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UPSC MCQ on GK - IAS Prelims 2021



Q1. With reference to the 'a rti Exercise', which of the following statements is/are true?

1. It is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Bhutan Army.
2. tta s a ry a t r a t y ar.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q2. Consider the following questions about 'Exercise ud b yas':

1. tis a oi t iitary ris b t a d dia
2. at st r is too a i dia i bruary 2021.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q3. Consider the following questions about 'Anti-tank Guided Missile HELINA':

1. It is indigenously developed by DRDO.
2. It is the helicopter launched version of NAG.
3. It has a range of 70-80km.

Select the correct Answer using the code given below:

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

Q4.Consider the following statement about 'National Security Guard'

1. It is an Indian Special Forces unit under the Ministry of Defence.
2. The National Security Guard (NSG) was set up in 2001 after Indian Parliament attack as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q .Consider the following statement about 'Defence Research and Development

Organisation (DRDO)'

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It works for enhancing self-reliance in Defence Systems and production of world class weapon systems

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q . Consider the following statements about r d or s ribu a :

1. It is a o stitutio a body.
2. i is t ri i a b o t

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q .Consider the following statements about "grey" lists and "black" lists of Financial Action Task Force:

1. Blacklisted countries are those that took weak measures to combat money laundering and terror

Financing

2. Grey Lists countries are those that are unwilling to fight money laundering and terrorist

Financing

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q . Consider the following statements about the u tidi sio a o rty d :

1. The is a report produced by the World Peace Forum.

2. dia ra d 2 i t oba 2020 i ra d 10 ou tri s

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q. 'a io s orta' has been launched for

- a) To provide students with single window tro i ator or s oars i s du atio a oa s.
b To provide easy loans to farmers
To provide easy assista to MSME
d To provide easy loan to unemployed

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Global Liveability Index':

1. It is released by Economist Intelligence Unit.
2. It ranks 140 cities worldwide based on 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories of Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education and Infrastructure.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q11. Which of the following best describes 'r at s t launched by

- a A hackathon to prevent government sites from being hacked.
b A i itiati to boost oy t
A i itiati to r s t i at a i a t
d A i itiati to s a t ost
or d

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding the 'FASTag':

1. it's a reloadable tag that automatically deducts and allows a vehicle to pass through a toll gate without stopping.
2. It uses radio frequency identification technology.
3. It has been launched by The National Highway Authority of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q13. 'B i Tribe' belongs to which of the following state:

- a) Himachal Pradesh

- b Sikkim
a ast a
d Jammu and Kashmir

Q14. Consider the following statements about 'Swachh Survekshan 2020':

1. It aims to increase the coverage of the ranking exercise to all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
2. The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification.
3. It is conducted by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q16. Consider the following pairs about Open Defecation Free status:

1. ODF : not a single person is found defecating in the open.
2. ODF+ : at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well-maintained.
3. ODF++: faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated, with no discharging and/or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Q17. With reference to 'Cholanaikkan Tribe', consider the following:

1. They are an ethnic group in the state of Tamil nadu.
2. They call themselves as Malanaikan or sholanaikan.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q18. Consider the following about 'Ease of

Living Index’:

1. It is based on a comprehensive report which assesses the quality of life in cities on the four broad parameters of governance, social, economic and infrastructure.

2. It is released by NITI Aayog.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q19. ‘The Rajiv Gauba Panel’ recently seen in news relates to:

- a) Data protection
- b) Mob Lynching
- c) FDI
- d) Disinvestment

Q20. ‘_____’, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) i ita dia itiati
- b) Promote science education in school children.
Promote girl education in India.
- d) None of the above.

Q21. Consider the following statement about the Global Gender Gap Report:

1. It is published by “World Health Organisation”

2. The Report is based on gender gap between women and men in five key areas: health, education, economy and politics and sports.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 Nor 2

Q22. Consider the following statements about ‘The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World’ report

1. It is an annual flagship report of the World Bank to measure poverty in developing countries.

2. The report assesses the trends for six nutrition indicators: anemia in women of reproductive age, stunting, wasting, and overweight, obesity and levels of exclusive breastfeeding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 Nor 2

Q23. ‘_____’ u d’, sometimes seen in the news, is related to:

- a) To ro id r i to _____ l a t d o
- b) To protect the overseas citizen of India.
To promote the girl’s education in rural areas.
- d) None of the above

Q24. ‘Women Wizards Rule Tech Programme is related to:

- a) To increase the number of women at senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) Industry.
- b) To improve the science education in school children.
- c) To increase the enrollment of women in higher education and research.
- d) None of the above.

