

UPSC Monthly Magazine Answer Key – October 2020

Q1. Which of the following could be the reason/s for Current Account Deficit?

1. Overvalued exchange rate
2. Increase in exports
3. Long periods of consumer-led economic growth
4. High inflation

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of the goods and services it imports exceeds the value of its exports.
- If the currency is overvalued, imports will be cheaper, and therefore there will be a higher quantity of imports resulting in a Current Account Deficit.
- One of the reasons for the Current Account Surplus is an increase in exports.
- A period of consumer-led economic growth will cause deterioration in the current account. Higher consumer spending will lead to higher spending on imports. The recession of 2009 also led to a temporary improvement in the deficit as consumers cut back on spending.
- If a country's inflation rises faster than its main competitors then it will make the exports less competitive and imports more competitive for that country. This will lead to deterioration in the current account.

Q2. 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. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) is a national initiative introduced by EPCA.
3. The body is constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

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

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

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

Q3. Which of the following have been given the Geographical Indication Tag?

1. Sawantwadi toys
2. Channapatna toys
3. Etikoppaka toys
4. Kondapalli toys
5. Kinhai toys

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Channapatna toys – Karnataka, Etikoppa Toys and Kondapalli Bommalu (Toys) – Andhra Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication Tag. Kinhai toys-Karnataka
- Sawantwadi toys refer to handmade works of art made of wood in Sawantwadi, a town in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.
- To mark the occasion of 151 years of postcards in India, Maharashtra Circle of India Post will release picture postcards on 'Sawantwadi Toys'. The postcard is inspired by the Prime Minister's speech on the country's ability to become a "toy hub".

Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to BrahMos:

1. It is a supersonic cruise missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and Russia.
2. It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant engine in the first stage and a liquid ramjet in the second.

3. It can be launched from land, air, and sea.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.
- Brahmos is named after the rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia.
- BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which brings it to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to 3 Mach speed in cruise phase.
- It can be launched from land, air, and sea.

Q5. Consider the following statements with respect to Beijing Declaration:

- 1. It is an agenda for women's empowerment adopted by the UN.
- 2. The Beijing Declaration was adopted at the end of the 2nd World Conference on Women (WCW).
- 3. It set strategic objectives and actions for the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Beijing Declaration is an agenda for women's empowerment and is considered a key global policy document on gender equality, adopted by the UN.
- The United Nations has organized 4 world conferences on women: Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995).
- The Beijing Declaration was adopted unanimously by the UN at the end of the 4th World Conference on Women (WCW) held in Beijing.
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas of concern and states strategic interventions to deal with these concerns
- Twenty-five years have passed since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was ratified.

Q6. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bongosagar':

1. It is a trilateral Naval Exercise between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
2. Its first edition was held in 2019.

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:

- Exercise Bongosagar, whose first edition was held in 2019, is aimed at developing inter-operability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- It is a Bilateral Exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN).

Q7. Consider the following statements with respect to National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

1. It was constituted under the Companies Act, 1956.
2. The chairperson and judicial members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
3. It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The chairperson and judicial members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India.

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. The regulatory and administrative jurisdiction of minor minerals falls under the purview of state governments.
2. River sand is considered a minor mineral.
3. Power to notify the minor minerals lies with the Central Government.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The power to frame policy and legislation on the minor minerals are entirely subjected and delegated to the State Governments while policy and legislation relating to the major minerals are dealt with by the Ministry of Mines under the Central Government of India.
- Power to notify the minor minerals lies with the Central Government.
- River sand is considered a minor mineral.

Q9. Consider the following statements with respect to Earthquake swarms:

1. It is a series of multiple low magnitude earthquakes.
2. They are the aftershocks of a high magnitude earthquake.
3. Rampur in Himachal Pradesh and Koyna in Maharashtra have experienced Earthquake swarms.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Earthquake swarms are a series of multiple low magnitude earthquakes without a discernible main shock.
- They are different from the aftershocks of a high magnitude earthquake.
- Swarms are observed in volcanic environments, hydrothermal systems, and other active geothermal areas, according to geophysicists.
- Rampur in Himachal Pradesh and Koyna and lathur in Maharashtra have experienced Earthquake swarms.

Q10. Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Marshall Island
2. Soloman Island
3. New Caledonia
4. Vanuatu

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer:a

Explanation:

North to south: Marshall Island, Soloman Island, Vanuatu, New Caledonia.

Q11. “Madhuca Diplostemon” recently in news is:

- a. A species of plant commonly known as mangrove apple, an indicator of environmental changes in mangrove ecosystem.
- b. A threatened species of tree in the Western Ghats rediscovered after a gap of about 180 years.
- c. A bacteria that causes peptic ulcer.
- d. A is a semi-aquatic frog indigenous to Western Ghats that actively breeds in the monsoon.

Answer:b

Explanation:

- The tree “Madhuca Diplostemon” which was long believed to be extinct has been rediscovered after a gap of more than 180 years from a sacred grove in Kerala.
- The tree Madhuca Diplostemon belongs to the Sapotaceae family.
- It is a threatened species of the Western Ghats whose specimen was first collected in 1835.
- The specimens were never collected again and botanical explorations in the Eastern and Western Ghats failed to locate the species.

Q12. Consider the following statements:

1. Sun's magnetic field reverses its polarity roughly every 11 years.
2. A plage is a bright region in the chromosphere of the Sun typically found in regions of the chromosphere near sunspots.
3. Solar filaments are large regions of very dense, cool gas, held in place by magnetic fields.

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:

- The magnetic field of the Sun is unique. Unlike many other celestial bodies Sun's magnetic field reverses its polarity roughly every 11 years.
- A plage is a bright region in the chromosphere of the Sun typically found in regions of the chromosphere near sunspots.
- Plages provide information about magnetic field locations and strength.
- Solar filaments are large regions of very dense, cool gas, held in place by magnetic fields.
- They are formed along magnetic neutral lines. Their presence represents the magnetic field distribution beneath.

Q13. Consider the following statements with respect to Nagorno-Karabakh:

1. It is a mountainous territory bordered by the Caspian Sea in the east.
2. It is internationally recognized as part of Armenia.
3. Lake Sevan is located within Nagorno – Karabakh.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Nagorno-Karabakh, a landlocked mountainous territory has been at the centre of the clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- It is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.
- Lake Sevan is located in Armenia and is not within Nagorno Karabakh.

Q14. Involuntary administration of Narco analysis test would be an intrusion of which one of the following articles of the Indian Constitution?

