

## UPSC Monthly Magazine Answer Key – September 2020

**Q1. Consider the following statements with respect to “contempt of court”:**

1. Provisions in the Constitution of India empower both the Supreme Court and the High Court to punish people for their respective contempt.
2. The Constitution includes contempt of court as a reasonable restriction to the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.
3. Wilful disobedience of a court order or judgment or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court amounts to criminal contempt.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Articles 129 and 215 of the Constitution of India empower the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.
- Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution gives the right to freedom of speech and expression to all citizens. However, the Constitution includes contempt of court as a reasonable restriction to the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.
- **Civil contempt of court** most often happens when someone fails to adhere to an order from the court. It can be wilful disobedience of a court order or judgment or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- **Criminal contempt of court** is written or spoken words or any act that scandalises the court or lowers its authority or prejudices or interferes with the due course of a judicial proceeding or interferes/obstructs the administration of justice.

**Q2. Which of the following are quantitative methods of credit control by RBI?**

1. Bank Rate
2. Credit Rationing
3. Open Market Operations
4. Variable Cash Reserve Ratio

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Bank rate, Open Market Operations, Statutory Cash Reserve Requirement, Statutory Liquidity Ratio, Variable Cash Reserve Ratio are the instruments of quantitative credit control.
- Credit Rationing, Moral Suasion, Regulating Marginal Requirements on Security Loans, Direct Action, etc. are the instruments of qualitative/selective credit control.

**Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to the River Wainganga:**

1. It originates in the Mahadeo Hills in Madhya Pradesh.
2. Gosi khurd irrigation project is being constructed on the Wainganga River.
3. It is a tributary of River Ganga.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- River Wainganga rises in the Mahadeo Hills in the Seoni District of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a tributary of River Godavari.
- Gosi khurd Irrigation Project is one of the major irrigation projects in the Godavari basin being constructed on the river Wainganga.

**Q4. Rezang La is a mountain pass in:**

- a. Sikkim
- b. Ladakh
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Uttarakhand

**Answer: b****Explanation:**

Rezang La is a mountain pass in the union territory of Ladakh.

**Q5. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. INDRA – Russia
2. EKUVERIN – Japan
3. MAITREE – Thailand
4. KAZIND – Bangladesh

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: c****Explanation:**

These are the Military Exercises of the Indian Army:

- INDRA – Indo-Russian joint military Exercise
- EKUVERIN – Indo-Maldives joint military exercise
- MAITREE – Indo-Thai Joint Military Exercise
- KAZIND – Joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army

**Q6. The militant organization Hamas operates out of which of the following region?**

- a. Gaza Strip
- b. Israel
- c. Syria
- d. Turkey

**Answer: a****Explanation:**

Hamas is a fundamentalist militant organization that operates out of the Gaza Strip.

**Q7. Which of the following are correctly matched?**

1. Strait of Gibraltar – The Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea
2. Strait of Malacca – The Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean
3. Bab-el-Mandeb – The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea
4. Hormuz Strait – Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: d****Explanation:**

All the straits and the joining seas/water bodies are correctly matched.

**Q8. The Gopalakrishnan Committee dealt with:**

- a. Non-Personal Data Governance Framework
- b. Civil Services Reforms
- c. Data Protection Law
- d. Draft National Education Policy

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- A committee chaired by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan was formed in September 2019 under the IT Ministry for developing a governance framework for Non-Personal Data.
- The committee is referred to as the Expert Committee on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework.

**Q9. Consider the following statements:**

1. Question hour is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
2. A starred question is one to which a written answer is desired by the member
3. A starred question cannot have supplementary questions.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.
- It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
- It is during Question hour that the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
- A starred question (distinguished by an asterisk) is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House. Supplementary questions can follow.
- An unstarred question, on the other hand, requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.

**Q10. Consider the following statements with respect to the Global Innovation Index 2020:**

1. India is ranked among the top 50 nations.
2. Israel is ranked among the top 10 nations.
3. It is published by WIPO in association with Cornell University and INSEAD.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is a global ranking of countries for their success in and capacity for innovation. It is published by a specialized agency of the United Nations – the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in association with Cornell University and graduate business school INSEAD.
- The index ranks countries based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to Research and Development, online creativity, mobile application creation, computer software spending, education spending, scientific & technical publications and ease of starting a business.
- In Global Innovation Index 2020, India is ranked among the top 50 nations.
- The list continues to be topped by Switzerland while Israel finds its place in the top ten for the first time.

**Q11. Recently approved - Mission Karmayogi is a part of:**

- a. Labour Reforms

- b. Defence Sector Reforms
- c. Civil Services Reforms
- d. Health Sector Reforms

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Mission Karmayogi is a new, national capacity-building and performance evaluation programme for civil servants.
- The scheme will cover 46 lakh Central government employees at all levels, and involves an outlay of Rs.510 crore over a five-year period.
- An annual subscription of Rs. 431 will be charged per civil servant.
- The scheme is a comprehensive post-recruitment reform of the Centre's human resource (HR) development programme.

**Q12. Consider the following statements with respect to Pangong Tso:**

1. It is an endorheic, brackish water lake.
2. It is identified as a wetland of international significance under the Ramsar Convention.

**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:**

- Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake.
- The brackish water lake freezes over in winter, and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- The lake is not a Ramsar site yet. It is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

**Q13. Consider the following statements with respect to the Environment Pollution Control**

**Authority (EPCA):**

1. EPCA is a Supreme Court-mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in all the metropolitan cities across India.
2. The body is constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. It is mandated to enforce the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region).

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Environment Pollution Control Authority is a Supreme Court-mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region).
- The body is constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- It is mandated to enforce the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region).

**Q14. Consider the following statements with respect to Paradip Port:**

1. It is a natural, deep-water port.
2. It is the largest port by size and shipping traffic.
3. It is situated at the confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal.

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

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

d. 1 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Paradip is a natural, deep-water port situated on the east coast of India, in Odisha.
- It is situated at the confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai is the largest container port in India. It is India's largest port by size and shipping traffic.

**Q15. Consider the following statements with respect to Assam Rifles:**

1. It functions under the administrative control of the Union Home Ministry.
2. The Assam Rifles was formed under the British in 1835.
3. It is India's oldest paramilitary force.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Assam Rifles (AR) is a Central Para Military Force (CPMF) along with two other forces — Special Frontier Force and Coast Guard.
- However, only the Assam Rifles functions under the administrative control of the Union Home Ministry.
- The Assam Rifles was formed under the British in 1835 by the name of Cachar Levy and had a number of names — the Assam Frontier Police (1883), the Assam Military Police (1891) and Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police (1913), before finally becoming the Assam Rifles in 1917.
- It is India's oldest paramilitary force.

**Q16. Which of the following Indian state/s share/s international border with both Myanmar and Bangladesh?**

1. Tripura
2. Mizoram
3. Manipur
4. Nagaland

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**CHECK ANSWERS:-**

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam share a border with Bangladesh.
- Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh share a border with Myanmar.

