Congress.
2. He founded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
3. He was independent India's first Education Minister.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Born on 11 November 1888 and died on 22 February 1958, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a senior Muslim leader of the Indian National Congress during the Indian independence movement. In 1923, at the age of 35, he became the youngest person to serve as President of the Indian National Congress. He was independent India's first Education Minister. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Q36. Consider the following statements with respect to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. NTCA is a statutory body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.
2. The Annual Report prepared by NTCA has to be laid in the Parliament along with the Audit Report.
3. NTCA is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change. NTCA is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The National Tiger

Conservation Authority would be required to prepare an Annual Report, which would be laid in the Parliament along with the Audit Report.

Q37. The National Health Mission aims to reduce:

1. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1.
2. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 25 per 1000 live births.
3. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 1 per 1000 live births.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Some of the major goals of the National Health Mission are given below.

1. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – Reduce it to 2.1
2. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) – Reduce it to 25 per 1000 live births
3. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) – Reduce it to 1 per 1000 live births
4. Bring down the malaria cases to less than 1 per 1000 population.
5. Prevent and reduce anaemia in women in the age bracket of 15 years to 49 years.

Q38. Consider the following statements:

1. Inter-State migration and quarantine fall under the Union List.
2. Prevention of infectious diseases moving from one State to another is under the State List.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Inter-State migration and quarantine are under the Union List, while the prevention of infectious diseases moving from one State to another is under the Concurrent List. This means that while States have the power to impose border restrictions, the responsibility to prevent a breakdown of inter-State relations over such disputes is on the Centre.

Q39. Consider the following statements:

1. In the blood, apart from RBC, WBC and platelets, all the other fluid content is known as Plasma.
2. The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body.

3. Plasma constitutes 30% of the total blood volume.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Plasma is the major part of the blood. Apart from RBC, WBC and platelets in the blood, all the other fluid content is referred as Plasma. It makes up more than 55% of blood in human body. The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body. Composed of 90% water, salts, lipids and hormones, it is especially rich in proteins (including its main protein albumin), immunoglobulin's, clotting factors and fibrinogen.

Q40. Consider the following statements with respect to the Strait of Hormuz:

- 1. It is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- 2. About half of the global oil consumption passes through the Strait.
- 3. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean. About 1/5th of the global oil consumption passes through the strait, making it a highly important strategic location for international trade.



Q41. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct for the 2018-2019 fiscal year?

1. India imports the largest value of goods and services from China.
2. India exports the largest value of goods and services to the U.S.
3. Mineral fuels account for the largest share of exports from India.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:



India's Top Export Items (2018-19), US\$

1	48.3 billion	Mineral fuels including oil
2	40.1 billion	Gems, precious metals
3	20.4 billion	Machinery including computers
4	18.2 billion	Vehicles
5	17.7 billion	Organic chemicals
6	14.3 billion	Pharmaceuticals
7	11.8 billion	Electrical machinery, equipment
8	10 billion	Iron, steel
9	8.1 billion	Cotton
10	8.1 billion	Clothing, accessories

Q42. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. India through its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), has pledged to increase the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030.
2. India has set itself a domestic target of installing 175 GW of renewable power capacity by 2030.

Options

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In its INDC, India has pledged to improve the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels. It has also pledged to increase the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030. It has agreed to enhance its forest cover which will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂, the main gas responsible for global warming) by 2030.
- India's INDC builds on its goal of installing 175 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity by 2022, of which the solar energy will constitute the largest share of 100GW.

Q43.Which of the following countries is not part of the OPEC+ framework?

- a. Mexico
- b. U.S.
- c. Azerbaijan
- d. Kazakhstan

Answer: b

Explanation:

- OPEC+ is also referred to as the Vienna group. It is a group of oil producing nations, made up of the OPEC members and 10 other non-OPEC members (Russia, Mexico, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan etc).
- The world's largest energy producer, U.S. is not part of the deal.

Q44.Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect regarding the National Human rights Commission (NHRC)?

1. The NHRC is a statutory body.
2. Chairpersons of NHRC (except those appointed as acting chairperson) have always been a Retired Chief Justice of India.
3. The home minister and chairman of the Rajya Sabha are part of the committee which recommends the members of the NHRC to the president.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a statutory public body under the Protection of Human Rights Act.
- The Chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:

- The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- The Home Minister
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House)
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House)
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House)
- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House)

Q45. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. Enforcement Directorate is part of the department of economic affairs, Ministry of Finance.
2. Enforcement Directorate is responsible for enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- The Directorate of Enforcement was established in the year 1956 with its Headquarters at New Delhi. It is responsible for enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Q46. Which of the following is/are not a predominant kharif crop/s?

1. Rice
2. Maize
3. wheat
4. Mustard
5. Barley
6. Ragi
7. Cotton
8. Groundnut

Options

- a. 1,2,6 and 7
- b. 1,3,6 and 7
- c. 3,4 and 5
- d. 3,4,7 and 8

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The agricultural crop year in India is from July to June. The Indian cropping season is classified into two main seasons-(i) Kharif and (ii) Rabi based on the monsoon. The kharif cropping season is from July – October during the south-west monsoon and the Rabi cropping season is from October-March (winter). The crops grown between March and June are summer crops.
- The kharif crops include rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet/bajra, finger millet/ragi (cereals), arhar (pulses), soyabean, groundnut (oilseeds), cotton etc. The rabi crops include wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard (oilseeds) etc.

Q47.Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The State election commissioner is appointed by the Governor.
2. The state election commissioner can be removed by the Governor.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The superintendent, direction and control of the preparation of electoral roles for the conduct of, all elections to the Gram Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat are vested in the State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of the state.
- As per Article 243K of the Indian constitution, the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in the like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court.