- a. Article 18
- b. Article 21
- c. Article 32
- d. Article 25

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Involuntary administration of Narco analysis test is also widely believed to be an intrusion of the right to privacy of an individual, a right that is guaranteed as a part of the right to life & personal liberty given under Article 21.
- A Supreme Court judgment of 2010 has held that involuntary administration of narco or lie detector tests is an intrusion into a person's mental privacy.

Q15. Consider the following statements with respect to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

1. Established under the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934, it is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings.
2. It oversees Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professionals and Information Utilities in India.
3. The members of IBBI include representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Law and Corporate Affairs, and the Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established in 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
- The members of IBBI include representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Law and Corporate Affairs, and the Reserve Bank of India.

Q16. Consider the following statements:

1. India has set a target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, comprising 100 GW of solar capacity.
2. India is third among the countries with the largest solar capacity in the world.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- India has set a target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, comprising 300 GW of solar capacity.
- India is third among the countries with the largest solar capacity in the world.

Q17. Consider the following statements with respect to Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI):

1. It is a subsidiary of World Health Organisation.
2. It takes donations to finance independent research projects to develop vaccines against emerging infectious diseases (EID).
3. CEPI was formally launched in 2017 at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is an international non-profit foundation that takes donations to finance independent research projects to develop vaccines against emerging infectious diseases (EID).
- It is not a subsidiary of the World Health Organisation.
- While CEPI was conceived in 2015, it was formally launched in 2017 at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Q18. Consider the following statements with respect to Hepatitis C:

1. Hepatitis C virus belongs to the same family as Zika Virus.
2. It causes inflammation of the liver.
3. It is a positive-sense single-stranded RNA virus.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Both Hepatitis C and Zika Virus belong to the family Flaviviridae.
- The Flaviviridae are a family of positive, single-stranded, enveloped RNA viruses.
- Hepatitis C is a viral infection that causes liver inflammation, sometimes leading to serious liver damage. The hepatitis C virus (HCV) spreads through contaminated blood.

Q19. Consider the following statements with respect to Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART):

1. It is a missile-assisted release of heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo system.
2. It is an addition to Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capabilities of India.
3. It is an indigenously developed system by laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- SMART is a missile-assisted release of lightweight anti-submarine torpedo system for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range. Heavy-weight torpedoes are significantly larger in diameter.
- It is an addition to Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capabilities of India.
- It is an indigenously developed system by laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Q20. Consider the following statements:

1. Agriculture falls within the legislative competence of State governments.
2. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) announces MSP for various crops based on the recommendations of the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs.
3. Minimum Support Price (MSP) has no legislative backing.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces MSP for various crops at the beginning of each sowing season based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) has no legislative backing.
- Agriculture falls within the legislative competence of State governments, through Entry 14 of the State List as mentioned in schedule 7 of the Indian constitution.

Q21. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the appointment of external members to the Monetary Policy Committee?

1. They are appointed for a term of three years.
2. They are not eligible for re-appointment.

Options:

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

Answer:b

Explanation:

- The Monetary Policy Committee is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India.
- The committee comprises six members – three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.

- According to the RBI Act, external members of the MPC will be appointed by the central government “from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy.”
- The previous three external members were appointed for a term of 4 years.
- All the central government nominees are not eligible to be re-appointed.

Q22. Which of the following is not a report published by the International Monetary Fund?

- a. World Economic Outlook
- b. Global Financial Stability Report
- c. Fiscal Monitor
- d. Global Competitiveness Report

Answer: d

Explanation:

- While the World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report, and Fiscal Monitor are flagship reports of the IMF, the Global Competitiveness Report is published by the World Economic Forum.

Q23. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme of the Ministry of Electronics and IT?

1. It is applicable only to the domestic firms and global firms are barred from applying under the scheme.
2. The scheme shall extend an incentive of 40% to 60% on incremental sales (over the base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of 10 years subsequent to the base year as defined.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT has approved 16 proposals by electronics manufacturers under its Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. The approved firms include five international mobile phone makers and five domestic firms.

- The scheme offers a production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.
- The scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year as defined.

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

1. Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes.
2. Article 263 provides for the establishment of Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It allows the Parliament by law to provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley. Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted two laws i.e. the River Boards Act (1956) and the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956.
- The provisions of Article 263 deal with Inter-state council. Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.

Q25. Consider the following statements regarding CRISPR:

1. CRISPR-Cas9 was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system in bacteria.
2. CRISPR-Cas9 technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands that contain genetic information.
3. A women-only team has been awarded the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the CRISPR-Cas9 technique.

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:

All the statements are correct.

Q26. Raghavan Committee dealt with:

- a. Competition Policy and Competition Law
- b. Data Protection Framework for India
- c. Criminal Justice System in India
- d. Agricultural Credit System

Answer: a

Explanation:

- S. V. S. Raghavan headed the Central Government committee set up for advising policy guidelines on competition and corporate governance, which later came to be known as SVS Raghavan Committee.
- On the recommendation of the Raghavan Committee, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002.

Q27. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

1. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has replaced the Competition Appellate Tribunal.
2. It is the Adjudicating Authority for insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
3. It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has replaced the Competition Appellate Tribunal.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- NCLAT is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is a quasi-judicial body in India adjudicating issues concerning companies in the country. The NCLT is the Adjudicating Authority for insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Q28. Which of the following statements most accurately describes “Pratyush” and “Mihir”, recently seen in the news?

- a. They are two of the fastest supercomputers built for weather forecasting in India.
- b. They are indigenously developed advanced Doppler weather radars.
- c. They are the anti-submarine warfare systems developed by DRDO laboratories.
- d. They are both indigenously built Medium Range air-to-air missiles.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The IMD has begun testing and using ensemble models for weather forecast through its 6.8 peta flops supercomputers “Pratyush” and “Mihir”.
- They are two of the fastest supercomputers built for weather forecasting in India.

Q29. Consider the following statements:

1. Nobel Prizes in the fields of Chemistry, Economic Science, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine were established as per the will of the Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel in 1895.
2. By far, only one women-only team has been awarded the Nobel Chemistry Prize.

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:

- Nobel Prizes in the fields of Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine was established as per the will of the Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel in 1895.
- By far, only one women-only team has been awarded the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the CRISPR-Cas9 technique.
- In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank, Sweden’s central bank, established the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- The Prize in Economic Sciences is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden, according to the same principles as for the Nobel Prizes that have been awarded since 1901.