**Q17. Consider the following statements regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance established by the Brussels Treaty.
2. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
3. Montenegro is the latest to join NATO as its member.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance established by the Washington Treaty.
- It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
- It has 30 members.
- Montenegro joined NATO in 2017. North Macedonia is the latest to join NATO (2020).

**Q18. India is a signatory to which of the following convention/s?**

1. Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
2. Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
3. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: c****Explanation:**

India is a signatory to:

1. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol
2. The Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
3. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

**Q19. Consider the following statements with respect to Orang National Park:**

1. Orang National Park is located on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River.
2. Rivers Pachnoi, Belsiri and Dhansiri border the park.
3. It has also been declared a tiger reserve.

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

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

**Answer: d****Explanation:**

- Orang National Park is located on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River.
- Orang National Park was declared a tiger reserve in 2016.
- Pachnoi river, Belsiri river and Dhansiri River border the park and join the Brahmaputra river.

**Q20. Consider the following statements with respect to the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO):**

1. The organization supports arms sales and manufacturing as well as military training and exercises.
2. Afghanistan, Serbia and Uzbekistan are among its member nations.
3. The CSTO is headquartered in Moscow, Russia.

**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. 3 only

**Answer: c****Explanation:**

- The CSTO has its origins in the Collective Security Treaty, which took effect in 1994 and included Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status. Uzbekistan was a member from 2006 to 2012.
- The organization supports arms sales and manufacturing as well as military training and exercises.
- Beyond mutual defence, the CSTO also coordinates efforts in fighting the illegal circulation of weapons among member states and has developed law enforcement training for its members in pursuit of these aims.



- Members also use the organization to counter cyber warfare, narcotics trafficking, the illegal circulation of weapons, transnational crime, and terrorism.
- The CSTO is headquartered in Moscow, Russia.

Q21. Which of the following countries have signed and ratified the Rome Statute?

1. India
2. China
3. Russia
4. U.S.
5. Japan

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

Explanation:

- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is the treaty that established the International Criminal Court. Currently, 123 states are party to the statute.
- The Rome Statute has been signed by 139 countries and of these only 123 have ratified it through their Parliaments and internal process. The U.S. though had signed the statute has not ratified it. Similarly Russia too withdrew from the statute after having signed it. China and India have not even signed the Rome Statute.
- Japan is party to the Rome Statute.

Q22. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

1. The Rome Statute provides the UN Security Council the power to refer cases to the ICC and also the power to block such references.
2. The ICC arrogates to itself the right to prosecute matters against countries that aren't even signatories.
3. The issue of cross-border terrorism and the use of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction are not part of the ICC's mandate.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct and India's reluctance to be part of the ICC is based on these lacunae's.

Q23. What are the possible benefits of the vehicle scrappage policy?

1. Help mitigate vehicular pollution
2. Reduce import dependency
3. Helps save forex reserves
4. Enhance government revenue
5. Enhance economic growth
6. Increase employment opportunities

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

Explanation:

**The vehicle scrappage policy:**

- The vehicle scrappage policy is expected to entail scrapping of old vehicles in exchange for some incentives for consumers while setting up vehicle recycling clusters to boost use of recycled materials, thereby cutting cost of raw materials.
- Under the draft scheme, the government has stated that a part of the scrap value from the old vehicle may be given as a payback. Also, incentives in the form of lower tax could be offered if a person is buying a new vehicle in place of the scrapped one. The government is hoping that higher pollution checks, re-registration charges and fines may also deter usage of old vehicles.

**Possible benefits:**

- The recycling of metals like steel, copper and aluminium from the scrapped vehicles will help reduce their imports.
- Getting the roads rid of old vehicles would also help lower pollution and the government's oil bill, as the new vehicles replacing the old ones would be more fuel-efficient.
- The government could save forex because of lower imports of the raw materials as well as get tax revenue from new vehicle sales.
- The proposed policy is seen as a growth driver in boosting demand for new vehicles.

Q24. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Ease of Doing Business (EODB) state ranking is a joint initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade of the Finance ministry and the World Bank.
2. The Ease of Doing Business (EODB) state rankings are based on the implementation of State Business Reform Action Plan 2019.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b****Explanation:**

- Ease of Doing Business (EODB) is a joint initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade and the World Bank to improve the overall business environment in the States.
  - The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The State rankings are based on the implementation of State Business Reform Action Plan 2019

Q25. Which of the following places is popularly known as the land of 7 languages in India?

- a. Bhopal
- b. Lucknow
- c. Kasaragod
- d. Guwahati

**Answer: c****Explanation:**

- The northernmost district of Kerala, Kasaragod is famously known as the land of the 7 languages.
- Malayalam is the administrative language. Other languages are Kannada, Tulu, Konkani, Marathi, Urdu and Beary.
- Prior to State reorganisation, Kasaragod was part of the South Kanara district of Karnataka. Kasaragod became a part of the Malabar district of Kerala following the reorganisation of States and the formation of a unified Kerala State.

Q26. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Ajmer Sharif dargah?

1. It is dedicated to the Suhrawardiyya silsila of the Sufi saints.
2. Its construction was initiated by the Mughal king, Akbar.

**Options:**

- a. 1 only



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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Ajmer Sharif dargah is dedicated to Moinuddin Chishti, 13th-century Sufi mystic saint and philosopher of the Chisti silsila. It houses the maqbara of Moinuddin Chishti.
- The tomb became a deeply venerated site in the century following the preacher's death in March 1236. The tomb was existent much before Akbar's advent.
- The Mughal emperor Akbar visited the shrine many times during his reign and also got the sanctum sanctorum reconstructed in 1579.

**Q27. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Empowered the Parliament to amend any part of the Constitution
2. 91<sup>st</sup> Amendment: Limiting the size of the Council of Ministers
3. 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment: Anti-defection law
4. 86<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Right to education for children between 6-14 years

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Empowered the Parliament to amend any part of the Constitution
- 91<sup>st</sup> Amendment: Limiting the size of the Council of Ministers
- 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment: Anti-defection law
- 86<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Right to education for children between 6-14 years

**Q28. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)?**

1. It is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, tasked with detecting and curbing drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items.
2. It works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is tasked with detecting and curbing the smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items, as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of customs duty.
- DRI enforces the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and over fifty other allied Acts including the Arms Act, NDPS Act, COFEPOSA, Wildlife Act, Antiquities Act, etc. DRI undertakes collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence relating to smuggling, carries out investigations, adjudication of cases and prosecution of the arrested persons.

**Q29. Consider the following statements with respect to Sa-Dhan:**

1. It is an association of Micro Finance Institutions.
2. It is recognised as a self-regulatory organisation by the Reserve Bank of India.