Q25. Consider the following about the Global o _____ titi _____ ss Index:

- 1. Released by _____ or d _____ o o i _____ oru
 - 2. In 2020 report, India is ranked _____.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q26. ‘Pardhi community’ lives in the regions of

- a. Maharashtra
- b. West Bengal
- c. Bihar
- d. Tamilnadu

Q27. ‘Happiness Curriculum’ recently seen in the news has been introduced by which among the following states?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Kerala
- c. Delhi
- d. Tamilnadu

Q28. ‘Aanayoottu’ festival is celebrated in which state?

- a) Tamil nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhra pradesh

Q29. Match the following Philosophical Views:

1. Advaita A. supreme reality according to this philosophy is Brahman, and matter and soul are his qualities.

2. Dvaita B. It means dualism.

3. Vishishtadvaita C. non-dualism or belief in one reality. Being the Brahman is the ultimate reality

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

a) 1-A 2-B 3-C

b) 3-A 2-B 1-C

c) 2-A 3-B 1-C

d) 2-A 1-B 3-C

Q30. Consider the following statements about 'Akka Mahadevi':

1. She was one of the early female poets of the Kannada language.

2. She belonged to Lingayat sect of Hinduism in the 12th century.

3. Mantrogopya and the Yogangatrividhi are the two short stories written by her.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Q31. Consider the following statements about 'Ambubachi Mela':

1. The festival is held in the state of West Bengal.

2. The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q32. Aranmula Boat Race is held in which state?

a) Tamil nadu

b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Kerala

d) Karnataka

Q33. Consider the following statements about 'Badshahi Ashoorkhana':

1. It was built by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad.

2. Badshahi Ashoorkhana is a standing symbol of martyrdom as well as of religious significance.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q34. Consider the following regarding 'Basava':

1. Basavanna was a great Tamil poet.

2. He was a shiva devotee and a social reformer.

3. He introduced the Vachana style of writing. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 2 only

d) All of the above

Q35. Bagwal Festival is celebrated in which state?

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Jammu and Kashmir

c) Uttarakhand

d) Meghalaya

Q36. Identify the following festival:

1. It is the most popular festival of Jaintia tribe.

2. It is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest.

3. The non-Christian 'Pnar' people who believe either in the traditional faith of 'Niamtre' or Hinduism observe this festival.

Select the correct option:

a) Hornbill Festival

b) Losar

c) Ambubachi Mela

d) Behdienkhlam festival

Q37. To which of the following state 'Bengei Nacha or frog dance' a traditional ritual to appease the rain gods belongs?

a) Rajasthan

b) West Bengal

c) Odisha

d) Assam

Q38. Consider the following statements about 'Bonalu Festival':

1. It is an annual festival celebrated in the twin Cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana state.

2. It is a Hindu Festival where Goddess Mahakali is worshiped.

3. The festival is considered as a form of thanksgiving to the Goddess after the fulfillment of vows.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q39. "Burrakatha festival" recently seen in news belongs to which state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q40. Which of the following statements about 'Champakulam Moolam Boat Race' is correct:
1. It is the oldest Snake Boat Race in the Tamil Nadu.

2. The Pampa River plays host to this race held annually in Champakkulam, a village in Alappuzha district.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q41. 'E-aksharayan', recently in the news is related to

- a) An application to convert scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format.
- b) An application to monitor the Non-performing assets (NPA) of banks.
- c) An application to monitor drop out rate in primary schools.
- d) An application to promote girl education in India.

Q42. With reference to the 'Architectural style of Medieval India', consider the following statements about Deccan Sultanate architectural style

1. It was a regional variant of Indo-Saracenic architectural style.

2. Gol Gumbaz, the second largest dome in the world, is an example of Deccan Sultanate style of Architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q43. A folk painting practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal and is characterized by complex geometrical patterns. These paintings are known for representing ritual content for particular occasions, including festivals, religious

rituals, etc. Kohbar Ghar (nuptial chamber on Wedding) painting are important features of this folk Painting.

Which one of the following folk paintings have these features?

- a) Gond Painting
- b) Madhubani Painting
- c) Warli Painting
- d) Patachitra.

Q44. A rock-cut architecture is present in the state of Maharashtra and it is a marvelous example of Rashtrakuta architecture. It also resembles the Chalukya temples at Pattadakal. It is also an example of one of the largest Indian rock-cut ancient Hindu temples.