- As it is not one of the prizes that Alfred Nobel established in his will in 1895, it is not a Nobel Prize.

Q30. Consider the following statements with respect to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. CAG audits all expenditures from the contingency fund of India and the public account of India as well as those of the states.
2. CAG audits the accounts related to expenditure from the consolidated fund of India, the consolidated fund of each state and UTs having a legislative assembly.
3. The Indian Constitution lays down the qualification criteria for the CAG.
4. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the audit reports submitted by the CAG.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India audits all expenditures from the contingency fund of India and the public account of India as well as those of the states.
- CAG audits the accounts related to expenditure from the consolidated fund of India, the consolidated fund of each state and UTs having a legislative assembly.
- The Indian Constitution does not lay down the qualification criteria for the CAG.
- Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the audit reports submitted by the CAG.

Q31. Which of the following committee/s or commission/s are associated with “Scheduled Tribes”?

1. Lokur Committee
2. Bhuria Commission
3. Xaxa Committee
4. Mandal Commission

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Lokur Committee (1965) was set up to look into the criteria for defining Scheduled Tribes.
- Bhuria Commission (2002-2004) focused on a wide range of issues from the 5th Schedule to tribal land and forests, health and education, the working of Panchayats and the status of tribal women.
- Xaxa Committee was mandated to examine the socio-economic, educational and health status of tribal communities and recommend appropriate interventional measures to improve the same.
- The Mandal Commission, or the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBC), was established in 1979 with a mandate to “identify the socially or educationally backward classes” of India.

Q32. Consider the following pairs with respect to Nagaland’s borders:

1. Myanmar – East
2. Arunachal Pradesh – West
3. Manipur – South
4. Assam – West

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Nagaland borders the states of Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Assam to the north, Myanmar to the east and Manipur to the south.

Q33. Which of the following is not a species of butterfly found in India?

- a. Indian Jezebel
- b. Krishna Peacock
- c. Orange Oakleaf
- d. Garden Tiger

Answer: d

Explanation:

- A citizen poll was conducted to identify the national butterfly.
- The nationwide poll was organised by the National Butterfly Campaign Consortium.
- The three top-voted butterflies are Indian Jezebel, Krishna Peacock, Orange Oakleaf.

- Garden Tiger is a brown-and-white moth.

Q34. “Cnemaspis anandani” recently in news, is:

- a. A rock-dwelling gecko endemic to the Western Ghats
- b. A dung beetle from Tawang
- c. A wild ginger variety discovered from the forests in Nagaland
- d. A wild fern found in Kerala

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have released their annual publications, ‘Animal Discoveries 2019’ and ‘Plant Discoveries 2019’ respectively.
- The publications include:
 - A rock-dwelling gecko, *Cnemaspis anandani*, endemic to the Western Ghats.
 - *Sphaerotheca magadha*, a burrowing frog discovered in the farm fields of Jharkhand.
 - *Enoplotrupes tawangensis*, a dung beetle from Tawang.
 - *Amomum nagamiense*, a wild ginger variety, discovered from the forest behind Kohina Zoo in Nagaland.
 - *Pteris subiriana*, a wild fern found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Q35. Consider the following statements with respect to “Langa & Manganiar”:

1. They are famous for their folk dance called Kalbeliya.
2. They are Muslim communities predominantly residing in the Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan.
3. They play a traditional percussion instrument called “Khartal”.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Langa and Manganiyar are hereditary professional Muslim musicians mostly residing in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan.
- Khartal is a traditional percussion instrument, it is an important part of Rajasthani music.
- This instrument is played by the Manganiyars and the Langa communities in Jaisalmer and Barmer.

- Kalbelia or Kabeliya is a dance from Rajasthan, performed by the Kalbeliya tribe.

Q36. Kyrgyzstan shares borders with:

1. China
2. Uzbekistan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Russia
6. Kazakhstan

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Kyrgyzstan shares borders with Kazakhstan, China, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Q37. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)?

1. It aims to measure the location specific air quality of the cities.
2. It is an initiative under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) is a national initiative introduced by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city.
- The system is indigenously developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and is operationalized by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- It provides a real-time air quality index on a 24×7 basis with colour-coded indicators. It also provides a 72 hour advance forecast.

Q38. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the World Food Programme?

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. It was established in the year 2005, in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The World Food Programme was founded in the year 1961.
- Initially, it had a mandate of three years. But by 1965, the world food programme had proved its worth to the world after responding to multiple crises and was enshrined as a fully fledged UN programme. Unlike the Food and Agriculture Organization, the WFP is not a specialized agency of the UN.

Q39. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to lesser Flamingos?

1. They are found spread across the continents of Africa, South America and Asia.
2. The Spirulina algae on which they primarily feed on is the reason for their pink colour.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*) is a species of flamingo occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and north-western India.



- The lesser flamingo is the smallest species of flamingo, though it is a tall and large bird by most standards.
- This species feeds primarily on *Spirulina* algae which grow only in very alkaline lakes. Although blue-green in colour, the algae contain the photosynthetic pigments that give the birds their pink colour.

Q40. Which of the following countries border Kyrgyzstan?

1. Tajikistan
2. Afghanistan
3. Uzbekistan
4. Kazakhstan
5. China
6. Turkmenistan

Options:

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

Answer: c

Q41. Consider the following statements:

1. Antibiotics are used to treat infections by viruses and bacteria.
2. Antibiotic resistance means that the body of the human or animal is becoming resistant to antibiotics.
3. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be transmitted between humans and animals.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Antibiotics are strong medicines that treat bacterial infections. Antibiotics won't treat viral infections because they can't kill viruses.
- Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials) from working against it.
- Antibiotic resistance does not mean the body is becoming resistant to antibiotics; it is that bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them.
- Antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be transmitted between humans and animals.

Q42. "Madrid Principles" recently in news, is related to:

- a. Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- b. Israel-Palestine conflict
- c. Korean War
- d. South China Sea Dispute

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Madrid Principles are one of the proposed peace settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
- The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) consisting of Russia, France and the U.S. had put forward in 2007 the Madrid Principles as a guiding principle for a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Q43. Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?