3. It is recognized as a National Support Organization (NSO) by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Sa-Dhan is an association of Micro Finance Institutions.
- It is recognised by the RBI as a Self-Regulatory-Organization and National Support Organization (NSO) by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

**Q30. Consider the following statements with respect to Special Frontier Force (SFF):**

- 1. It was established in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war.
- 2. The SFF units function under the operational control of the Army.
- 3. It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Special Frontier Force (SFF) was established in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war, on 14th November 1962.
- SFF falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- The SFF units are not part of the Army but they function under the operational control of the Army.

**Q31. Consider the following statements with respect to G-Secs:**

- 1. G-Secs carry no risk of default and are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
- 2. The G-Secs issued by the Central government includes both, treasury bills and bonds.
- 3. The state governments issue treasury bills only.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).
- G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

**Q32. Consider the following statements with respect to Scramjet engines:**

- 1. They operate efficiently at hypersonic speeds and allow supersonic combustion.
- 2. They are a variant of a category of jet engines called the air breathing engines.

**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:**

- Scramjet stands for Supersonic Combustion Ramjet. It is a supersonic combustion engine.
- A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion.
- The scramjets are a variant of a category of jet engines called the air breathing engines.
- The ability of engines to handle airflows of speeds in multiples of the speed of sound gives it the capability of operating at those speeds.
- Hypersonic speeds are those which are five times or more than the speed of sound.

**Q33. Consider the following:**

1. Global Economic Prospects (GEP) – World Bank
2. World Economic Outlook (WEO) – World Economic Forum (WEF)
3. Global Financial Stability Report – International Monetary Fund (IMF)

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Global Economic Prospects (GEP) is published by the World Bank.
- World Economic Outlook (WEO) and the Global Financial Stability Report are both published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Q34. Consider the following statements:**

1. Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is the only UNESCO Mixed World Heritage Site in India.
2. Jaipur has been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. Rajasthan is the only state to have both Cultural and Natural sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is the only UNESCO Mixed World Heritage Site in India.
- Jaipur has been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019.
- Rajasthan is not the only state to have both Cultural and Natural sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List. States like Karnataka and Maharashtra also have both Cultural and Natural sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**Q35. Arrange the following from West to East:**

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Yamunotri
4. Gangotri

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Q36. Consider the following statements:**

1. National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is a sub-scheme under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
2. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture is a centrally sponsored scheme.
3. In 2017, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 was amended to include bamboo in the category of trees.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- National Bamboo Mission (NBM) is a sub-scheme under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Keeping in consideration the importance of bamboo, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 was amended in 2017 to remove bamboo from the category of trees. As a result, now anyone can undertake cultivation and business in bamboo and its products.

**Q37. Which of the following are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?**

1. Tajikistan
2. China
3. Pakistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Kyrgyzstan
6. Afghanistan

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The SCO currently comprises eight Member States: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership of SCO are Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia.

**Q38. Consider the following statements with respect to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC):**

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It consists of five members including a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members appointed by the President.
3. NCBC is entrusted with the additional function of grievance redressal of backward classes.
4. It has all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provided constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). It is a constitutional body.
- The Commission consists of five members including a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members appointed by the President.
- The conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members are determined by President.
- NCBC is entrusted with the additional function of grievance redressal of backward classes.
- NCBC has to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.
- It has all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit.

**Q39. Consider the following statements with respect to PM SVANidhi Scheme:**

1. It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loans of up to Rs. 10,000 to street vendors.
2. Small Industries Development Bank of India is the technical partner for the implementation of the scheme.

**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:**

Both statements are correct.

**Q40. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for the commercial release of Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India.
2. GEAC allowed the commercial release of Bt cotton in 2020.
3. Bt cotton is the only GM crop allowed to be cultivated in India.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for the commercial release of GM crops in India.
- GEAC allowed the commercial release of Bt cotton in 2002.
- Bt cotton is the only Genetically Modified crop allowed to be cultivated in India.
- Developed by US giant Bayer-Monsanto, it involves the insertion of two genes viz. 'Cry1Ab' and 'Cry2Bc' from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* into cotton seeds.
- This modification codes the plant to produce a protein toxic to *Heliothis* bollworm (pink bollworm) thus making it resistant to their attack.

**Q41. Bru (or Reang) tribe is recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in which of the following state/s?**

1. Assam
2. Tripura
3. Mizoram
4. Arunachal Pradesh

**Choose the correct options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Bru (or Reang) tribals inhabit parts of the northeastern states of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. In Mizoram, they are largely restricted to Mamit and Kolasib. They are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Tripura.

**Q42. Consider the following statements about the Deputy Speaker:**

1. The Deputy Speaker must resign from the original party soon after his/her election to the post.
2. The Constitution of India states that the position of Deputy Speaker should be offered to the opposition party in India.
3. The Deputy Speaker can be removed from office by a resolution passed in the Lok Sabha by an absolute majority.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Article 93 of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. There is no such provision in India which requires the Deputy Speaker/Speaker to resign from the original party soon after his/her election to the post.
- It is by convention that the position of Deputy Speaker is offered to the opposition party in India.
- The Deputy Speaker can be removed from office by a resolution passed in the Lok Sabha by an effective majority of its members.

**Q43. 'SAROD-Ports' is:**

- a. A dispute redressal mechanism to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes in the maritime sector.
- b. An application launched as a part of the Maritime Crime Programme (MPC) to counter piracy activities in the Indian Ocean.
- c. A flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping to promote port-led development by modernising India's ports.
- d. A scheme for providing financial support to oil handling Major Ports for the creation of Tier-I oil spill response facility.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes – Ports (SAROD-Ports) is a dispute redressal mechanism to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.
- It has been established under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for affordable and timely resolution of disputes in a fair manner.
- SAROD-Ports consists of members from the Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

**Q44. Consider the following statements with respect to Monetisation of deficit:**

1. One of the methods of monetisation of deficit includes RBI buying government securities directly from the primary market to fund the government's expenses.
2. The exercise leads to an increase in the total money supply in the system.
3. Monetisation of deficit carries a risk of inflation.

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

- a. 1 only



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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Monetisation of deficit means printing more money.
- Monetised deficit is the monetary support the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extends to the Centre as part of the government's borrowing programme.
- Monetisation of deficit happens when RBI buys government securities directly from the primary market to fund the government's expenses.
- An important consequence of this is that it triggers a spike in the inflation rate.
- Also known as debt monetisation, the exercise leads to an increase in total money supply in the system, and hence inflation, as RBI creates fresh money to purchase the bonds

**Q45. Consider the following statements with respect to FCRA (Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act) 2010:**

1. Foreign donations to all the NGOs in India are exempted from the provisions of FCRA.
2. No person who receives foreign contribution as per provisions of this Act shall transfer to another person unless that person is also authorized to receive foreign contribution under FCRA.
3. Any organisation of a political nature and any company engaged in the production and broadcast of audio or audiovisual news or current affairs programmes are prohibited from accepting foreign contributions.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Foreign donations to only those NGOs that are registered under FCRA are exempted from the provisions of FCRA.
- No person who receives foreign contribution as per provisions of this Act shall transfer to another person unless that person is also authorized to receive foreign contribution under FCRA.
- Any organisation of a political nature and any company engaged in the production and broadcast of audio or audiovisual news or current affairs programmes are prohibited from accepting foreign contributions.