Which one of the following rock-cut temples have these features?

- a) Kailasha Temple at Ellora
- b) Bhaja Caves
- c) Kanheri Cave
- d) Elephanta Cave

Q45. With reference to the cave architecture of ancient India, consider the following statements about Ellora and Ajanta Caves:

1. Ellora is primarily a Buddhist cave and Ajanta is a combination of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain caves.

2. Ajanta is primarily a system of caves mostly famous for the paintings, but Ellora is a collection of caves mostly famous for the massive sculptures depicting gods and goddesses of the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain faiths

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q46. With reference to Koodiyattam, consider the following statements:

1. Koodiyattam is a traditional performing art form in the state of Tamilnadu, India.

2. It is officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q47. Consider the following statements about 'Lohagarh Fort':

1. It is situated in the state of Haryana.
 2. It was constructed by Hindu ruler, Maharaja Suraj Mal
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q48. Consider the following statements about International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2020

- a) The conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Culture.
 - b) The conclave is organized annually in different parts of the country.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) 2 only

Q49. Consider the following statements about Jama Masjid Gulbarga:

1. It is located in the state of Maharashtra.
2. It was built by Mohammed Shah I to commemorate Gulbarga as the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q50. With reference to '15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint Kabir', consider the following statements:

1. 'Bijak' is a composition of the teachings of Kabir.
2. He was a Shagun Bhakti Saint.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q51. Consider the following about 'Behdienkhlam':

1. It is an important festival of Pnars in the northeastern state of Meghalaya.
2. The main theme of the festival is the fertility rituals which accompany many tantric practices.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q52. A Bhakti Saint had once told that the Hindus and Muslims are the different pots made from the same clay. He himself was a disciple of a follower of Saint Ramanuja. Who is the saint mentioned in the above lines?

- a) Guru Nanak
- b) Namadeva
- c) Kabir
- d) Ramananda

Q53. Which of the following is the correct description of Project Maluti that appeared in the news recently?

- a. Restoration of Temple architecture
- b. Universal vaccination
- c. River rejuvenation
- d. Electrification of Tribal hamlets

Q54. Consider the following statements about the Pathani Saris:

1. It was introduced in India during the 15th century by the Mughal Rulers.
2. The artwork of Pathani is made on pure silk cloth with Peacock being the popular motifs.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q55. 'Neermahal' a royal palace is located at

- a. Tripura
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Tamilnadu
- d. Gujarat

Q56. President of India provides the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to which of the following languages?

1. Sanskrit
2. Classical Tamil
3. Classical Malayalam
4. Pali

Codes:

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

Q57. Consider the following statements about the Theyyam:

1. It is a famous ritual art form that originated in the southern part of Kerala.
2. There is no stages or curtains used during the performance of Theyyam.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q58. Consider the following pairs:

Theatre form	State
1. Bhavai	Gujarat
2. Nautanki	Andhra Pradesh
3. Therukoothu	Tamilnadu

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q59. 'Putul Nautch', a cultural traditional art of India is practiced in

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Bihar
- c. West Bengal
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Q60. Consider the following statements about puppetry in India:

- 1. The earliest reference to the art of puppetry in India is found in Natyashastra.
- 2. The art of puppetry in India had originated five centuries before the birth of Christ.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q61. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the cultural traditions of Kerala:

- a) Krishnattam based on Lord Krishna came into existence in the 12th century.
- b) Mudiayattu is performed only at Kali temples of Kerala.
- c) Koodiyattam is the form of Sanskrit theatre and oldest in Kerala.
- d) None of the above

Q62. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Agriculture related	State festival
1. Behdienkhlam	West Bengal
2. Nabanna	Meghalaya
3. Vishu	Kerala
4. Pongal	Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q63. Consider the following statements about the National Kalidas Award:

- 1. It is presented for outstanding achievements in dance, music, theatre and plastic arts.

- 2. It is provided by the Union Ministry of Culture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

Q64. Consider the following statements about the world air quality index:

- 1. It is a ranked by Sustainable Development Goals indicator.
- 2. India is ranked 3rd in 2021 report

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Answer: B Explanation

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Exercise *Asanti* is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and *United States Army*.
- It is a platoon level exercise which comprises of infantry component.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It is *signed as a part of* *DoD and US DoD* *cooperation* *ratio*

Related Topics: Prepare all other major military exercises of India with other nations.