1. Padubidri Beach – Kerala
2. Radhanagar beach – Gujarat
3. Golden Beach – Odisha
4. Rushikonda Beach – Andhra Pradesh

5. Ghoghala Beach – Diu

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In 2019, the Indian Government had identified 13 beaches in the country for blue flag certification.
- The eight Indian beaches which have now been given this tag are Shivrajpur (Dwarka, Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden Beach (Puri, Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

Q44. SVAMITVA scheme has been launched for:

- a. Making collateral-free working capital loans available to street vendors.
- b. Provision of an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- c. Promoting entrepreneurship across Indian tribal communities by connecting agriculture and forest produce with markets using technology and creating self-sustainable enterprises.
- d. Supporting innovations by the soldiers in the Indian Armed Forces.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
- The scheme uses drone and satellite technology to map physical assets in rural areas and aims at digitisation of property records, easing the way for village dwellers to access institutionalised credit against property.
- It was launched to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

Q45. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is an organisational unit of the UN Secretariat set up to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- 2. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) is published by UNDRR.
- 3. Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

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:

All the statements are correct.

Q46. The Island of Kastellorizo is located in:

- a. Mediterranean Sea
- b. Black Sea
- c. South China Sea
- d. East China Sea

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Kastellorizo Island also known as Meis is located in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Q47. Consider the following statements with respect to Line of Credit (LoC):

1. It is a soft loan provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries.
2. The LoCs promote exports of Indian goods and services.
3. Under an LoC, 75% of the value of the contract must be sourced from India.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Line of Credit is not a grant but a 'soft loan' provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.
- The LOCs also help to promote exports of Indian goods and services, as 75% of the value of the contract must be sourced from India.

Q48. Which of the following countries are members of both the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

1. India
2. Hong Kong
3. United States
4. Pakistan
5. Australia

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Pakistan is not a member state of FATF. It is an FATF Associate Member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). FATF Asia-Pacific Group is one of the regional affiliates of the Financial Action Task Force.
- India, China, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand Singapore and the United States are members of both APG as well as head FATF.

Q49. Which of the following pollutants are considered by SAFAR to measure air quality?

1. Mercury
2. Carbon Dioxide
3. Ozone
4. Toluene
5. Benzene

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Pollutants monitored by SAFAR to measure the air quality are: PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, and Mercury.

Q50. India is a member of which of the following?

1. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
2. Eurasian Group (EAG)
3. Asia Pacific Group (APG)

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Eurasian Group (EAG) as well as Asia Pacific Group (APG).
- India became an Observer at FATF in 2006. In 2010 India was taken in as the 34th country member of FATF.
- The Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) was established on 6 October 2004 in Moscow by the decision of the Inaugural Conference and at the initiative of the Russian Federation, supported by the FATF, IMF, World Bank and several other countries. The EAG is an FATF-style regional body and became an Associate Member of the FATF in June 2010.
- Pakistan is not a member state of FATF. It is an FATF Associate Member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). FATF Asia-Pacific Group is one of the regional affiliates of the Financial Action Task Force.

Q51. Consider the following statements with respect to eVIN:

1. It is an indigenously developed technology system that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
2. It is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs that started in 2004 with the assistance of the World Bank.
3. It is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM).

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In 2015, in partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNDP supported the Government of India to launch the electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), an electronic logistics management information system (eLMIS) that uses smartphone and cloud-based technology to capture real-time data across the entire vaccine cold chain, from the zonal store depots to the last-mile health facilities.
- Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is an indigenously developed technology system that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
- It is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Q52. “Aquaponics” refers to:

- a. The technique of cultivating, harvesting, freshwater and saltwater fish as well as shellfish in a controlled environment.
- b. The technique of growing plants without soil.
- c. The technique used for regulating water temperatures to prevent Coral Bleaching.
- d. The technique of growing both fishes as well as plants in an integrated manner.

Answer: d**Explanation:**

- Aquaponics is an emerging technique in which both fishes as well as plants are grown in an integrated manner.
- Aquaponics is a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics.
 - Aquaculture is growing fish and other aquatic animals.
 - Hydroponics is growing plants without soil.

Q53. Consider the following statements with respect to Thalassemia:

1. It is a blood disorder commonly characterised by the abnormal production of haemoglobin in the body.
2. Bone marrow transplant is the only cure available for the disease.
3. Thalassemia is contagious.

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: b**Explanation:**

- Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder commonly characterised by the abnormal production of haemoglobin in the body.
- Bone marrow transplant is the only cure available for the disease.
- Thalassemias are not contagious.

Q54. Consider the following statements with respect to retreating monsoon season:

1. The South-Eastern coast of India receives a lot of rainfall.
2. With the onset of retreating monsoon, skies become clearer and clouds disappear.
3. The weather during the retreating monsoon is dry in North India.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Q55. Philip's curve describes the relationship between which of the following?

- a. Inflation and unemployment
- b. Tax rates and tax revenue
- c. Demand and Supply of money
- d. Growth and equality

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Philip's curve describes the relationship between inflation and unemployment.
- Phillips curve suggests there is an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment.

Q56. Consider the following statements about the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) program:

1. The project is partly funded by the Asian Development Bank.
2. The project covers all the states across India.

3. It would be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) program would be under the National Education Policy 2020.
- The project is partly funded by the World Bank.
- The project covers 6 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
- The identified States will be supported by various interventions for improving the quality of education.
- It would be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Q57. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a classical dance form that was initially practiced by male dancers only.
2. It includes a display of dexterity of the dancer's footwork through techniques such as dancing on the rim of a brass plate and with a pitcher full of water on the head.

The dance form being talked about is:

- a. Bharatanatyam
- b. Mohiniattam
- c. Kuchipudi
- d. Sattriya

Answer: c

Q58. Consider the following statements with respect to Nandankanan Zoological Park:

1. It is located in Tamil Nadu.
2. It is the first zoo in India to become a member of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA).
3. It is recognized as a leading zoo for the breeding of the Indian pangolin and white tiger.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Nandankanan Zoological Park is located in Odisha. It is the first zoo in India to become a member of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA). It is recognized as a leading zoo for the breeding of the Indian pangolin and white tiger.

Q59. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- 1. Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty
- 2. Sustainable Development Goal 2: Gender Equality
- 3. Sustainable Development Goal 5: Quality Education
- 4. Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Sustainable development goals

SDG 1 No Poverty	SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	SDG 13 Climate Action
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	SDG 14 Life Below Water
SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being	SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	SDG 15 Life on Land
SDG 4 Quality Education	SDG 10 Reduced Inequality	SDG 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

SDG 5 Gender Equality

SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goal

SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Q60. Consider the following statements with respect to Formosa Strait:

1. It separates Taiwan and mainland China.
2. It is a part of the South China Sea and connects to the Sea of Japan to the north.

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:

- Formosa Strait, also known as Taiwan Strait, separates Taiwan and mainland China.
- The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.