Q48.The largest expatriate Indian population is based in which of the following country?

- a. United States of America
- b. Kuwait
- c. United Arab Emirates
- d. United Kingdom

Answer: c

Explanation:

UAE →	→	34.2 lakh
Saudi Arabia →		25.9 lakh
US →	→	12.8 lakh
Kuwait →	→	10.3 lakh
Oman →	→	7.8 lakh
Qatar →	→	7.6 lakh
Nepal →	→	5 lakh
UK →	→	3.5 lakh
Singapore →	→	3.5 lakh
Bahrain →	→	3.2 lakh

Q49. Which of the following pairs of cyclones and the affected regions is/are correctly matched?

1. Ciara: Western Europe
2. Fani: Eastern India
3. Ava: Madagascar
4. Kyarr: Western coast of India and West Asia

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Ciara is an extra tropical cyclone which has brought heavy rain and severe winds across the U.K., Ireland, France and Germany.
- The tropical cyclone Ava made landfall on Madagascar with devastating impact.
- Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani was the strongest tropical cyclone to strike the Indian state of Odisha since the 1999 Odisha cyclone.
- Super Cyclonic Storm Kyarr was an extremely powerful tropical cyclone that became the first super cyclonic storm in the North Indian Ocean in the Arabian sea region since Gonu in 2007. It impacted the western coast of India and the UAE and Oman.

Q50. Which of the following pairs of martial arts and associated states is wrongly matched?

- a. Kalaripayattu: Kerala
- b. Sqay: Jammu and Kashmir
- c. Cheibi gad-ga: Sikkim
- d. Thangta: Manipur

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Cheibi gad-ga is one of the most ancient martial arts of Manipur. It involves fighting using a sword and a shield.

- Thangta is a practice of the Meitei people of Manipur. It is an armed martial art. It is also referred to as Huyenlallong.
- Sqay is a Central Asian Martial arts form of sword-fighting originating in Ancient Kashmir. It involves the use of a curved single edge sword.

Q51. Which of the following pairs of art forms and associated regions is wrongly matched?

- a. Pattachitra: Odisha
- b. Manoti: Rajasthan
- c. Chikankari: Lucknow
- d. Rabari: Himachal Pradesh

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Pattachitras or Patachitra are traditional paintings from the eastern states of Odisha and West Bengal in which mythological, religious stories and folk lore are told through intricate paintings on clothes.
- Manoti art, which involves decorating articles with camel skin is famous in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- The Chikankari embroidery is popular in Lucknow.
- Rabari is a form of art associated with the nomadic Rabari tribes of Kutch.

Q52. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade comes under which of the following Ministries?

- a. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b. Ministry of Finance
- c. Ministry of External Affairs
- d. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is the agency of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India responsible for administering laws regarding foreign trade and foreign investment in India.

Q53. Consider the following statements with respect to Poona Pact of 1932:

1. Poona Pact followed the communal award made by the British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald.
2. It was signed by Dr. B.R.Ambedkar and M.K Gandhi.
3. As per the pact, depressed class candidates were to be elected by a joint electorate instead of the separate electorate.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Poona pact is an agreement between Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi signed on September 24, 1932. The agreement was signed by Pt Madan Mohan Malviya and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and some Dalit leaders at Yerwada Central Jail in Pune, to break Mahatma Gandhi's fast unto death. Gandhi was undertaking the fast in jail as a protest against the decision by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald to give separate electorates to depressed classes for the election of members of provincial legislative assemblies in British India.

Major provisions:

- Ambedkar had agreed for depressed class candidates to be elected by a joint electorate instead of the separate electorate.
- There was to be electoral seats reserved for the Depressed Classes in the provincial Legislatures. On the insistence of Ambedkar, almost twice as many seats (147) were reserved for the depressed classes in the legislature than what had been allotted under the Communal Award.
- In addition, the Poona Pact assured a fair representation of the depressed classes in the public services while earmarking a portion of the educational grant for their uplift.

Q54. Consider the following statements with respect to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

1. OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference.
2. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
3. Gabon is no longer a member of the OPEC.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960.
- OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965.
- Gabon terminated its membership in January 1995. However, it re-joined the Organization in July 2016.
- OPEC has a total of 13 Member Countries viz. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Angola and Venezuela.

Q55. Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor of a State has emergency powers to meet the situation arising from external aggression.
2. The Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the State Assembly.
3. The Governor addresses the first session of the Legislative Assembly after elections.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Governor of a State has no emergency powers to meet the situation arising from external aggression. The governor summons the sessions of both houses of the state legislature and prorogues them. The Governor can even dissolve the state assembly. The Governor addresses the first session of the Legislative Assembly after elections.

Q56. Which of the following magazines were started by Dr. B.R.Ambedkar?

- 1. Mooknayak
- 2. Equality Janta
- 3. Rast Goftar
- 4. Bahishkrit Bharat

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- On 31st January 1920, the fortnightly magazine "Mooknayak" was published for the first time by Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- He also started magazines like Equality Janta and Bahishkrit Bharat.

Q57. Consider the following statements:

- 1. River Yamuna originates in the Banderpooch peak in the Lower Himalayas.
- 2. The river flows through the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Yamuna River is the largest tributary of River Ganga.
- River Yamuna originates from Yamunotri Glacier on the south western slopes of Banderpooch peak, in the Lower Himalayas in Uttarakhand.
- The river flows through the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.