**Q46. Consider the following statements with respect to Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG):**

1. Among the duties performed by CAG is the audit of all expenditures from the Consolidated Fund of India, contingency funds and Public Accounts.
2. The salary, allowances and other terms of service of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India are determined by the Parliament.
3. He/she is appointed by the President.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q47. Consider the following statements with respect to "Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems":**

1. Gujarat has been consistently categorised as the best performer in two consecutive editions of startup ranking of states.
2. The ranking is released by NITI Aayog.
3. The ranking is based on seven broad reform areas consisting of thirty action points.

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

- a. 1 only

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Gujarat has been consistently categorised as the best performer in two consecutive editions of startup ranking of states among all States and one Union Territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern States and other UTs.
- The ranking is released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The ranking is based on seven broad reform areas consisting of thirty action points.

**Q48. Which of the following is/are the categories considered under the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF)?**

1. Energy and Green Buildings
2. Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity
3. Mobility and Air Quality
4. Affordable Housing
5. Water Management
6. Waste Management
7. Self-financing capability

**Choose the correct options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) assessment framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management.

**Q49. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Ramjet and Scramjet engines do not have a compressor unlike the traditional jet engines.
2. Ramjet engines have subsonic velocity of the gases in the combustion chamber while the Scramjet engines have supersonic velocity in the combustion chamber.
3. Ramjet engines unlike Scramjet engines are most efficient at hypersonic speeds.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Ramjet engine:**

- A ramjet operates by combustion of fuel in a stream of air compressed by the forward speed of the aircraft itself, as opposed to a normal jet engine, in which the compressor section (the fan blades) compresses the air.
- The air flow through a ramjet engine is subsonic, or less than the speed of sound. Ramjets work most efficiently at supersonic speeds around Mach 3 (three times the speed of sound) and can operate up to speeds of Mach 6. However, the ramjet efficiency starts to drop when the vehicle reaches hypersonic speeds.

**Scramjet engine:**

- A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion. Thus it is known as Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, or Scramjet.
- A ramjet decelerates the air to subsonic velocities before combustion, while the airflow in a scramjet is supersonic throughout the entire engine. That allows the scramjet to operate efficiently at extremely high speeds.

**Q50. Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA): U.S.
2. Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA): Australia
3. Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services: Japan
4. Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS): Russia

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- India has signed several logistics agreements in recent years.
- India has signed several logistics agreements in recent years, beginning with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA) with the U.S. in 2016.
- In June 2020, India and Australia signed the Mutual Logistics Support (MLSA) and also announced a joint declaration on a shared vision for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- The logistics pact with Japan, Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between armed forces was signed in September, 2020.
- The agreement with Russia, the Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS), is expected to be signed during the upcoming bilateral summit.

**Q51. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. India officially became a full time member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at the Astana summit of the SCO in 2017.
2. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has two permanent bodies — the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- The SCO was founded in June 2001, built on the 'Shanghai Five' grouping of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz Republic) and Tajikistan.
- In 2001, the Shanghai Five inducted Uzbekistan into the group and named it the SCO.
- In July 2015 in Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members. Both signed the memorandum of obligations in June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members. June 2017, at a summit in Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full members.
- Currently, the SCO has four observer states — Afghanistan, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia.
- SCO has two permanent bodies — the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.

**Q52. Which of the following gharana is not associated with the Dhrupad style?**

- a. Dagari
- b. Kirana
- c. Bettiah
- d. Darbhanga

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Dhrupad singing is further classified into the following four forms on the basis of vanis they use for the performance:
  - Dagari
  - Darbhanga
  - Bettiah
  - Talwandi
- The Kirana Gharana is a form of the Khayal style of Hindustani classical music.

**Q53. Consider the following statements regarding the National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, CVD and Stroke (NPCDCS):**

1. The program is being implemented under the National Health Mission.
2. The NPCDCS program has two components one dealing with cancer and the other dealing with diabetes, CVD and stroke
3. India is committed to achieving a one-third reduction in Non-Communicable Disease-related deaths by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, CVD and Stroke (NPCDCS) program is being implemented under the National Health Mission.
- The NPCDCS program has two components viz. (i) Cancer (ii) Diabetes, CVDs and Stroke.
- India is committed to achieving a one-third reduction in Non-Communicable Diseases related deaths by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Q54. Consider the following statements with respect to notifiable diseases:**

1. A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.
2. The Centre has notified several diseases such as cholera, diphtheria, tuberculosis, AIDS.
3. Failure to report a notifiable disease is a criminal offence.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.
- The Centre has notified several diseases such as cholera, diphtheria, encephalitis, leprosy, meningitis, pertussis (whooping cough), plague, tuberculosis, AIDS, hepatitis, measles, yellow fever, malaria, dengue.
- Any failure to report a notifiable disease is a criminal offence and the state government can take necessary actions against defaulters.

**Q55. Which of these countries have a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea?**

1. Albania
2. Turkey
3. Syria
4. France
5. Serbia
6. Israel

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1, 2, 3 and 6 only

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Serbia does not have a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.

**Q56. Consider the following statements with respect to the Joint Session of the Parliament:**

- 1. A joint session is presided over by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha or the Speaker.
- 2. The joint sitting of the Parliament is called by the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- 3. In case of a disagreement between both the houses with respect to Constitution Amendment Bills, there is no provision for a joint session of Parliament.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Such a session is presided over by the Speaker, and in his/her absence, by the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. In the absence of both, it is presided over by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- If any of the above are not present, any other member of the Parliament can preside by consensus of both the Houses.
- The joint sitting of the Parliament is called by the President.
- In case of a disagreement between both the houses with respect to Constitution Amendment Bills, there is no provision for a joint session of Parliament.

**Q57. Consider the following statements with respect to T-cells:**

- 1. T cells are a part of the lymphatic system.
- 2. T cells originate in the bone marrow and mature in the thymus.
- 3. They are responsible for removing the pathogens from the body.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- T cells are a part of the lymphatic system.
- Lymphoid stem cells produce T lymphocytes and B lymphocytes.
- T lymphocytes, also commonly known as T cells, are cells involved in fighting specific pathogens in the body.
- T cells may act as helpers of other immune cells or attack pathogens directly.
- T cells originate in the bone marrow and mature in the thymus.

**Q58. Consider the following statements with respect to Venus:**

- 1. It is the only planet that has no natural satellites.
- 2. It's sense of rotation is opposite to that of Earth.
- 3. The atmosphere of Venus contains traces of phosphine gas.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Venus and Mercury have no moon or satellite of its own.
- It rotates from east to west while the Earth rotates from west to east.
- The atmosphere of Venus contains traces of phosphine gas.