Q61. Consider the following statements with respect to the Giant Metrewave Radio

Telescope (GMRT):

1. It is an array of three hundred fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes.
2. It is located in Narayangaon, near Pune in India.
3. It is operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) is an array of thirty fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes.
- It is located in Narayangaon, near Pune in India.
- It is operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Q62. Which of the following statements best describes “Knesset”?

- a. It is the unicameral national legislature of Israel.
- b. It is a special type of legal assembly, in the traditional code of laws of the Pashtun people.
- c. It is the federal authority of the United Arab Emirates formed to represent the general Emirati people.
- d. It is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in Afghanistan.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel.
- As the legislative branch of the Israeli government, the Knesset passes all laws, elects the President and Prime Minister (although the latter is ceremonially appointed by the President), approves the cabinet, and supervises the work of the government.

Q63. Consider the following statements with respect to the New START Treaty:

1. It is a treaty for cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.
2. The treaty was signed between the United States, the Russian Federation and China.
3. New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT).

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
- It is the last major nuclear arms reduction accord between Russia and the U.S.
- The New START deal was signed in April 2010 but went into force in February 2011.

- New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was due to expire in December 2012.

Q64. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Reed Bank' island:

1. It is an oil-rich and gas-rich island located in the Caspian Sea.
2. The disputed island is claimed by Turkey and Greece.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The oil-rich and gas-rich Reed Bank Island is located in the South China Sea. The disputed island is claimed by the People's Republic of China and the Philippines.

Q65. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Carbon fertilization effect?

1. It is the increased rate of photosynthesis in plants that results from increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
2. It is witnessed in all types of plants except in C4 variety of plants.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Carbon fertilization effect is the increased rate of photosynthesis in plants that results from increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- However, it has to be noted that the Carbon fertilization varies depending on the plant species, the temperature, and the availability of water and nutrients.
- The C4 plant varieties have been found to thrive under increased carbon dioxide levels and temperatures. It was found that there was improved heat tolerance, and suppressed heat-induced damages in such varieties.
- Examples of C4 species are the economically important crops corn or maize, sugarcane, sorghum and millets, as well as the switchgrass which has been utilized as a source of biofuel.

Q66. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to the UN Human Rights Council?

1. The UNHRC was reconstituted from its predecessor organisation, the UN Commission on Human Rights.
2. The members are elected from the UN general assembly for a term of 2 years.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

UN Human Rights Council:

- The UNHRC is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights across the world.
- Apart from the UNHRC, the UN has also set up a number of treaty-based organisations to monitor compliance with human rights standards and international human rights treaties such as the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- The UNHRC was reconstituted from its predecessor organisation, the UN Commission on Human Rights to help overcome the “credibility deficit” of the previous organisation.
- The UNHRC is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The council has representatives drawn from the General Assembly.
- The UNHRC has **47 members** serving at any time with elections held to fill up seats every year, based on allocations to regions across the world to ensure geographical representation.
- Each elected member serves for a **term of three years**. Countries are disallowed from occupying a seat for more than two consecutive terms.

Q67. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to superconductivity?

1. Superconductivity is exhibited in certain materials when its temperature becomes lower than a “critical temperature.”
2. During superconductivity, the magnetic flux fields are expelled from the material and is referred to as the Meissner effect.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Superconductivity is a set of physical properties observed in certain materials where electrical resistance vanishes and magnetic flux fields are expelled from the material (Meissner effect).
- Any material exhibiting these properties is a superconductor.
- A superconductor conducts such behaviour when it becomes colder than a “critical temperature.”

Q68. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Sir Syed Ahmed Khan?

1. He founded The Mohammedan Literary Society in 1875.
2. He is considered a revivalist.
3. He was a strong supporter of the work of the Indian National Congress.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was an Islamic reformer and philosopher of nineteenth century British India.
- He is considered a reformist rather than a revivalist. He opposed ignorance, superstitions and evil customs prevalent in Indian Muslim society. His advocacy of Islam’s rationalist (Mu‘tazila) tradition, and at broader, radical reinterpretation of the Quran to make it compatible with science and modernity, continues to influence the global Islamic reformation.
- Believing that the future of Muslims was threatened by the rigidity of their orthodox outlook, Sir Ahmad began promoting Western–style scientific education by founding modern schools and journals.
- In 1875, he founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, the first Muslim university in Southern Asia which later became the Aligarh Muslim University.
- During his career, Syed repeatedly called upon Muslims to loyally serve the British Raj and promoted the adoption of Urdu as the lingua franca of all Indian Muslims. Syed criticized the Indian National Congress.
- In 1878, Sir Syed was nominated to the Viceroy’s Legislative Council.
- Social reforms in the Muslim society were initiated by Abdul Latif who founded “The Mohammedan Literary Society” in Bengal.

Q69. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Bhima originates in the Belgaum district of Karnataka.

2. The majority of its catchment area or basin area is spread across the state of Karnataka.
3. It is a major tributary of the Godavari River.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Bhima River is a major tributary of the Krishna River.
- It originates near Bhimashankar Temple in the Bhimashankar hills in Pune District, Maharashtra state.
- It flows through Maharashtra and Karnataka and seventy-five percent of the basin lies in the state of Maharashtra.
- Bhima merges into the Krishna along the border between Karnataka and Telangana.
- Major tributaries of the Bhima river are the Sina and Nira rivers.

Q70. Which of the following are parameters considered in the compilation of the Global Hunger Index?

1. Under-nourishment
2. Child wasting
3. Child stunting
4. Child mortality
5. Anaemia
6. Nutritional deficiency diseases

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The four indicators considered for the compilation of the GHI include the following:
 - **UNDERNOURISHMENT:** the share of the population that is undernourished (that is, whose caloric intake is insufficient);
 - **CHILD WASTING:** the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (that is, who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);

- **CHILD STUNTING:** the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (that is, who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and
- **CHILD MORTALITY:** the mortality rate of children under the age of five (in part, a reflection of the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

Q71. Which of the following laws does not come under the ambit of the National Green Tribunal?

- a. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- b. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- c. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- d. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The NGT deals with the following seven laws related to the environment:
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
 - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 - The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Two important acts – Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction.

Q72. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the National Food Security Act?