Answer: C
Explanation

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: it is a political party but it is a political party
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: it is a political party but it is a political party

Answer: B
Explanation

- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Helicopter-Launched NAG (HELINA) missile is the helicopter launched version of the NAG Missile.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO for

Indian Army under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). It works on "fire and forget" principle.

- STATEMENT 3 is incorrect: It has a range of 7-8 km.
- The Missile is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) along with integrated avionics.

Q4

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is an Indian special forces unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs and not under the Ministry of Defence. However, it is not categorized under the uniform nomenclature of Central Armed Police Forces. It has a special forces mandate, and its core operational capability is provided by the Special Action Group (SAG) which is drawn from the Indian Army.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as it was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, "for combating terrorist activities with a view to protecting states against internal disturbances. It was not established after Indian Parliament attack as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

Context: deployment of NSG in J & K for counter-terror operations. NSG: nodal ministry and functions.

Related Topics: Read about different central armed forces.

Q5.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as DRDO is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

It was formed in 1958 by the merger of Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it works for enhancing self-reliance in Defence Systems and production of world class weapon systems.

Context: More financial power was given to DRDO by Central Govt. So prepare the structure and function of DRDO.

Q6.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as it is a statutory body.

STATEMENT 2 is correct.

Q7

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Blacklisted countries are those that are unwilling to fight money laundering and Terrorist Financing. Those who took weak measures are in the grey list and not in the blacklist.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Grey Lists countries are those that took weak measures to combat money laundering and terror.

Information: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

Context: Pakistan was enlisted in the Grey list of FATF.

Related Topics: FATF, Money Laundering and Terror Financing.

Q8

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as is a i d r as d by a d .

STATEMENT 2 is correct.

Approach: Learn the different indices and the the organization releasing these reports.
E.g. : Reports released by the World Bank ,IMF and World Economic Forum.

Q9

Answer: A

Explanation

VIDYALAKSHMI PORTAL

- Vidya Lakshmi is a first of its kind portal for students seeking Education Loan.
- This portal has been developed under the guidance of Department of Financial Services, (Ministry of Finance), Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and Indian Banks Association (IBA).
- The portal has been developed and maintained by NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited.
- Students can view, apply and track the education loan applications to banks anytime, anywhere by accessing the portal. The portal also provides linkages to National Scholarship Portal.

Q10

Answer: C

Explanation

‘GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX’

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: The Economist Intelligence Unit's liveability rating quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in 140 cities worldwide.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Each city is assigned a score for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories of Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education and Infrastructure.

THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (The EIU) is the world leader in global business intelligence.
- We help businesses, the financial sector and governments to understand how the world is

Approach: Questions are frequently asked on either International Organization or any index.

Explanation

rat s t i s a i i t i a t i b y t o r d o o i o r u . t a s b o t u a i s d b y
t o u d r a d u t i a i r a o t a u s a b a d a s o d o r t a s t
y a r s .

Related Topics: National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, Methanol Economy

Explanation

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It's a reloadable tag that automatically deducts and allows a vehicle to pass through a toll gate without stopping.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: It uses radio frequency identification technology to make cashless transaction through a prepaid account linked to it.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: It has been launched by The National Highway Authority of India.
- It is fixed to the windscreen of a vehicle and an RFID antenna in the canopy of the toll

Explanation

Explanation

- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It aims to increase the coverage of the ranking exercise to all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open

defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

- STATEMENT 3 is correct: It is conducted by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities.

roa s ty s o sur ys ar a ays i orta t. r u ty as s u stio s
bas d o su sur ys.

Q16

Answer: D

Explanation

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), urban areas of 18 states, and a total of 3,223 cities have become Open Defecation Free, and 2,712 cities among them have been certified as ODF through an independent third party. With urban India poised to become ODF before the end of the Mission period, it is now time to consolidate our ODF achievements to make it sustainable, and address the issue of holistic sanitation, by addressing the entire sanitation value chain.

The SBM ODF Plus and SBM ODF Plus Plus protocols that are planned to be launched are geared towards this objective. While the SBM ODF Plus protocol focuses on sustaining community/public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance, the SBM ODF Plus Plus will focus on achieving sanitation sustainability by addressing complete sanitation value chain, including safe containment, processing and disposal of fecal sludge and septage.

The ODF+ and ++ protocol and toolkit to be launched will detail out the necessary conditions to be achieved by cities for declaring themselves as ODF+ and ODF++, alongwith the detailed steps required for third party certifications.

Approach: Swachh Bharat Mission is the focus of the government. Any new initiative under this scheme is important or subtraction to the SBM gets really important.