Q58. In the IUCN Red List, Greater One-Horned Rhino is classified as:

- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- Critically Endangered
- Near Threatened

Answer: b

Explanation:

The greater one-horned rhinoceros is the largest of the three Asian rhinos and, together with African white rhinos, is the largest of all rhino species. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Q59. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Global Financial Stability Report – World Bank
2. The World Economic Outlook – International Monetary Fund
3. Global Competitiveness Report – World Economic Forum

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The World Economic Outlook and Global Financial Stability Report are both published by the International Monetary Fund.
Global Competitiveness Report is published by World Economic Forum.

Q60. Consider the following statements:

1. Measles is a highly contagious bacterial disease.
2. Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka have eliminated Measles.
3. Vaccine for Measles is covered under Mission Indradhanush of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease. According to WHO data, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka have eliminated Measles. Vaccine for Measles is covered under Mission Indradhanush of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Q61. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Monsoons:

1. South-west Monsoons are formed due to intense low pressure system formed over the Tibetan Plateau.
2. North-east Monsoons are associated with high pressure cells over Tibetan and Siberian plateaus.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

South-west Monsoons are formed due to intense low pressure system formed over the Tibetan plateau. North-east Monsoons are associated with high pressure cells over Tibetan and Siberian plateaus.

Q62. Consider the following statements:

1. Antibodies are proteins produced and secreted by B cells.
2. Antibodies bind to foreign substances that invade the body, such as pathogens.
3. ELISA is carried out to detect and measure antibodies in the blood.

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

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

d. None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

Antibodies are proteins produced and secreted by B cells. Antibodies bind to foreign substances that invade the body, such as pathogens. Antibodies recognize and latch onto antigens in order to remove them from the body. A wide range of substances are regarded by the body as antigens, including disease-causing organisms and toxic materials such as insect venom. ELISA is a basic enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (also shortened as EIA: Enzyme Immunoassay) that is carried out to detect and measure peptides, proteins and antibodies in the blood.

Q63. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Food Security Act, 2013:

1. NFSA gives legal entitlement to 67% of the population to receive highly subsidized food grains.
2. NFSA provides for the payment of food security allowance to entitled persons by the Central Government in case of non-supply of entitled quantities of food grains.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013, which gives legal entitlement to 67% of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) to receive highly subsidized food grains.
- The National Food Security Act, 2013 inter alia provides for the payment of food security allowance to entitled persons by State Government in case of non-supply of entitled quantities of food grains, within such time and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government. Accordingly, the Government has notified the Food Security Allowance Rules, 2015 on 21 January, 2015 to prescribe the norms and manner of this allowance.

Q64. Consider the following statements with respect to the World Health Organisation (WHO):

1. WHO membership is free for all the countries.
2. China is the single-biggest contributor to the WHO, followed by the U.S.
3. Voluntary contributions are the biggest category of funding that the WHO receives.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Voluntary contributions are the biggest category of funding that the WHO receives – almost 80 per cent of all contributions. Voluntary contributions can be made by member states – 194 at present — or NGOs.
- Being a WHO member for a country does not come free. The WHO assesses stipulated fee for each member country depending on its financial health and population.
- The assessed contributions or WHO membership fee accounts for 17 per cent of the total funding of the health agency, which introduced a special funding framework in 2011, two years after the swine flu pandemic hit the globe.
- The U.S. is the single-biggest contributor to WHO, followed by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- China's share to the WHO purse is only 0.21 per cent.
- India contributes 0.48 per cent and Pakistan 0.36 per cent of total WHO funds.

Q65. Consider the following statements with respect to New START Treaty:

1. New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and China.
2. New START restricts both the parties from deploying not more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and bombs.
3. The Treaty's duration is fifty years, unless superseded by a subsequent agreement.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms is also known as the New START Treaty. New START restricted the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 nuclear warheads, the lowest level in decades, and limited the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers that deliver them. The Treaty's duration is ten years, unless superseded by a subsequent agreement. New START Treaty, entered into force on February 5, 2011 is due to expire in February, 2021.

Q66. Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Golan Heights
2. Gaza Strip
3. West Bank
4. Dead Sea

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:



Q67. Consider the following statements:

1. Ethanol can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat.
2. At 95% purity, ethanol is used for blending with petrol as it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel resulting in fewer emissions.
3. Once blended, Ethanol cannot be separated from Petrol.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Ethanol, an anhydrous ethyl alcohol having chemical formula of C_2H_5OH , can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc. which are having high starch content. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process. Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends. As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution. Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, ethanol is also considered as renewable fuel. At 95% purity, it is called rectified spirit and is used as the intoxicating ingredient in alcoholic beverages. At 99%-plus purity, ethanol is used for blending with petrol. Once blended, Ethanol cannot be separated from Petrol.

Q68. Which of the following countries have signed and ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty?

1. Russia
2. U.S.A
3. France
4. China
5. Britain

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Russia, France and Britain – three of the world’s five internationally recognized nuclear powers – signed and ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which still requires ratification by 44 countries to become international law. China and the United States are among eight signatories that have not ratified it.

Q69. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) is associated with which of the following?

- a. World Bank
- b. International Monetary Fund
- c. G-20
- d. Asia development Bank

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Special Drawing Rights (SDR) refers to an international type of monetary reserve currency created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1969 that operates as a supplement to the existing money reserves of member countries.
- SDRs are units of account for the IMF and not a currency per se. They instead represent a claim to currency held by IMF member countries for which they may be exchanged.
- It is pegged with U.S. dollar, Euro, Chinese yuan, Japanese yen, and Pound sterling.