1. The Act legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
2. It also recognizes some maternity entitlements.

Options:

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

Answer:c

Explanation:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System. About two-thirds of the population, therefore, is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidised foodgrains.
- Under the provisions of the Act, beneficiaries of the PDS are entitled to 5 kilograms per person per month of cereals at the following prices:
 - Rice at Rs. 3 per kg
 - Wheat at Rs. 2 per kg
 - Coarse grains (millet) at Rs. 1 per kg
- Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free cereals.
- It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Q73. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. Currently, India is the largest sugar-producing country in the world.
2. Maharashtra is the largest sugar-producing state in India.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Brazil has historically been the world's largest sugar producer but ceded its place to India in the 2018/2019 crop year. Currently, however, Brazil continues to remain the largest sugar producer in the world. India is the world's second-largest producer after Brazil.
- The major sugar-producing states in India include Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra with UP accounting for the largest production.

Q74. The 'Mutual Logistics Support Agreement' was signed by India with which of the following countries?

- a. Australia
- b. Russia
- c. Japan
- d. The U.S.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In June 2020, India and Australia signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) and also announced a joint declaration on a shared vision for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Q75. Who among the following became the first Indian and the first elected president of the Central Legislative Assembly?

- a. G.V. Mavalankar
- b. Vithalbhai J Patel
- c. Sachidanand Sinha
- d. Rajendra Prasad

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Vithalbhai J Patel was the first elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1925 and was re-elected in 1927.
- Vithalbhai J Patel was instrumental in laying down well-defined rules, regulations, practices and procedures for the smooth conduct of the business of the House. A bold defender of the rights and privileges of members, he succeeded in his efforts of creating a separate office for the Legislative Assembly, independent of and unconnected with the Government, in 1928.

Related background:

- The institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms).
- At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President respectively and the same nomenclature continued till 1947.
- Before 1921, the Governor-General of India used to preside over the meetings of the Central Legislative Council.
- In 1921, Frederick Whyte and Sachidanand Sinha were appointed by the Governor-General of India as the first Speaker and the first Deputy Speaker (respectively) of the Central Legislative Assembly.
- In 1925, Vithalbhai J. Patel became the first Indian and the first elected president of the Central Legislative Assembly.
- The Government of India Act of 1935 changed the nomenclatures of President and Deputy President of the Central Legislative Assembly to Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively.
- G.V. Mavalankar and Ananthasayanam Ayyangar had the distinction of being the first Speaker and the first Deputy Speaker (respectively) of the Lok Sabha.

Q76. The 90-90-90 strategy is associated with which of the following?

- a. Green House Gas emission mitigation
- b. Poverty alleviation measure
- c. AIDS epidemic
- d. Achieving land degradation neutrality

Answer: c

Explanation:

- 90-90-90 marks treatment targets to help end the AIDS epidemic.
- Although many strategies will be needed to halt the AIDS epidemic, it will be impossible to end the epidemic without bringing [HIV](#) treatment to all who need it.
 - There are the envisaged goals of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.
- The main targets under the 90-90-90 strategy include the following:
 - By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status.
 - By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy.
 - By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Q77. Consider the following statements with respect to Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project:

1. It is in Andhra Pradesh.
2. It is being built at the confluence of the Pranhita and Godavari rivers.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is being constructed in Telangana.
- It is being built at the confluence of Pranhita and Godavari Rivers.

Q78. Consider the following statements with respect to FELUDA:

1. It is a paper-strip test for SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis.
2. The test uses an indigenously-developed, cutting-edge CRISPR technology.
3. The test will deploy Cas9 protein.

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:

- FELUDA has been so named because technically it is an acronym and stands for FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay.
- It is a paper-strip test for SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis.
- The test uses an indigenously-developed, cutting-edge CRISPR technology. CRISPR is a genome-editing technology to diagnose diseases.
- The test will deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein.

Q79. “Sunflower Movement” is associated with:

- a. Hong-Kong
- b. Tibet
- c. Taiwan
- d. Nepal

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Sunflower Movement or the Sunflower Student Movement is associated with a protest movement driven by a coalition of students and civic groups in the Legislative Yuan and, later, also the Executive Yuan of Taiwan.
- A controversial trade agreement sparked the “Sunflower Movement” in 2014 where students and activists occupied Taiwan’s parliament protesting against what they call China’s growing influence over Taiwan.
- The term “Sunflower Student Movement” referred to the use of sunflowers by the protesters as a symbol of hope.

Q80. Consider the following statements:

1. Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by the World Economic Forum.
2. India has shown no improvement in its GI ranking for the last 5 years.
3. India has never been among the top 50 in the Global Innovation Index.

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: d

Explanation:

- Global Innovation Index 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.
- In the Global Innovation Index 2020, India is at the 48th position.
- India has shown improvement in its innovation ranking for the last 5 years.
- India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and Research and Development-intensive global companies.

Q81. Consider the following statements:

1. Malabar Exercise started as a bilateral Japan-India naval exercise in 1995.
2. Australia is included as a permanent participant in the Malabar Exercise from the year 2020.
3. Australia has never participated in the Malabar Exercise before 2020.

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

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

Answer: d**Explanation:**

- Malabar Exercise started as a bilateral U.S.-India naval exercise in 1992.
- It transformed into a trilateral exercise in 2015 with the inclusion of the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force on a permanent basis.
- India has invited Australia to the annual Malabar naval exercise to be held in 2020. However, it has not yet been formally included as a permanent participant.

Q82. Consider the following statements with respect to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

1. It is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
2. It is an initiative of the State Bank of India.
3. It is incorporated as a Not for Profit Company.

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

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

- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- The NPCI has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company, with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.

Q83. Consider the following statements with respect to Thanjavur Brihadeeshwara Temple:

1. It is located on the banks of River Kaveri.
2. The temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. The temple is popularly known as Dakshina Meru.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Brihadeeshwara Temple, also called Rajarajesvaram is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in the south bank of Kaveri river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- The temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The temple is popularly known as Dakshina Meru.

Q84. Consider the following statements with respect to National Automated Clearing House (NACH):

1. It is an offline web-based system for bulk push and pull transactions.
2. It is being implemented by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

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:

- National Automated Clearing House (NACH) is an offline web-based system for bulk push and pull transactions.
- It is implemented by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate interbank, high volume, electronic transactions which are repetitive and periodic in nature.
- NACH System can be used for making bulk transactions towards the distribution of subsidies, dividends, interest, salary, pension, etc. and also for bulk transactions towards the collection of payments pertaining to telephone, electricity, water, loans, investments in mutual funds, insurance premium, etc.

Q85. Consider the following statements with respect to Organization of American States (OAS):

1. OAS brings together all 35 independent states of the Americas.
2. European Union, India, China and Pakistan are permanent observers of OAS.
3. The four main pillars of the organisation are democracy, human rights, security, and development.