Related Topics: Swachh Manch Web Portal.

Q17.

Answer: B

Explanation

CHOLANAICKAN TRIBE

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: They are an ethnic group in the state of Kerala especially Silent Valley National Park.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: They call themselves as Malanaikan or sholanaikan. 'Chola' or 'Shola' means deep evergreen forest and 'naikan' means king.
- They speak Cholanaikan language, which belongs to the Dravidian family.

Approach: Kerala's reclusive Chola Naikar Tribe is leaving the forests for the plains after devastating floods of Kerala. Tribes and their location are important especially when they are in the news.

Q18.

Answer: A

Explanation

'Ease of Living Index'

- STATEMENT 2 is incorrect: The Ease of Living Index released by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is based on a comprehensive report which assesses the quality of life in cities on the four broad parameters of governance, social, economic and infrastructure.
- The study took into consideration 78 indicators in 15 categories. All cities were evaluated out of 100. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given the highest weightage of 45, while institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.

Here are a few highlights from the data analysis:

1. Among the 111 cities considered, Navi Mumbai, Tirupati and Karim Nagar had the best institutional sub-index.
2. In terms of social indicators, Tirupati and Tiruchirapalli scored the highest.
3. Chandigarh, Ajmer and Kota did best on the economic sub-index.
4. Greater Mumbai, Pune and Thane topped in terms of infrastructure and other physical parameters.
5. In mega-cities (Population over 4 million) Chennai came second after Mumbai, while New Delhi was the worst mega-city.
6. Andhra Pradesh had 75% (three out of four cities considered for the survey) of its cities among the top 25 ranks.
7. Maharashtra had 66% of its cities in the top 25 (eight out of 12) while four out of seven (57%) cities in Madhya Pradesh were among the top crop.

Approach: All these indices are always important. One should always focus on the agency which releases the index and also some basic features of that index.

Related Topics: Ease of Doing Business, Swachh Survekshan

Q19.

Answer: B

Explanation

Rajiv Gauba Panel

- A panel headed by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, which deliberated on measures to check incidents of lynching, submitted its report to a Group of Ministers headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The panel deliberated on such incidents and is learnt to have come to the conclusion that social media platforms also needed to act in a "time bound" manner.
- A senior government official said social media platforms — Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Twitter — would be made accountable for not blocking such malicious posts/videos when brought to their notice and "FIR could be lodged against their country heads" for non-compliance of government orders and they could be prosecuted under law.

Approach: Committees set up by Government for various issues are important for us.

Related Topics: Bibek Debroy Committee, Shetkar committee, Anupama Verma committee.

Q20.

Answer: A

Explanation:

standards or individual objectives or a ratio. It is a combination of standards or individual objectives or a ratio. It is a combination of standards or individual objectives or a ratio.

is a year to total initiative or that it takes to a tradition or its relationship 24 or it is a tradition.

Approach: Regarding apps or dashboard, our focus should be to know the function of apps or dashboard and implementation ministry

Q21.

Answer: D

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Global Gender Gap Report is published by the World Economic Forum. The 2017 report covers 144 major and emerging economies. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality. It is not published by "World Health Organisation".

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect The report's Gender Gap Index ranks countries according to calculated gender gap between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy, and politics to gauge the state of gender equality in a country. It does not include sports as criteria for calculating.

Q22.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is wrong as The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as the report assesses the trends for six nutrition indicators: anemia in women of reproductive age, stunting, wasting, overweight, obesity and levels of exclusive breastfeeding.

Context: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' Report. Prepare a list of the name of the organization and indices on the basis of which report was prepared.

Related Topics: Functions of FSSAI.

Q23.

Answer: A

Explanation: The report is titled 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020'. It is the first of its kind to provide a comprehensive analysis of the state of food security and nutrition in the world. The report is prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The report is published annually.

Q24.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In an effort to increase the number of women in senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) industry, Nasscom unveiled its 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme for women techies.

The initiative will aid women techies in core technologies like IT-Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), Business Process Management (BPM), product and research and development (R&D) sectors by equipping them with the skills required for an edge in their career.

Q25.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is released by . Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

India is ranked as t i 201 . u to l t i d as aus d i 2020.

Approach: Important Indices and reports are important from the exam's perspective

Q26.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Pardhi is a descendant of Rajputs and now classified as a tribe in India. The tribe is found mostly in Maharashtra and parts of Madhya Pradesh, however, small numbers can be found in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. They were termed as a criminal tribe by the British Colonial Government. Now they are fighting to remove the stigma of the criminal tag.