Q70. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

- 1. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is in charge of the central sector scheme for marketing of Minor forest produce through the Minimum Support Price mechanism.
- 2. The Minimum Support Price for Minor forest produce is decided by the Commission for agricultural costs and prices.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Government of India has launched a central sector scheme for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain to ensure fair monetary returns to MFP gatherers for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is in charge of the scheme.
- The scheme envisages fixation and declaration of Minimum Support Price for the selected MFP based on the suggestions /inputs received from Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and the States concerned. Procurement and marketing operation at pre- fixed MSP is undertaken by the designated State agencies.
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), is a government body under MoTA meant to facilitate socio-economic development of tribal people by marketing tribal products.
- MSP for MFP is decided and periodically reviewed by the ministry of tribal affairs.

Q71. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The International Development Association (IDA) is an international financial institution which offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries.
2. The International Development Association is part of the World Bank.
3. India is not eligible for IDA support.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The International Development Association (IDA) is an international financial institution which offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries.
- The IDA is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. in the United States.
- It was established in 1960 to complement the existing International Bank for Reconstruction and Development by lending to developing countries which suffer from the lowest gross national income, from troubled creditworthiness, or from the lowest per capita income.
- Together, the International Development Association and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are collectively generally known as the World Bank.
- Eligibility for IDA support depends first and foremost on a country's relative poverty, defined as GNI per capita below an established threshold and updated annually (\$1,175 in fiscal year 2020). Some countries do continue to receive loans even if they cross the limit set.
- India is currently not eligible for IDA support.

Q72. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. Ways and Means Advances option can be exercised only by the central government.
2. The interest rate for Ways and Means advances is aligned with the reverse repo rate.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Ways and means advances is a mechanism used by Reserve Bank of India under its credit policy to provide to States, banking with it, to help them tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.
- It is a facility for both the Centre and states to borrow from the RBI.
- Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments subject to their being repayable “not later than three months from the date of the making of the advance”
- The interest rate on WMA is the RBI’s repo rate, which is basically the rate at which it lends short-term money to banks. That rate is currently 4.4%.
- The governments are, however, allowed to draw amounts in excess of their WMA limits. The interest on such overdraft is 2 percentage points above the repo rate. Further, no state can run an overdraft with the RBI for more than a certain period.

Q73. Which of the following is wrongly matched?

- a. Ravanchhaya: Odisha
- b. Tolpava Kuthu: Kerala
- c. Togalu Gombeyatta: Andhra pradesh
- d. Chamadyacha Bahulya: Maharashtra

Answer: c

Explanation:

- There are different forms of shadow puppet theatre in the states of India.
- Chamadyacha Bahulya in Maharashtra, Tolu Bommalatta in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Togalu Gombeyatta in Karnataka, Tolpava Kuthu in Kerala and Ravanchhaya in Odisha.

Q74. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the traditional practice of Pachoti?

1. It is a folk festival which celebrates the birth of a baby, particularly a male infant, with relatives and neighbours.
2. It is practised in the state of Assam.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Pachoti is a traditional folk festival of Assam. The birth of a baby, particularly a male infant is celebrated with relatives and neighbours. It is related to the celebration of the birth of Lord Krishna.

Q75. Which of the following place/s is/are housing the strategic oil reserve facility in India?

- 1. Mangaluru
- 2. Padur
- 3. Chandikhole
- 4. Visakhapatnam
- 5. Barmer

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Currently, the Strategic crude oil storages are at three underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka). All these are located on the east and west coasts of India which are readily accessible to the refineries.
- In the 2017-18 budget speech, it was announced that two more such caverns will be set up Chandikhole, Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan as part of the second phase.
- In June 2018, the present administration approved the construction of a new storage facility in Chandikhole and doubling the capacity at Padur.

Q76. Select the right option:

Assertion (statement A): Unlike antibiotics for Bacterial infections, there are no antiviral drugs for Viruses and the treatment for viral disease involves treatment for the symptoms of the disease.

Reason (statement B): Unlike Bacterium Viruses remain inactive outside a host organism.

Options:

- a. Both statement A and B are true and statement B is the correct explanation for A.
- b. Both Statement a and B are true and statement B is not the correct explanation for A.
- c. Statement A is true, Statement B is false
- d. Statement B is true, Statement A is false.

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Antiviral drugs are available.
- Antiviral drugs are a class of medication used specifically for treating viral infections. Most antivirals are used for specific viral infections. Unlike most antibiotics, antiviral drugs do not destroy their target pathogen; instead they inhibit their development.
- Most antivirals are considered relatively harmless to the host, and therefore can be used to treat infections. They should be distinguished from viricides, which are not medication but deactivate or destroy virus particles, either inside or outside the body.
- Natural viricides are produced by some plants such as eucalyptus and Australian tea trees.

Q77. Which of the following countries is/are member/observers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation?

1. Syria
2. Russia
3. Thailand
4. India
5. China

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Syria was a member previously. But its membership of the OIC has been suspended currently.
- Russia and Thailand are granted observer status in OIC.
- Islam is the second-largest religion in India after Hinduism, with roughly 15% of the country's population or 201 million people identifying as adherents of Islam (2018 estimate). It makes India the country with the largest Muslim population outside Muslim-majority countries. Despite these facts, India has not been offered membership or observer status with OIC.
- Given India's tense relation with Pakistan, Pakistan which is a founding member of the OIC has often used the OIC platform to pursue its interests against India.

Q78. Which of the following pairs is wrongly matched?