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

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Q86. Which of these foundational military communication agreements have been signed by India and the U.S.?

1. General Security of Military Information Agreement
2. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement
3. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
4. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- India and the US have already signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement.
- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) has not yet been signed.

Q87. Consider the following statements:

1. The Disorders Inquiry Committee of 1919 was appointed by the Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu.
2. The committee did not have Indian representation.
3. The committee was appointed in the aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
4. It was tasked with the investigation of the disturbances in Bombay, Delhi and Punjab in 1919.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Disorders Inquiry Committee of 1919 or the Hunter Committee of 1919 was appointed by the Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu.
- The committee was appointed in the aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- It was tasked with the investigation of the disturbances in Bombay, Delhi and Punjab in 1919 and their causes.
- The committee also had Indian representation.

Q88. Consider the following statements with respect to INS Kavaratti:

1. It is an anti-submarine warfare corvette built under Project 28.
2. The ship has up to 90% indigenous content.
3. It belongs to the same class as INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt and INS Kiltan.

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: d

Explanation:

- INS Kavaratti is the last of the four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built under Project 28 (Kamorta class), by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The first three built under the Kamorta class – INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt and INS Kiltan have been commissioned.
- The ship has up to 90% indigenous content and the use of carbon composites for the superstructure is a commendable feat achieved in Indian shipbuilding.

Q89. Consider the following statements about the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD):

1. It has its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau, established in 1909.
2. The Institute has its headquarters in Patna, Bihar.
3. It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), formerly National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), had its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau, established at Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) in 1909.
- The Institute has its headquarters in Delhi.
- It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Q90. Consider the following statements with respect to Parliamentary Privilege:

1. It refers to rights and immunities enjoyed by the Parliament as an institution and by Members of Parliament in their individual capacity.
2. It is provided under Article 105 of the Constitution.
3. Immunity to a member from any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee is one of the Parliamentary Privileges specified in the Indian Constitution.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Q91. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Foreign Currency Assets, Special Drawing Rights, gold reserves are a part of India's Forex Reserves.
- 2. India has never featured among the top 10 countries with highest Forex Reserves.

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:

- Forex reserves or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves) are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority.
- Foreign Currency Assets, Special Drawing Rights, gold reserves are a part of India's Forex Reserves.
- According to RBI data, India's foreign exchange reserves touched a lifetime high of \$555.12 billion after it surged by \$3.615 billion in the week ended October 16, 2020. With this development, India is ranked 5th among the countries with highest Forex Reserves.

Q92. Which of these countries hold a permanent seat in the governing body of the International Labour Organisation as the state of chief industrial importance?

- 1. Germany
- 2. China
- 3. Pakistan
- 4. India
- 5. Australia

Choose the correct option:

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Governing Body is the executive body of the International Labour Office (the Office is the secretariat of the Organization).
- In the International Labour Organization's (ILO) governing body, ten of the titular government seats are permanently held by States of chief industrial importance.
- These are: Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Q93. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to OSIRIS-REx?

- 1. It is a NASA asteroid study and sample-return mission targeted at near-earth asteroid, Bennu.
- 2. This would be the first-ever asteroid-study and sample-return mission.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a NASA asteroid-study and sample-return mission.
- The mission's primary goal is to obtain a sample from Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.
- Other similar missions include the Japanese probe Hayabusa which returned samples from Itokawa in 2010, and Hayabusa2 which will return samples from Ryugu in December 2020.

Q94. The Chatar festival is associated with which of the following states?

- a. Chhattisgarh
- b. Odisha
- c. Jharkhand
- d. West Bengal

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Chatar festival is celebrated in Odisha's Kalahandi district. Lakhs of devotees from Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal participate in the festival.
- The festival is usually marked by the sacrifice of thousands of animals and birds.
- This year, the Orissa High Court had ordered ban on animal sacrifice during 'Chatar Yatra' festival.

Q95. Which of the following can be potential areas of applications of high temperature superconductors?

1. low-loss power cables
2. Quantum computers
3. Maglev trains
4. Particle accelerators
5. Nuclear fusion reactors

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The observance of superconductivity at room temperature marks a major breakthrough given that traditionally superconductivity was observed at very low temperatures only.
- Superconductivity at room temperature would lead to a large number of applications from power supplies (low-loss power cables) to quantum computers (fast digital circuits) to powerful superconducting electromagnets used in maglev trains, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) machines, magnetic confinement fusion reactors (e.g. tokamaks), and the beam-steering and focusing magnets used in particle accelerators

Q96. Which of the following would be the first indigenously built Aircraft Carrier in India?

- a. INS Vishal
- b. INS Viraat
- c. INS Vikrant
- d. INS Vikramaditya

Answer: c

Explanation:

- INS Viraat was a Centaur-class aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy. INS Viraat was the flagship of the Indian Navy before INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in 2013. It was recently decommissioned.
- INS Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier and the flagship of the Indian Navy, which entered into service in 2013.
- INS Vishal, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 2 (IAC-2), is a planned aircraft carrier to be built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy. It is intended to be the second aircraft carrier to be built in India after INS Vikrant (IAC-1).

Q97. Consider the following statements with respect to Assumption Island:

1. It is one of the islands constituting the Seychelles archipelago.
2. It is located to the north of Madagascar.
3. India has signed an agreement to develop transport infrastructure facilities on the Island.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Assumption Island is one of the islands constituting the Seychelles archipelago.
- It is located to the north of Madagascar.
- India has signed an agreement with Seychelles to jointly develop transport infrastructure facilities on the Island.

Q98. India holds ministerial level '2+2' Dialogue with which of the following countries?

1. The U.S.A.
2. Japan
3. China
4. Australia

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- India holds ministerial-level '2+2' Dialogue with the U.S.A and Japan.
- It holds such talks with Australia, at the foreign secretary and defence secretary level.

Q99. Arrange the following military communication agreements between India and the US in chronological order in which they were signed:

1. General Security of Military Information Agreement
2. Industrial Security Annex
3. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
4. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) – GSOMIA was signed in 2002.
- The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed in 2016.
- The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018.
- An extension to the GSOMIA, the Industrial Security Annex (ISA), was signed at the last 2+2 dialogue (2019).