Related Topic: Criminal tribes of India, tribal protests

Q27.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Delhi government with an aim to train the young minds to make them happy, confident and content human beings and for developing their personality has launched a new initiative that introduces the 'Happiness curriculum' in schools.

The new curriculum is based on human-centric education which includes meditation, value education, and mental exercises. The entire curriculum will be purely activity-based and no formal examinations will be conducted on it. However, a periodic assessment of children's progress will be made using a happiness index.

Approach:

Be aware of the progressive initiatives in the education sector. Stick to your current affairs sources.

Related Topics:

State Governments with happiness department in India. First country in the world to have a Ministry of Happiness

Q28.

Answer: B

Explanation

AANAYOOTTU

- Aanayoottu at the Vadakkumnathan Temple in Thrissur district is a ritualistic feeding ceremony (locally known as Aanayoottu) that takes place inside the premises of the famous temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- On the festival day, the elephants are brought inside the premises of the Vadakkumnathan Temple for the special feast.
- Here, the elephants are lined-up in a single row and facing them would be thousands of people ready with offerings in their hands to feed the elephants. Sugarcane, rice, ghee,

coconut, jaggery and Ayurvedic medicines are the major ingredients of the special feed for the elephants.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Q29.

Answer: B

Explanation

ADVAITA

- The philosophical views of Shankaracharya are known as 'Advaita Vedanta'.
- The meaning of Advaita is non-dualism or belief in one reality.
- Being the Brahman is the ultimate reality according to it Brahman is true; the world is false.
- He believes that the Brahman is existent, static, the ultimate knowledge and the supreme truth.
- He also believes that there is no difference between the self and Brahman.
- The knowledge of Brahman is the essence of all things and the ultimate existence.

VISHISHTADVAITA

By: Ramanujacharya

- Vishishtadvaita altered monism.
- The supreme reality according to this philosophy is Brahman, and matter and soul are his qualities.
- Ramanujacharya, the chief exponent of Vishishtadvaita philosophy contends that the Prasthanatrayi (The three courses), i.e. are:
 1. The Upanishads
 2. The Brahma Sutras
 3. The Bhagavad Gita

DVAITA

By: Madhavacharya

- The meaning of dvaita is dualism.
- It stands in opposition to monism and non-dualism of Shankaracharya.
- Madhavacharya believed that the World is not an illusion / Maya but a reality full of variances.

Approach: An important topic from art and culture area.

Q30.

Answer: D

Explanation

AKKA MAHADEVI

- Akka Mahadevi born in Udutadi, near Shivamogga in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: She was one of the early female poets of the Kannada language.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: She belonged to Lingayat sect of Hinduism in the 12th century.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: Her extant Vachana poems (a form of spontaneous mystical poems), and the two short writings called Mantrogopya and the Yogangatrividhi are considered her most notable contribution to Kannada literature
- She composed relatively fewer poems than other saints of the movement. Yet the term Akka ("elder Sister"), which is an honorific given to her by great Lingayat saints such as Basavanna, Siddharama and Allamaprabhu is an indication of her contribution to the spiritual discussions held at the "Anubhava Mantapa"
- She is in hindsight seen as an inspirational woman for Kannada literature and the history of Karnataka. She is known to have considered the god Shiva ('Chenna Mallikarjuna') as her husband, (traditionally understood as the 'madhura bhava' or 'madhurya' form of devotion).

Approach: Poets and other famous personalities are important from culture section. Basic contribution in their respective fields is important from exam's perspective.

Q31.

Answer: B

Explanation

AMBUBACHI MELA

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: The festival is held in the state of Assam.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya.
- The famed Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilachal Hills gets its doors closed during the festival after routine rituals and prayers are offered to the deity.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Related Topics: Losar, Tusu Parob, Kali Puja, Bihu, Ambubachi Festival, Majuli Festival

Q32.

Answer: C

Explanation

ARANMULA BOAT RACE

- The Aranmula Uthrittathi Vallamkali or Aranmula Boat Race is the most ancient and revered boat races of Kerala.
- Held on the day of the Uthrittathi asterism in the Malayalam month of Chingam (corresponding to 15 August and 20 September), it is well known for its grandeur and unique history.
- Aranmula is a heritage village lies in the banks of the river Pampa at the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.
- Legend says that a devout Brahmin promised to provide all the requirements for the Thiruvona Sadya (feast held on the Thiruvonam asterism). These were to be delivered to Aranmula Sree Parthasarathy Temple in a boat called the Thiruvona Thoni. The boat was attacked by enemy factions during its voyage. However, snake boats from the surrounding area came to its rescue and it is from here that the grand tradition of the special snake boat race in the area was born. The snake boat race in itself is an offering to Lord Krishna of Sree Parthasarathy Temple.
- The snake boats used for this race are called Palliyodams. The credit for the design is given to Lord Krishna himself, the chief deity at the Aranmula Sree Parthasarathy Temple. He is said to have appeared on these shores on a raft made of six bamboos, giving the village its name – Aranmula or Six Bamboos.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Q33.