**Q59. Consider the following statements with respect to Enemy Property in India:**

1. Movable property is not included under 'enemy properties'.
2. The law of succession does not apply to enemy property.
3. Among the properties left behind by Pakistani nationals, the highest properties are located in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

**Answer: c****Explanation:**

- The Enemy Property Act, enacted in 1968, provided for the continuous vesting of enemy property in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India.
- The central government, through the Custodian, is in possession of enemy properties spread across many states in the country.
- Some movable properties too, are categorised as enemy properties.
- The law of succession does not apply to enemy property.
- Among the 9,280 properties left behind by Pakistani nationals, the highest 4,991 properties are located in Uttar Pradesh.

**Q60. Consider the following statements with respect to Supplementary Grants:**

1. The additional grants required to meet the required expenditure of the government is called Supplementary Grants.
2. Supplementary grants are defined in the Constitution of India.
3. Supplementary grants are presented and passed by the Parliament at the beginning of the financial year following the year in which the expenditure has been incurred.

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

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

**Answer: b****Explanation:**

- The additional grant required to meet the required expenditure of the government is called Supplementary Grants.
  - When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an estimate is presented before the Parliament for Supplementary or Additional grants.
  - These grants are presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year.

Supplementary, additional or excess grants are defined in the Constitution of India.

**Q61. Consider the following statements with respect to planet Venus:**

1. Venus is the hottest planet in the Solar System.
2. It possesses a dense atmosphere of carbon dioxide.
3. Sulphuric acid is present in the atmosphere of Venus.

**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. 2 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system with surface temperatures being above 460° Celsius.
- It possesses a dense atmosphere of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas) which is said to be causing the heating of Venus.
- The presence of sulphuric acid in the atmosphere of Venus makes it a highly corrosive environment.

**Q62. Consider the following statements with respect to Department Related Standing Committees (DRSCs):**

1. The DRSCs were created for the first time in 1993.
2. The members are nominated by the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman for a term of 1 year.
3. Ministers cannot be nominated as the members of the committee

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

All the statements are correct.

**Q63. Consider the following statements:**

1. An Interest Rate Derivative (IRD) is a contract whose value is derived from one or more interest rates or interest rate indices.
2. An interest rate swap is a forward contract in which one stream of future interest payments is exchanged for another based on a specified principal amount.

**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:**

- Derivatives are a contract between two or more parties with a value based on an underlying asset.
- Swaps are a type of derivative with a value based on cash flow, as opposed to a specific asset.
- An Interest Rate Derivative (IRD) is a contract whose value is derived from one or more interest rates or interest rate indices.
- An interest rate swap is a forward contract in which one stream of future interest payments is exchanged for another based on a specified principal amount.

**Q64. "Akatsuki", recently in news is:**

- a. A United Arab Emirates' satellite on a mission to orbit the planet Mars.
- b. A Japanese space probe tasked to study the atmosphere of Venus.
- c. China's latest mission to study the atmosphere of Mars.
- d. The mission of NASA to map the entire surface of Venus.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Japanese satellite Akatsuki is currently orbiting Venus to study its atmosphere. It was successfully placed into the Venusian elliptic orbit in 2015. By using five different cameras working at several wavelengths, Akatsuki is studying the stratification of the atmosphere, atmospheric dynamics, and cloud physics.

**Q65. Consider the following statements with respect to the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI):**

1. It is a mechanism between Russia and India, established to strengthen the opportunities in the field of defence.

2. Its aim is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.
3. DTTI was launched in 2020.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative, between the USA and India, was launched in 2012.
- The DTTI is a mechanism by which senior leaders from the defence establishment of both India and the US meet and discuss challenges and opportunities for growth in defence cooperation.
- While DTTI is not a treaty or law, it is a flexible mechanism to make sure that senior leaders from both countries are engaged consistently to strengthen the opportunities in the field of defence.
- The aim of the DTTI Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.
- Four Joint Working Groups focused on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies have been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects within their domains.

**Q66. Which of the following committees/commissions dealt with the 'reorganization of states'?**

1. JVP Committee
2. Fazl Ali Commission
3. Dhar Commission
4. Kothari Commission

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- JVP Committee, Fazl Ali Commission and Dhar Commission were constituted with respect to the aspect of reorganization of states.
- National Education Commission (1964-1966), popularly known as Kothari Commission, was an ad hoc commission set up by the Government of India to examine all aspects of the educational sector in India, to evolve a general pattern of education and to advise guidelines and policies for the development of education in India.

**Q67. Consider the following statements with respect to the DISHA Scheme:**

1. It is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-14 years.
2. It covers children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
3. The scheme also provides housing and care services throughout the life of the person with disability.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- DISHA is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children up to 10 years with the disabilities covered under the National Trust Act.
- To be eligible for the scheme, the Person with Disability must have one of the disabilities covered under the National Trust Act, 1999 i.e, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

- GHARAUNDA scheme provides housing and care services throughout the life of the person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

**Q68. Consider the following statements with respect to Institution or Institute of National Importance (INI):**

1. INI is a status conferred by an act of the Parliament, on a public institution of higher education in India.
2. Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) will be the first institution to be granted the INI status in the AYUSH sector.
3. INI is defined as an institution that serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Institution or Institute of National Importance (INI) is a status conferred by an act of Parliament on a public institution of higher education in India.
- The status is conferred to an institution which “serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state”.
- These institutes receive special recognition and funding from the government.
- Examples: IITs, AIIMS, NITs, National Institute of Design, etc.
- Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) will be the first institution to be granted the INI status in the AYUSH sector.

**Q69. Consider the following statements:**

1. Ramsar Convention was established by UNESCO.
2. Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park were the first ones to be recognized as Ramsar Sites of India.
3. Rajasthan has two Ramsar sites.

**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 Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO.
- Chilika Lake of Odisha and Keoladeo National Park of Rajasthan were the first ones to be recognized as Ramsar Sites of India in 1981.
- Rajasthan has two Ramsar sites: Keoladeo National Park and Sambhar Lake.

**Q70. Consider the following statements with respect to Gwadar Port:**

1. It is a warm water, deep sea port.
2. The port is located in Pakistan’s Balochistan province.
3. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor will connect Gwadar Port with China’s Xinjiang province.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Gwadar Port is a warm water, deep sea port in Pakistan’s Balochistan province.

- The China Pakistan Economic Corridor will connect Gwadar Port with China's Xinjiang province.

**Q71. Consider the following statements with respect to Plasma:**

1. In the blood, apart from RBC, WBC and platelets, all the other fluid content is known as Plasma.
2. Plasma contains antibodies.
3. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body.

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

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. 2 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 to as Plasma. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the 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), immunoglobulins, clotting factors and fibrinogen. Plasma also contains antibodies.