- a. Tulaipanji rice: West Bengal
- b. Nilambur teak: Tamil Nadu
- c. Sirsi supari: Karnataka
- d. Araku valley Arabica coffee: Andhra Pradesh

Answer: b

Explanation:

Q79. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. World Health Report is a publication of the World Health Organization.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the United Nations and each other through the co-ordinating machinery of the United Nations Economic and Social Council at the intergovernmental level. Specialized agencies may or may not have been originally created by the United Nations, but they are incorporated into the United Nations System. These specialized agencies carry out various functions on behalf of the UN.
- WHO's flagship publication, the World Health Report, provides expert assessments of global health topics and health statistics on all nations.

Q80 .Which of the following is/are part of the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage for India?

1. Mudi yettu
2. Chhau
3. Kolam
4. Yoga
5. Pachoti
6. Sankirtan
7. Nawrouz

Options:

- a. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- b. 3, 5 and 6 only
- c. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 only
- d. All of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Pachoti and Kolam have been included in the national draft list of intangible cultural heritage. They are not part of the UNESCO list

Q81. Consider the following statements with respect to Adilabad Dokra:

1. It is a form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by the Woj community native to Andhra Pradesh.
2. It is a technique where duplicate metal sculpture is cast from an original sculpture.
3. It has been awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Adilabad Dokra is a form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by the Woj community native to Adilabad district of Telangana. It is a technique where duplicate metal sculpture is cast from an original sculpture, called cire perdue (lost wax casting technique). It has been awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Q82. Consider the following statements with respect to Fugitive Economic Offenders Act:

1. Only those economic offences involving at least Rs. 500 crore or more will come under this Act.
2. Upon declaration as a Fugitive Economic Offender, properties of the person will be confiscated and vested in the central government, free of rights and claims in the property.
3. No appeals are allowed before any court against the orders of the special court.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

A person can be named an offender under this law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape legal action. The Act empowers Special Court (designated under Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002) to declare a person as Fugitive Economic Offender based on an application made to it. Appeals against orders of the special court will lie before High Court. Upon declaration as Fugitive Economic offender, properties of the person will be confiscated and vested in the central government, free of rights and claims in the property.

Q83. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the WTO rules, a member country cannot discriminate between its trade partners.
2. Special status granted to a trade partner must be extended to all members of the WTO.

3. While India had granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996, Pakistan hasn't accorded MFN status to India.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

As per the WTO rules, a member country cannot discriminate between its trade partners. Special status granted to a trade partner must be extended to all members of the WTO. Most Favoured Nation is a treatment accorded to a trade partner to ensure non-discriminatory trade between two countries vis-a-vis other trade partners. India had granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996, a year after the formation of WTO. But Pakistan hasn't accorded MFN status to India till now. India has revoked the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status of Pakistan in 2019.

Q84. Consider the following statements with respect to Amir Khusrau:

- 1. He invented the Sitar.
- 2. His work, Khaliq-e-bari, is the oldest known printed dictionary.
- 3. He was known as Tuti-e-Hind.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Amir Khusrau was a Sufi musician, poet and scholar from India. He compiled the oldest known printed dictionary (Khaliq-e-bari) in 1320 which mainly dealt with Hindvi and Persian words. He originated the Khayal Music. Amir Khusrau is known as the Parrot of India. It was he who called himself 'Tuti-e-Hind' (Parrot of India). Khusrau is credited for the invention of the Sitar.

Q85. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Ocean Commission (IOC):

- 1. It is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Seychelles.
- 2. India has recently been accepted as a member of IOC.
- 3. China and Pakistan are observers of IOC.

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

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation:

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Mauritius. The IOC is composed of five African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles. India has been recently granted observer status in the Indian Ocean Commission. The Commission has four other observers — China, EU, Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).

Q86. Which of the following are Zoonotic diseases?

1. Ebola
2. Rabies
3. Toxoplasmosis
4. Malaria

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The name given to diseases transmitted from animals to humans is zoonoses/zoonotic diseases, based on the Greek words for “animal” and “sickness”.
- Ebola, rabies, toxoplasmosis, malaria are all zoonoses.

Q87. Consider the following statements with respect to South China Sea:

1. It is an arm of the Western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.
2. It is to the west of the Philippines and east of Vietnam.
3. It is to the south of the island of Borneo.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- South China Sea is an arm of the Western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.
- It is south of China, east & south of Vietnam, west of the Philippines and north of the island of Borneo.

Q88. Consider the following statements with respect to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

1. FATF is an international organization developed to combat terrorism and money laundering.
2. FATF also deals with issues related to low tax jurisdiction or tax competition.
3. It was established at a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Paris.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established at a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Paris in 1989. FATF is an international organization developed to combat terrorism and money laundering. It does not address the issues related to low tax jurisdiction or tax competition. The FATF mandate focuses only on the fight against laundering of proceeds of crimes and the financing of terrorism.

Q89. Consider the following statements:

1. Earth Bio-Genome Project will sequence and catalog the DNA of all of Earth's eukaryotic biodiversity.
2. Eukaryotic species include all plants, animals, fungi and other organisms whose cells have a clearly defined nucleus surrounded by a membrane.
3. Eukaryotic cells are typically much larger than those of prokaryotes.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Earth Bio-Genome Project (EBP) is an international consortium of scientists which would undertake the project that aims to sequence, catalog, and characterize the genomes of every eukaryotic biodiversity on Earth, over a period of 10 years.
- The EBP project will help to create a detailed genetic sequence and reveal evolutionary connections among genus, orders and families that will make up the Digital Library of life.
- Eukaryotic species include all plants, animals, fungi and other organisms whose cells have a clearly defined nucleus surrounded by a membrane.
- Eukaryotic cells are typically much larger than those of prokaryotes, having a volume of around 10,000 times greater than the prokaryotic cell. They have a variety of internal membrane-bound structures, called organelles,

and a cytoskeleton composed of microtubules, microfilaments, and intermediate filaments, which play an important role in defining the cell's organization and shape.