Q100. Arrange the following Elephant Reserves from North to South:

1. Dihing-Patkai Elephant Reserve
2. Dandeli Elephant Reserve
3. Anamalai Elephant Reserve
4. Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Dihing-Patkai Elephant Reserve – Assam
- Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve – Odisha
- Dandeli Elephant Reserve – Karnataka
- Anamalai Elephant Reserve – Tamil Nadu

Q101. Which of these EU member countries border Turkey?

1. Georgia
2. Greece
3. Armenia
4. Bulgaria

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Turkey borders two EU member states: Bulgaria and Greece. Greece joined the European Union in 1981. Bulgaria is a member country of the EU since 2007.

Q102. Consider the following statements with respect to the Harpoon Block II missile:

1. It is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile that can be launched from submarines.
2. The missile was indigenously developed by DRDO.
3. Its range is around 1000 km.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Harpoon Block II missile is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile.
- It can be launched from fixed-wing aircraft, surface ships, submarines and coastal defense batteries.
- It is developed by Boeing Defense, Space & Security, the U.S.A.
- It has a range of around 125 km.

Q103. Consider the following statements with respect to Sittwe Port:

1. It is a deepwater port constructed by India.
2. It is situated at the mouth of River Kaladan.
3. It is located in the Rakhine state in Myanmar.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Q104. Consider the following statements with respect to IndiGen Program:

1. It is an initiative of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. The programme undertook the whole-genome sequencing of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.
3. The programme was launched in 2009.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- IndiGen Program is an initiative of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- The programme undertook the whole-genome sequencing of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.

- In order to fill the gap of whole-genome sequences from different populations in India, CSIR initiated the IndiGen Program in April 2019.
- CSIR first sequenced an Indian genome in 2009.

Q105. Consider the following statements with respect to Green Crackers:

1. Green Crackers are manufactured using pyrotechnic to ensure that the emission of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide does not occur.
2. They have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules.
3. They are made of chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Green Crackers are manufactured using pyrotechnic to ensure that the emission of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide does not occur.
- They are known as 'green' firecrackers because they have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules, which substantially reduces emission levels and absorbs dust.
- Green crackers don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead. They are called Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers. Green crackers release water vapour and don't allow the dust particles to rise.

Q106. Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) was formed under which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- c. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- d. Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is a department formed by the Government of India under the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It was established to administer Explosives Act 1884, Explosive Substance Act, Petroleum (Production) Act 1934, Inflammable substance Act 1952 and Environment Protection Act 1986 to control the import, export, transport, storage and usage of explosive materials, flammable materials, pressure vessels, cryogenic vessels, design and installation of all necessary and relevant infrastructure, etc.
- PESO is a regulatory authority with autonomous status.

Q107. Where was India's first International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) set up?

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Gujarat
- c. West Bengal
- d. Karnataka

Answer: b

Explanation:

India's first International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) was commissioned at the Gujarat International Financial Tec (GIFT) City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Q108. Which of the following tiger reserves are located in Tamil Nadu?

- 1. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
- 2. Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- 3. Kawal Tiger Reserve
- 4. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve are located in Tamil Nadu. Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in Telangana.

Q109. Which of these countries border the Red Sea?

1. Yemen
2. Jordan
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Egypt
5. Sudan

Choose the correct options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti border the Red Sea.

Q110. Consider the following statements:

1. The excess of the government's total expenditure over its total non-borrowed receipts is called the fiscal deficit.
2. The primary deficit is the fiscal deficit minus interest payments.
3. The FRBM Act suggests bringing the fiscal deficit down to about 4 percent of the GDP as the ideal target for India.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- When the government's non-borrowed receipts fall short of its entire expenditure, it has to borrow money from the public to meet the shortfall.
- The excess of the government's total expenditure over its total non-borrowed receipts is called the fiscal deficit.
- The primary deficit is the fiscal deficit minus interest payments. It tells how much of the government's borrowings are going towards meeting expenses other than interest payments.
- The FRBM Act suggests that bringing the fiscal deficit down to about 3 percent of the GDP is the ideal target for India.

Q111. Consider the following statements with respect to River Mahanadi:

1. It originates in Odisha.
2. It is an east-flowing river draining into the Bay of Bengal.
3. The Hirakud dam is built across this river.

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. 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The river Mahanadi originates in Chhattisgarh.
- It is an east-flowing river draining into the Bay of Bengal.
- The Hirakud dam is built across the river Mahanadi.

Q112. Arrange the eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage in the Index of Industrial Production:

1. Electricity
2. Fertilizers
3. Natural Gas
4. Crude oil
5. Steel

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizer, steel, cement and electricity.
- Eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage in the Index of Industrial Production: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

Q113. Which of the following is/are known for its/their unique mass nesting called Arribada?

1. Olive Ridley Turtle
2. Indian Star Tortoise
3. Kemp's Ridley Turtle

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Arribada is a Spanish word meaning “arrival by sea” and refers to the mass nesting behaviour exhibited by Kemp's Ridley and Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- It is the unique mass nesting of female olive ridley turtles and Kemp's ridley turtles.

Q114. Consider the following statements with respect to star campaigners:

1. Any recognised political party can have only 20 star campaigners.
2. An unrecognised (but registered) political party cannot have any star campaigners.
3. If a candidate or her election agent shares the stage with a star campaigner at a rally, then the entire expenditure on that rally other than the travel expenses of the star campaigner is added to the political party's expenses.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A recognised political party can have 40 star campaigners and an unrecognised (but registered) political party can have 20.
- The list of star campaigners has to be communicated to the Chief Electoral Officer and Election Commission within a week from the date of notification of an election.

- If a candidate or her election agent shares the stage with a star campaigner at a rally, then the entire expenditure on that rally other than the travel expenses of the star campaigner is added to the candidate's expenses. Even if the candidate is not present at the star campaigner's rally, but there are posters with her photographs or her name on display, then too, the entire expenditure will be added to the candidate's account.

Q115. Consider the following statements:

1. The Finance Commission is constituted by the Prime Minister under Article 280 of the Constitution.
2. The 15th Finance Commission was constituted in the backdrop of the abolition of the Planning Commission.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Finance Commission is a constitutional body for the purpose of allocation of certain revenue resources between the Union and the State Governments.
- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution.
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted in November 2017, by a Presidential Order against the backdrop of:
 - The abolition of the Planning Commission.
 - Abolition of the distinction between Plan and non-Plan expenditure.
 - Introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Q116. Arrange the following from West to East:

1. Alboran Sea
2. Ionian Sea
3. Aegean Sea
4. Tyrrhenian Sea

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

West to East: Alboran Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Ionian Sea, Aegean Sea.