**Q72. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Human Right Commission:**

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. President appoints the Chairman and members of NHRC on the recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister.
3. It has the power to intervene in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is an independent statutory body established on 12 October, 1993 as per provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- President appoints the Chairman and members of NHRC on the recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister.
- It has the power to intervene in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court.
- NHRC investigates grievances regarding the violation of human rights either suo moto or after receiving a petition.

**Q73. Consider the following statements with respect to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):**

1. It is a centrally-sponsored scheme.
2. Under the scheme, funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities.
3. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- MPLADS is a centrally-sponsored plan scheme fully funded by the government of India under which funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities.

- 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 utilized in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.

**Q74. Consider the following statements with respect to Nandankanan Zoological Park:**

1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It hosts India's only pangolin conservation breeding centre.
3. It is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Nandankanan Zoological Park is located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- It lies in adjacent to Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).
- The Nandankanan zoo hosts India's only pangolin conservation breeding centre.

**Q75. What is the classification of Sloth Bears in the IUCN Red List:**

- a. Vulnerable
- b. Least Concerned
- c. Near Threatened
- d. Endangered

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- The sloth bear is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- International trade of the sloth bear is prohibited as it is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

**Q76. Consider the following statements with respect to National Bamboo Mission:**

1. It is a sub-scheme under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
2. National Bamboo Mission is a Central Sector scheme.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- National Bamboo Mission is a sub-scheme under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- It is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of the bamboo sector by adopting the area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.
- Under the Mission, steps have been taken to increase the availability of quality planting material by supporting the setting up of new nurseries and strengthening of existing ones.

**Q77. Which of the following existing laws are going to be subsumed under the proposed Social Security Code Bill?**

1. Provident Fund Act, 1952
2. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

3. Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008
4. Contract Labour Act, 1970
5. Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Social Security Code Bill replaces nine laws related to social security. These include the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, and the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.
- The Occupational Safety Code subsumes and replaces 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions. These laws include: Factories Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Dock Workers Act, 1986; Contract Labour Act, 1970; and Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979.

**Q78. Which of the following could be considered as possible benefits of the proposed Vehicle scrappage policy?**

1. Will help reduce Current account deficit.
2. Will help improve Capital account inflows in India.
3. Will help improve Balance of payments position of India.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Reduce current account deficit:**

- The vehicle scrappage policy would help reduce Indian oil dependence. Oil imports form a major proportion of India's import profile
- This would help reduce import of critical raw material from other countries helping improve India's trade balances with such countries.
- The vehicle scrappage policy would help India emerge as a hub for automobile manufacturing as key raw material available from scrapping steel, aluminium and plastic were bound to be recycled, bringing down automobile prices by "20-30%." This would help increase automobile exports from India.
- Increased exports, reduced imports would help reduce India's current account deficit.

**Improve capital account inflows:**

- This policy would **spur investments in the automobile sector**, which could also include capital investments from foreign automobile manufacturers.

**Improve Balance of Payment position of India:**

- Reduced current account deficit and improved capital account inflows will invariably help improve India's Balance of Payment position.
- The balance of payments of a country is the difference between all money flowing into the country in a particular period of time and the outflow of money to the rest of the world.

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

1. CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA.
2. The protein Cas9 is an enzyme that acts like a pair of molecular scissors, capable of cutting strands of DNA.
3. CRISPR technology is a powerful tool for editing genomes.

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

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



d. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- “CRISPR” stands for “Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats”.
- CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA. The protein Cas9 (or “CRISPR-associated”) is an enzyme that acts like a pair of molecular scissors, capable of cutting strands of DNA.
- CRISPR technology was adapted from the natural defence mechanisms of bacteria and archaea (the domain of single-celled microorganisms). These organisms use CRISPR-derived RNA and various Cas proteins, including Cas9, to foil attacks by viruses and other foreign bodies. They do so primarily by chopping up and destroying the DNA of a foreign invader.
- CRISPR technology is a powerful tool for editing genomes. It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function. Its many potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops.

**Q80. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Scrub typhus is a disease caused by a virus called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.
2. Scrub typhus does not spread from person to person.

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:**

- Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*. Scrub typhus is spread to people through bites of infected larval mites.
  - The mites are found in grasslands, forests, bush areas, wood piles, gardens, and beaches.
- Scrub Typhus can also be transmitted through unscreened blood transfusions and unhygienic needles. It does not spread from person to person

**Q81. Consider the following statements with respect to the Kakatiyas:**

1. They were initially the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana.
2. Prataparudra I established the first sovereign dynasty of Kakatiyas.
3. Ganapathi Deva and Rudramadevi are the notable rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The 12th and the 13th centuries saw the emergence of the Kakatiyas.
- They were at first the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana, ruling over a small territory near Warangal.
- Prataparudra I established a sovereign dynasty in 1163 CE.
- Ganapathi Deva and Rudramadevi are the notable rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty.

**Q82. Consider the following statements with respect to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP):**

1. It was started by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs with the assistance of the World Health Organisation.
2. It was launched in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to strengthen the decentralized laboratory based IT enabled disease surveillance system.

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:**

- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs that started in 2004 with the assistance of the World Bank.
- It was started in the year 2004.
- Among its objectives are:
  - Strengthening/maintaining a decentralized laboratory based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends.
  - Detecting and responding to outbreaks in the early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Teams (RRTs).

**Q83. "Tulung La" is located in:**

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Sikkim
- c. Ladakh
- d. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Tulung La is located in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Q84. Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?**

- 1. Chendamangalam Dhoties— Kerala
- 2. Muga Silk – Assam
- 3. Arani Silk – Tamil Nadu
- 4. Kandangi Saree – Karnataka

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Tamil Nadu has got the registration of Geographical Indication Tag for Kandangi Sarees.

**Q85. Consider the following statements with respect to Cyanobacteria:**

- 1. Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic bacteria.
- 2. They contain phycocyanin which they use to capture light for photosynthesis.
- 3. They contain 'chlorophyll a', the photosynthetic pigment that plants use.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic bacteria, some of which are nitrogen-fixing.
- Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms common in water and sometimes found in soil.
- Cyanobacteria get their name from the bluish pigment phycocyanin, which they use to capture light for photosynthesis.
- They also contain 'chlorophyll a', the same photosynthetic pigment that plants use.

**Q86. West Bank is bordered by:**

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Dead Sea
3. Israel
4. Jordan
5. Lebanon

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Dead Sea, Jordan and Israel border the West Bank area.

**Q87. Consider the following statements:**

1. Basel III is an internationally agreed set of measures developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in response to the financial crisis of 2007-09.
2. Basel III regulations are designed to enhance the quality and quantity of capital held by banks.
3. The Secretariat of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision is located at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Basel III is an internationally agreed set of measures developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in response to the financial crisis of 2007-09.
- Basel III regulations are designed to enhance the quality and quantity of capital held by banks.
- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) hosts the Secretariat of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

**Q88. Consider the following statements with respect to Neutrinos:**

1. Neutrinos occur in five different flavours and carry positive electrical charge.
2. They interact with gravity.
3. They are extremely difficult to detect because they have very little interaction with matter.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Neutrinos are elusive subatomic particles created in a wide variety of nuclear processes. Their name, which means "little neutral one," refers to the fact that they carry no electrical charge. Neutrinos occur in three different types, or flavours.
- Of the four fundamental forces in the universe, neutrinos only interact with two — gravity and the weak force, which is responsible for the radioactive decay of atoms.
- Neutrinos are extremely difficult to detect because they have very little (weak) interaction with matter.