Q90. Consider the following statements with respect to Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme:

1. Under the Scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy is decided by the government on an annual basis and is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, including Urea.
2. In India, urea is the only controlled fertilizer and is sold at a statutory notified uniform sale price.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Under the **Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme**, a fixed amount of subsidy is decided by the government on an annual basis and is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, except for Urea based on the nutrient content present in them.
- The scheme was launched in 2010. It is largely for secondary nutrients like N, P, S and K and micronutrients which are very important for crop growth and development.
- In India, urea is the only controlled fertilizer and is sold at a statutory notified uniform sale price. The MRP of urea is statutorily fixed by the Government of India.

Q91. Consider the following statements:

1. Both the Central and State governments have the power to fix the price of sugarcane under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.
2. The Centre has complete authority to set the statutory minimum price for Sugarcane.
3. States can't fix sugarcane price higher than the statutory minimum price fixed by the Centre.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Both the Central and State governments have the power to fix the price of sugarcane under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. The Centre has complete authority to set the statutory minimum price and states can fix an advisory price, which is generally higher than the one fixed by Centre. States can't fix sugarcane price lesser than the statutory minimum price fixed by the Centre.

Q92. Consider the following statements with respect to Reverse Vaccinology:

1. It is the technique of identifying the proteins that are exposed on the surface by using genome sequence instead of the microorganism.
2. Reverse vaccinology employs bioinformatics.
3. It has been used on several bacterial vaccines.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Reverse vaccinology is an improvement on vaccinology that employs bioinformatics.
- It is the name given to the examination of the genome of an organism in order to identify novel antigens and epitopes that might constitute vaccine candidates.
- It is the technique of identifying the proteins that are exposed on the surface by using genome instead of the microorganism.
- It was first used against Serogroup B meningococcus. Since then, it has been used on several other bacterial vaccines.
- Reverse vaccinology was used for designing vaccines against some diseases eg. Anthrax, Endocarditis, Meningitis, etc.

Q93. The annual Hindu festival held at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati symbolising the fertility cult of goddess is called:

- a. Tuloni Biya
- b. Ambubachi Mela
- c. Dehing Patkai Festival
- d. Majuli Festival

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Ambubachi Mela is an annual Hindu mela held at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam.
- The annual festival marks the menstruation of the goddess.
- The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya.
- The festival is also known as 'Mahakumbh of the East' as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world.

Q94. Consider the following statements with respect to Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
2. It is contiguous to the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Wayanad wildlife sanctuary is contiguous to the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka on the north-east and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu on the south-east.

Q95. Arrange the following from South to North:

- 1. Paracel Islands
- 2. Spratly Islands
- 3. Senkaku Islands
- 4. Pratas Islands

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Arrangement from South to North:

Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas Islands, Senkaku Islands.

Q96. Which of the following Geographical Tags are credited to the state of Karnataka?

- 1. Devanahalli Pomelo
- 2. Appemidi mango
- 3. Kinhall toys
- 4. Gulegudd Khana fabric

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Karnataka has the highest number of GI-tagged products. The GI Tagged products Devanahalli Pomelo (Chakota), Appemidi mango, Kinhal toys, Gulegudd Khana fabric are all credited to the state of Karnataka.

Q97. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without the approval of the NBWL.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The National Board for Wildlife is a “Statutory Organization” constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- NBWL is chaired by India’s Prime Minister and its vice-chairman is Minister of Environment.
- Primary function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests. It has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries. No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without the approval of the NBWL.
- Its roles are “advisory” in nature and advise the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.

Q98. The Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve is located in which of the following states?

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Chattisgarh
- d. Jharkhand

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in India. Created in 1995, the Reserve includes the Tadoba National Park and the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Andhari river meanders through the reserve.
- Tadoba National Park is Maharashtra’s oldest and largest national park.

Q99. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Ajrakh textiles: Kutch

2. Sanjhi paper art: Mathura
3. Madhubani art: Bihar

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Ajrak:

- Ajrak (Ajrakh) is a block-printed textile that is resist-dyed using natural dyes, including indigo and madder. It is made by Khatri community in Kutch, Gujarat and is distinguished by its colour- blue with red – and its complex geometric & floral patterns.

Sanjhi paper art:

- Sanjhi Paper Art is a traditional form of stencilled paper cutting.
- Sanjhi is practised across Mathura and Vrindavan. It was traditionally used to make ritualistic and ceremonial rangolis in temples. Most of the designs are compositions narrating tales related to Krishna.
- The craftsmen use small fine custom-made scissors to cut the stencils and then use the stencil to create the images.

Madhubani art:

- Madhubani art (or Mithila painting) is a style of Indian painting, practised in the Mithila region of the Indian subcontinent.
- This painting is done with a variety of tools, including fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks and using natural dyes and pigments. It is characterised by its elaborate geometrical patterns.
- There is ritual content for particular occasions, such as birth or marriage, and festivals.

Q100. Which of the following pairs is/are wrongly matched?

1. Leather footwear industry: Agra and Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
2. Non-leather footwear industry: Bahadurgarh, Haryana
3. Sports articles and surgical goods: Jalandhar, Punjab

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- While Agra and Kanpur remain the hub for leather footwear, Bahadurgarh in Haryana has around 50% share in the country's non-leather footwear industry.
- Jalandhar is famous for surgical tools industry and the sports industry.