Answer: C

Explanation

BADSHAHI ASHOORKHANA

- The crescent moon of Muharram marks the beginning of New Year in Hijri calendar followed by Muslims. In Hyderabad, which was founded at the beginning of the Islamic millennium of 1/1/1000 which would be October 19 1591, Muharram is the time to remember the Battle of Karbala where 72 people held off the might of the Umayyad Caliph Yezid before being slaughtered.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad, identified himself as a Shia and turned Muharram into a state symbol of piety and mourning. Though Charminar and the Charkaman archways are well known as having been built to by Muhammad Quli, a much more stunning example of the king's contribution to the city is the Ashoorkhana called Badshahi Ashoorkhana near Madina area of the city.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Ashoora or tenth day of Muharram is when the key battle of Karbala took place. People wearing black robes, vegetarianism, fasting and recitation of marsiahs (elegies) show a slice of faith in precincts around Purani Haveli, Hussaini Alam and Dabeerpura during the month. But when it was built, the Badshahi Ashoorkhana was

the hub of mourning for the Shia community.

Context: Telangana government and Aga Khan Trust are working to restore the monument

Related Topics: Golconda Fort, Charminar, Qutub Shahi Tombs

Q34

Answer: B

Explanation

BASAVA

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect AND 2 is correct: Basavanna was a famous Kannada poet , a shiva devotee and a great social reformer.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: He introduced the Vachana style of writing which introduced a social revolution.
- The imagery in Vachanas belongs to the daily life of the ordinary man.
- Dignity of labour and equality of all members of the society was the cardinal points of the Basaveswara movement.

Approach: The poets and social reformers are very important. And Basava was in the news recently for many reasons so it is an important topic for us.

Q35

Answer: C

Explanation

BAGWAL FESTIVAL

- It is celebrated in Barahi temple in Devidhura in Champawat district of Uttarakhand.
- The myth goes that once upon a time, Devidhura was infested with demons. Four clans of Devidhura—the Waliks, Lamgariyas, Chamyals and Gaherwals, locally known as 'khams'—prayed to goddess Barahi to save their lives. The goddess agreed, but in turn demanded that a human sacrifice be made to her every year. So the clans would offer one of their members to the goddess in rotation.
- One year, it so happened that a kham had to sacrifice its last young man to Barahi. His helpless grandmother prayed to the goddess for mercy. The goddess had a turn of heart and declared that as an alternative, members of the four tribes would hurl stones at one another till the blood spilt was equal to that from a human sacrifice. This would take place on the day of Rakhi. Thus began the violent tradition called Bagwal that continues to this day. The clans claim that the ritual brings them prosperity and saves them from ill health and natural calamities.
- Earlier, when the ritual was played out without shields, thousands would be injured. Then a couple of centuries ago, the temple soldiers built themselves elaborate shields of bamboo and ringal grass. It's hardly enough, of course, and hundreds of people are still injured each year.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Q36.

Answer: D

Explanation:

BEHDIENKHLAM FESTIVAL

- Most popular festival of the Jaintia tribe, Behdienkhlam is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest.
- Although Behdienkhlam is celebrated all over the Jaintia hills, the main spectacle happens in the town of Jowai, about 64 km away from Shillong.
- The non-Christian 'Pnar' people who believe either in the traditional faith of 'Niamtre' or Hinduism observe this festival.
- The festival begins with sacrificing pig to 'Knia Pyrthat' (Thunder) followed by the 'Wasan' (Priest) ringing the brass bell along the main road of the town to the point where the forest begins. Rounded, polished and tall trunks of tree are felled in the sacred forest and are left

in the woods for couple of days. The trunks are then brought to the town with great fanfare, dancing and singing. On the fourth day, the youth of the town led by the priest visit each and every home, climb to the roof and beat it with a bamboo stick to chase away any evil spirits. The people also display their artistic skills by erecting 'rots' (tall bamboo structures decorated with colour paper and tinsel). The rots are then carried to the 'Aitnar site', where women and men gather. The rots arrive and the polished, rounded logs are thrown into the river. The dancing men rush and try to balance themselves on the rolling and slippery logs. At the end, 'Dad-Lawakor', a type of football is played with a wooden ball.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news.