**Q89. Which of the following is/are the function/s of Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)?**

1. To protect and improve the quality of the environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the National Capital Region.
2. To enforce the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR.
3. Effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection in NCR.
4. Provision of relief and compensation to the victims of pollution and other environmental damage in the NCR.

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Functions of the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA):

- To protect and improve the quality of the environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the National Capital Region.
- To enforce the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels.

**Q90. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Central Government can issue both treasury bills and bonds.
2. The State Governments issue only bonds.
3. The purpose of issuing State Development Loans is to meet the budgetary needs of state governments.

**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:**

- State Development Loans (SDLs) are dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowing requirements. It is a Government Security (G-Sec).
- In effect, the SDLs are similar to the dated securities issued by the central government.
- The purpose of issuing State Development Loans is to meet the budgetary needs of state governments.
- In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

**Q91. Which of the following is/are incorrect about the Air Quality Index (AQI)?**

1. There are five AQI categories.
2. AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.
3. AQI is calculated for eight major air pollutants.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting daily air quality.
- There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
- AQI is calculated for eight major air pollutants: Ground-level ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Carbon monoxide, Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Ammonia, Lead.

**Q92. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Investigation Agency (NIA):**

1. It acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.

2. As per the NIA Act, Central Government can order NIA to take over the investigation of any scheduled offense anywhere in India.
3. Officers of the NIA are drawn from the Indian Police Service and Indian Revenue Service.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- National Investigation Agency is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.
- It acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- As per the NIA Act, Central Government can order NIA to take over the investigation of any scheduled offense anywhere in India.
- As per the NIA Act, NIA is empowered to deal with terror-related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- Officers of the NIA are drawn from the Indian Police Service and Indian Revenue Service.

**Q93. Consider the following statements with respect to the Consolidated Fund of India:**

1. It includes all revenues received by the government by way of direct taxes and indirect taxes.
2. The money borrowed and receipts from loans given by the government are a part of the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. Revenue generated from asset sale, earnings from state-run companies, disinvestment receipts go into the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Consolidated Fund of India is the most important of all government accounts. Revenues received by the government and expenses made by it, excluding the exceptional items, are part of the Consolidated Fund.
- It includes all revenues received by the government by way of direct taxes and indirect taxes.
- The money borrowed and receipts from loans given by the government are a part of the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Revenue generated from asset sale, earnings from state-run companies, etc. go into the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Money cannot be withdrawn from this fund without the Parliament's approval.

**Q94. Which of the given pair/s is/are NOT correctly matched?**

1. Farakka Barrage – West Bengal
2. Prakasam Barrage – Telangana
3. Jobra Barrage – Maharashtra
4. Hathnikund Barrage – Haryana

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Farakka Barrage – West Bengal
- Prakasam Barrage – Andhra Pradesh
- Jobra Barrage – Odisha
- Hathnikund Barrage – Haryana

**Q95. Consider the following statements with respect to Adjournment Sine Die:**

1. It is the termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President.
2. It means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
3. It ends the very life of the existing House, and a new House is constituted after general elections are held.
4. The presiding officer of a House can call a sitting of the House at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.
- The presiding officer of a House can call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.
- Prorogation is the termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President under article 85(2)(a) of the Constitution.
- Prorogation terminates both the sitting and session of the House. Usually, within a few days after the House is adjourned sine die by the presiding officer, the President issues a notification for the prorogation of the session.

**Q96. India is a signatory to which of the following convention/s?**

1. U.N. Convention on Narcotic Drugs – 1961
2. U.N. Convention on Psychotropic Substances – 1972
3. U.N. Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances – 1988
4. UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime- 2000

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Q97. Consider the following statements with respect to the Innovate in India (I3) program:**

1. It was launched under the National Health Mission.
2. It has received financial assistance from the World Health Organisation.
3. It has been launched to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Innovate in India (I3) program is a flagship program of the Government of India and has received financial assistance from the World Bank.



- It was launched under the National Biopharma Mission.
- It has been launched to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

Q98. Consider the following statements with respect to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA):

1. It is headquartered in China.
2. India is a member of CICA since its inception.
3. For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- It is a forum based on the recognition that there is a close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.
- The key idea of the Conference is based on the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states.
- It was established in 1999.
- It is headquartered at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
- India is a member of CICA since its inception.

Q99. Consider the following statements with respect to Lok Adalats:

1. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), along with other Legal Services Institutions, conducts Lok Adalats.
2. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status.
3. The jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalats is up to Rs. One Lakh.
4. The award of the Permanent Lok Adalat is final and binding on all the parties.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalats is up to Rs. Ten Lakhs.

Q100. Consider the following statements with respect to the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana:

1. It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
2. It is a placement linked skill development program.
3. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the skilling and placement initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

- It is tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
- It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- It is a placement linked skill development program which allows skilling in a PPP mode and assured placements in regular jobs in an organization not owned by the skilled person.

**Q101. Consider the following statements:**

1. Speaker is empowered to place a member of the Lok Sabha under suspension.
2. The Speaker alone has the authority for revocation of the suspension order issued against a Lok Sabha member.
3. The Rajya Sabha Chairman has the power to suspend a member of the house.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business provides for the suspension of MPs by the Speaker of the House.
- While the Speaker is empowered to place a member under suspension, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in him/her. It is for the House, if it so desires, to resolve on a motion to revoke the suspension.
- Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a member.

**Q102. Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):**

1. Pakistan and Singapore are among the founding members of the AIIB.
2. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
3. China, India and Germany are the members with the three largest share of voting power in AIIB.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Countries accepted as AIIB founding members include China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Myanmar, the Philippines, Pakistan, Britain, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany and Spain.
- It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
- The AIIB members with the largest share of voting power are China (26.5%), India (7.6%) and Russia (6.0%).

**Q103. Consider the following statements with respect to the Gulf of Mannar:**

1. The Gulf of Mannar region is one of the four major coral reef areas in India.
2. Gulf of Mannar between Rameswaram and Tuticorin is declared as a Marine National Park and Biosphere Reserve.
3. It a significant habitat for the dugong.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Gulf of Mannar region in Tamil Nadu is one of the four major coral reef areas in India.
- The others are the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- Gulf of Mannar between Rameswaram and Tuticorin covering 21 islands and the surrounding shallow coastal waters was declared as a Marine National Park in 1986.
- The park and its 10 km buffer zone were declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1989.
- Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park is a significant habitat for the dugong (commonly known as sea cows), listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Q104. Consider the following statements with respect to “JIMEX”:**

1. It is a trilateral maritime exercise between India, Japan and the U.S.
2. It is conducted biannually.
3. JIMEX series of exercises commenced in 2012 with a special focus on maritime security cooperation.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- JIMEX is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with a special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.
- JIMEX 20 will showcase a high degree of inter-operability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the spectrum of maritime operations.