Q101. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. Asia is the most affected region due to malaria.
2. India has set 2030 as the target year for eliminating malaria.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Malaria is one of the most severe public health problems worldwide. It is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, where young children and pregnant women are the groups most affected.
- Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable.
- Malaria is caused by *Plasmodium* parasites. The parasites are spread to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes, called "malaria vectors." There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* – pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria occurs mostly in poor, tropical and subtropical areas of the world.
- The WHO African Region carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2018, the region was home to 93% of malaria cases and 94% of malaria deaths.
- As per the World Malaria Report 2017 of the World Health Organization (WHO), the estimated malaria cases from India are 87% in the South East Asia region.
- Nearly 70 per cent of the malaria cases in India are contributed by five out of 36 States and Union Territories. These include Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra .
- Over the past 15 years, India has made considerable progress in reducing the malaria burden.
- The Government has unveiled a plan to eliminate Malaria by 2030. The National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030 document lays out the vision, mission, broad principles and practices to achieve the target of malaria elimination by 2030 synchronising with the Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for Malaria 2016-2030 .
 - Global technical strategy (2016-30) announced by WHO and adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2015 calls for malaria elimination by 2030.

Q102. Which of the following statements with respect to National Agricultural Cooperative

Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) is/are correct?

1. It functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
2. It is the nodal agency to implement price stabilization measures under "Operation Greens".

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- It is registered under Multi State Co-operative Societies Act.
- NAFED is now one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India.
- NAFED is the nodal agency to implement price stabilization measures under "Operation Greens".
- NAFED, along with FCI, with the proactive role of state governments, also physically procures oilseeds, pulses and copra under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) which in turn is under the umbrella scheme of PM-AASHA.
- It has established National Spot Exchange for Commodities exchange.

Q103. The Rohtang Pass is located in which of the following state/UT?

- a. Himachal Pradesh
- b. Jammu and Kashmir
- c. Ladakh
- d. Uttarakhand

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Rohtang Pass connects the Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh, India.
- The pass is on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas.

Q104. Which of the following is widely used in the process of desulphurisation of flue gases?

- a. Acidic substances
- b. Alkaline substances
- c. Neutral substances
- d. Both a and c

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD) is a set of technologies used to remove sulphur dioxide from exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants, and from the emissions of other sulphur dioxide emitting processes such as waste incineration.

- It generally involves using an alkaline substance to neutralize the predominantly acidic gases like sulphur dioxide.
- Commonly employed methods:
 - Wet scrubbing, uses a slurry of alkaline sorbent, usually limestone or lime, or seawater to scrub the predominantly acidic gases.
 - Wet sulphuric acid process recovers sulphur in the form of sulphuric acid.
 - Dry sorbent injection systems introduce powdered hydrated lime or other sorbent material.

Q105. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the state of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram only.
2. The tribal areas listed under the sixth Schedule are constituted as Scheduled Areas.
3. Governors can direct the manner in which acts of the State Legislature and Parliament apply to the sixth Schedule areas.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the state of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

States	Tribal Areas
1. Assam	1. The North Cachar Hills District. 2. The Karbi Anglong District. 3. The Bodoland Territorial Areas District.
2. Meghalaya	1. Khasi Hills District. 2. Jaintia Hills District. 3. The Garo Hills District.
3. Tripura	Tripura Tribal Areas District
4. Mizoram	1. The Chakma District. 2. The Mara District. 3. The Lai District.

- The tribal areas listed under the sixth Schedule are constituted as autonomous districts with each such autonomous district provided with a district council consisting of 30 members, partly elected and partly nominated.
- Governors can direct the manner in which acts of the state legislature apply to the sixth Schedule areas, while in respect of acts of the Parliament, such power rests with the President.

Q106. Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Exercise Pitch Black: Australia

2. Exercise Red Flag: China
3. Blue Flag Exercise: United States of America
4. Samvedna Exercise: India

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Exercise Pitch Black: Australia
- Exercise Red Flag: U.S. air force
- Blue Flag Exercise: Israeli air force
- Samvedna Exercise: Indian air force

The multilateral exercise named 'Samvedna' is the first composite HADR exercise in the South Asian Region and would involve representatives from the air forces of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and the UAE. It is being conducted under the Indian Air Force.

Q107. Arrange the following cities from east to west:

1. Aden
2. Muscat
3. Jeddah
4. Abu Dhabi
5. Tehran
6. Doha

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The cities arranged from east to west- Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Tehran, Aden, Jeddah



Q108. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. Cotton is predominantly a Kharif crop in India.
2. Indigenous variety of cotton accounts for the largest share of cotton cultivation in India.
3. India is the largest producer and exporter of cotton in the world.
4. Cotton is part of the Minimum Support Price Mechanism procurement system.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The sowing season of cotton varies considerably from area to area and is generally early (April-May) in northern India and is delayed as one moves south (monsoon based in the southern zone).
- Cotton is a Kharif crop in the major parts of the country viz. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and parts of Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka. In these areas, the irrigated crop is sown from March-May and the rain fed crop in June-July with the commencement of the monsoon.
- In Tamil Nadu, the major portion of the irrigated and rain fed crop is planted in September-October, whereas the sowing of the rain fed crop in the southern districts is extended up to November. Hence in Tamil Nadu, cotton is grown both as a Kharif and as a Rabi crop.
- Presently, about 90-95% cotton area in India is under Bt cotton, and India has emerged as the largest producer and second largest exporter of cotton in the world.
- Cotton is part of the Minimum Support Price Mechanism procurement system and is procured through the Cotton Corporation of India.

Q109. Consider the following statements:

1. Chakmas are Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus.

2. Chakmas and Hajongs lost their homes and land to the Kaptai dam project.
3. Chakmas and Hajongs are both identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Chakmas and Hajongs came to India from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan), having lost their homes and land to the Kaptai dam project (Karnaphuli river) mid-1960s.
- Chakmas are Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus.
- Chakmas are close to Bengali-Assamese; Hajongs speak a Tibeto-Burman tongue written in Assamese.
- Only 75 tribes have been identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Chakma and Hajong tribes are not classified as PVTGs.

Q110. Consider the following statements with respect to SVAMITVA scheme:

1. The scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India only.
2. The scheme will be implemented with the collaborated efforts of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- SVAMITVA scheme, a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India, aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India, engaging the latest Drone Surveying technology, for demarcating the inhabited land in rural areas.
- The program is currently being implemented in six states – Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Under this, mapping of rural housing land can be done using the latest survey methods and drones.
- This scheme will help in streamlining planning and revenue collection in rural areas and ensuring clarity on property rights.

Q111. Consider the following statements:

1. Bodo people are recognized as a plains tribe in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. Bodoland Territorial Area District comprises five districts of Assam only.
3. Bodo language is included in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The area under the jurisdiction of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), formed under the 2003 Accord, was called the Bodo Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD).
- Bodoland Territorial Area District comprises four districts of Assam.
- Bodo people are recognized as a plains tribe in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Q112. Consider the following statements:

1. Money market deals with short-term funds, the period of maturity of which is up to one year.
2. Call money market is the market where overnight loans can be availed by banks to meet liquidity.
3. Money market in India is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

According to the RBI, "the money market is a market for short-term financial assets that are close substitutes of money".

Money market deals with short-term funds, the period of maturity of which is up to one year. The call money market (CMM) is the market where overnight (one day) loans can be availed by banks to meet liquidity. Banks can access CMM to meet their reserve requirements (CRR and SLR) or to cover a sudden shortfall in cash on any particular day. Money market in India is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Q113. The Kumbh Mela is organised on the banks of:

1. Ganges in Haridwar
2. Gomti in Ujjain
3. Godavari in Nashik
4. Confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati in Prayagraj

Which of the locations of Kumbh Mela are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Kumbh Mela comes under the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It was added to the list in 2017.

- Kumbh Mela is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years.
- Kumbh Mela locations in India:
 - Haridwar on the Ganges in Uttarakhand.
 - Ujjain on the Shipra in Madhya Pradesh.
 - Nashik on the Godavari in Maharashtra.
 - Prayagraj at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati in Uttar Pradesh.

Q114. Consider the following statements with respect to Chinkaras:

- 1. Chinkaras can be found in India, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.
- 2. It is the state animal of Rajasthan.
- 3. It is classified as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Indian gazelles, *Gazella bennettii*, are primarily found in the northwestern region of India in the state of Rajasthan.
- Their distribution extends from south of the Krishna River, as far east as central India, and into the north-central region of Iran (east of the Zagros Range and south of the Alborz).
- They are found in grasslands and desert areas in India, parts of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- IUCN Red List Classification: Least Concerned.
- Chinkara and Camel are both official state animals of Rajasthan.

Q115. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.

2. A high value of dissolved oxygen (DO), BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) and COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) are all indicators of good river health.
3. A low value of Biological Oxygen Demand indicates low Dissolved Oxygen content of water.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water. A high value of dissolved oxygen (DO) is an indicator of good river health. BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) and COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) are both indicators of the amount of oxygen necessary to break down organic and inorganic pollution. The lower these numbers are, the better is the river health. A higher value of Biological Oxygen Demand indicates low Dissolved Oxygen content of water.

Q116. Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Development Bank:

1. India is a founding member of Asian Development Bank.
2. India and China hold the largest share in the bank.
3. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
- Headquarters — Manila, Philippines.
- Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by U.S.A (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%).
- India is a founding member of the ADB.

Q117. On which of the following rivers has China built dams?

1. Mekong
2. Brahmaputra
3. Indus
4. Irtysh

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

China has built dams on the following rivers: Mekong, the Brahmaputra, the Irtysh, the Indus, the Yellow river and Yangtze river.

Q118. Consider the following statements:

1. The Special 301 Report is a biennial report published by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
2. India has been classified as “Priority Foreign Country” in the Special 301 Report, 2020.
3. China, Indonesia, Russia are on the Priority Watch List of Special 301 Report, 2020.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Special 301 Report:

- It is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) that identifies trade barriers to United States companies and products due to the intellectual property laws, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, in other countries.
- The Special 301 Report is published pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.
- By statute, the annual Special 301 Report includes a list of “Priority Foreign Countries”, that are judged to have inadequate intellectual property laws; these countries may be subject to sanctions.
- In addition, the report contains a “Priority Watch List” and a “Watch List”, containing countries whose intellectual property regimes are deemed of concern.
- India continues to be on the ‘Priority Watch List’ of the USTR for lack of adequate intellectual property (IP) rights protection and enforcement.
- Algeria, Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela are also on the Priority Watch List.

Q119. Arrange the following rivers in ascending order of their length:

1. Mekong

2. Yangtze
3. Brahmaputra
4. Yellow River

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Brahmaputra < Mekong < Yellow River < Yangtze

Q120. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 30 is called a Charter of Education Rights.
2. While all religious minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, linguistic minorities do not enjoy such a right.
3. The term "Minorities" has been defined in the Constitution.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Article 30 is called a Charter of Education Rights. This right is given to minorities to form and govern their own educational institutions.
- The term "Minorities" has not been defined in the Constitution.
- **Article 30(1):** All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 30(2):** The State should not, when granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