**Q105. Which of the following are recognised as Classical languages in India?**

1. Tamil
2. Odia
3. Urdu
4. Hindi
5. Malayalam
6. Maithili

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Currently, six languages enjoy the ‘Classical’ status: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

**Q106. Consider the following statements with respect to the Wakhan Corridor:**

1. It is a narrow strip in North-eastern Afghanistan.
2. It separates Tajikistan from China.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Wakhan Corridor is a narrow strip in North-eastern Afghanistan.

- It separates Tajikistan from Pakistan.

**Q107. Consider the following statements with respect to Copernicus Programme:**

1. It is an Earth observation programme.
2. The programme is co-ordinated and managed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
3. It was previously known as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme (GMES).

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Copernicus is an ambitious Earth observation programme.
- It is coordinated and managed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency, the EU Member States and EU Agencies.
- Copernicus is the new name for the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme, previously known as GMES.

**Q108. Sajjangarh wildlife sanctuary, recently in news, is situated in:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Sajjangarh wildlife sanctuary is located in Rajasthan's Udaipur district.

**Q109. Which of the following are predominantly Kharif crops?**

1. Wheat
2. Rice
3. Cotton
4. Mustard
5. Groundnut

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The crops that are sown in the rainy season are called Kharif crops.
- The crops that are sown in the winter season are called Rabi crops.
- Rice, Cotton, Groundnut, Fennel, Soyabean are Kharif crops.
- The Rabi crops in India are wheat, barley, mustard, sesame and peas.

**Q110. Nagorno-Karabakh region is a subject of dispute between:**

- a. Armenia and Azerbaijan
- b. Bhutan and China
- c. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- d. Israel and Palestine

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The landlocked mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh is the subject of an unresolved dispute between Azerbaijan, in which it lies, and its ethnic Armenian majority, backed by neighbouring Armenia.
- Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh.
- It is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

**Q111. Naujawan Bharat Sabha was founded by:**

- a. Bhagat Singh
- b. Chandra Shekar Azad
- c. Prafulla Chandra Chaki
- d. Khudiram Bose

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Naujawan Bharat Sabha was founded by Bhagat Singh in 1926. Members from the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities were there in the organization. In the year 1929, the association was banned.

**Q112. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. World Economic Outlook: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
2. Global Competitiveness Report: World Economic Forum
3. Ease of Doing Business Report: World Trade Organisation
4. Global Economic Prospects Report: World Bank

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

World Economic Outlook: International Monetary Fund

Global Competitiveness Report: World Economic Forum

Ease of Doing Business Report: World Bank

Global Economic Prospects Report: World Bank

**Q113. Consider the following statements with respect to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):**

1. The RBI Governor chairs the committee and enjoys a veto power.
2. Members of the MPC will be appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.
3. No government official will be nominated to the MPC.

**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: a**

**Explanation:**

- The RBI Governor will chair the committee.
- The governor does not enjoy a veto power to overrule the other panel members but will have a casting vote in case of a tie.
- The committee will have six members. Of the six members, the government will nominate three. No government official will be nominated to the MPC.
- The other three members would be from the RBI with the governor being the ex-officio chairperson.
- Members of the MPC will be appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

**Q114. Consider the following statements with respect to the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):**

1. It is the rate at which banks can borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.

2. The MSF rate is always lesser than the repo rate.
3. An increase in the cap for MSF will decrease liquidity with banks.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Marginal standing facility (MSF) is the rate at which banks can borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.
- It is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India in an emergency situation when inter-bank liquidity dries up completely.
- Banks borrow from the central bank by pledging government securities at a rate higher than the repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility. The MSF rate is pegged 100 basis points or a percentage point above the repo rate.
- Generally, banks are allowed to borrow under MSF within a cap (based on SLR reserves or NDTL). An increase in this cap will open up more avenues for the bank to borrow from the RBI. Hence an increase in the cap for MSF will increase liquidity with banks.

**Q115. Which of these countries border the Caspian Sea?**

1. Iran
2. Russia
3. Armenia
4. Azerbaijan
5. Turkmenistan

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan border the Caspian Sea.

**Q116. Consider the following statements with respect to the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):**

1. It indicates the proportion of highly liquid assets held by banks to ensure their ability to meet short-term obligations.
2. The LCR is calculated by dividing a bank's high-quality liquid assets by its total net cash flows, over a 30-day stress period.

**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:**

- Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) indicates the proportion of highly liquid assets held by banks to ensure their ability to meet short-term obligations.
- The LCR is calculated by dividing a bank's high-quality liquid assets by its total net cash flows, over a 30-day stress period. The high-quality liquid assets include only those with a high potential to be converted easily and quickly into cash.

**Q117. Consider the following statements with respect to Mizoram:**



1. Mizoram shares an international border with Myanmar only.
2. It has the highest proportion of tribal population among all the states in India.
3. Tripura, Manipur, Assam and Nagaland border the state.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Mizoram shares an international border with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Among States, Mizoram has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (94.43) and Uttar Pradesh has the lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (0.57).
- It has the highest proportion of tribal population among all the states in India.
- Tripura, Manipur and Assam border the state.

**Q118. Consider the following statements with respect to Cat Que virus:**

1. It infects both humans and livestock species.
2. It is an arbovirus.
3. Pigs are its primary mammalian hosts.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- CQV belongs to the Simbu serogroup.
- One of the arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses), the CQV may cause febrile illnesses, meningitis, and paediatric encephalitis among humans.
- Arbovirus is an informal name used to refer to any viruses that are transmitted by arthropod vectors.
- It infects both humans and economically important livestock species.
- The presence of CQV in Culex mosquitoes in China and pigs in Vietnam suggests the susceptibility of Asian countries to CQV.
- Pigs are its primary mammalian hosts.

**Q119. Consider the following statements with respect to RBI guidelines on Priority Sector**

**Lending (PSL):**

1. All scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks with a sizable presence in India must set aside 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) for PSL.
2. Regional rural banks, co-operative banks and small finance banks have to allocate 75% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) to PSL.
3. Bank finance to start-ups up to Rs. 50 crore shall be considered as PSL.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q120. Consider the following statements with respect to the Malabar Exercise:**

1. It is a bi-annual Trilateral Maritime Exercise conducted between the navies of India, the United States and Japan.
2. It started off as a bilateral exercise between India and Japan in 1992.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Malabar Exercise is an annual Trilateral Maritime Exercise conducted between the navies of India, the United States and Japan.
- Although it started off in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the US, Japan joined in 2015 to make it a trilateral exercise.