Related Topics : Other festivals of North-East India like hornbill, losar etc.

Q37.

Answer: C

Explanation

BENGEI NACHA

- It is a tradition in ODISHA to appease the rain gods.
- As per tradition, two big frogs are snared and then bathed with turmeric water and smeared with vermilion. They are then tied to a long pole with a piece of new cloth and carried around the village to the beat of traditional drums and cymbals. The carriers of the frogs danced to the drumbeats, making the frogs jiggle inside the cloth bundles.
- Throughout the journey, the womenfolk pours turmeric and red water on the frogs. "It looks as if the festival of Holi visited the village along with 'bengei nacha'".
- The procession culminates at the Kali temple in Masiakhali, where a special puja is performed. Later the frogs are released in the nearby fields.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news. This particular festival was in the news recently.

Q38.

Answer: D

Explanation

BONALU FESTIVAL

- STATEMENT 2 is correct: Bonalu is a Hindu Festival where Goddess Mahakali is worshiped.
- STATEMENT 1 is correct: It is an annual festival celebrated in the twin Cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana state, India.
- STATEMENT 3 is correct: The festival is considered as a form of thanksgiving to the Goddess after the fulfillment of vows.
- Bonalu is celebrated usually during Ashada Masam that falls in July/August.
- Special poojas are performed for goddess Yellamma during the first and last day of the festival.
- Bonam literally means Meal in Telugu, which is an offering to the Mother Goddess.
- Women folk in household prepare rice that is cooked along with Milk, Jaggery in a New Earthen or Brass Pot, which is adorned with Neem Leaves, Turmeric and Vermilion.
- Women carry these pots on their heads and make an offering of Bonam, including Bangles and Saree to the Mother Goddess at Temples.
- Bonalu involves worship of Kali in her various forms such Mysamma, Pochamma, Yellamma, Dokkalamma, Pedamma, Poleramma, Ankalamma, Maremma, Nookalamma etc.

Approach: Festivals are important especially when they are in the news. Some basic knowledge of big festival of each state will do the trick. This particular festival was in the news recently.

Related Topics: Bathukamma, Sankranth, Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara.

Q39.

Answer: C

Explanation

BURRAKATHA

Burra Katha, also spelled Burrakatha, is an oral storytelling technique in the Katha tradition, performed in villages of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The troupe consists of one main performer and two co-performers. It is a narrative entertainment that consists of prayers, solo drama, dance, songs, poems and jokes. The topic will be either a Hindu mythological story (Jangam Katha) or a contemporary social issue.

Q40.

Answer: B

Explanation

CHAMPAKULAM MOOLAM BOAT RACE

- STATEMENT 1 is incorrect: Boat races are synonymous with Kerala's identity and Champakkulam is a name that resonates loudly across God's Own Country. It is the oldest Snake Boat Race in the State and kicks off the boat race season annually.
- STATEMENT 2 is correct: The Pampa River plays host to this race held in Champakkulam, a village in Alappuzha district. Held normally in June or July, the crowds it draws are enormous. Massive boats splitting the waters apart as ancient boat songs are hummed make for an exhilarating experience. This is the event that kicks off the boat racing frenzy which takes over the State for the next few months. (STATEMENT 1 is incorrect AND STATEMENT 2 is correct)

Q41.

Answer: A

Explanation:

E-Aksharayan is desktop software for converting scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format in Unicode encoding. It supports major Indian languages- Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese. These are the different ways for Conserving and Promoting the Indian Languages. Barrier-free communication is critical for the country and the goal is to have real-time translation capability in each of the Indic languages.

Approach: There was news regarding 'E-aksharayan'. Such initiatives are important for the promotion and conservation of Indian languages.

Q42.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Deccan Sultanate architectural style was regional variant form of Indo-Islamic architecture, heavily influenced by the styles of the Delhi Sultanate and later Mughal architecture. It was not a regional variant of Indo-Saracenic Architectural style. Indo-Saracenic was a revival architectural style mostly used by British architects in India in the later 19th century, especially in public and government buildings in the British Raj, and the palaces of rulers of the princely states.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Gol Gumbaz, second largest dome in the world, is an example of Deccan Sultanate style of Architecture. Deccan sultanates have constructed many grand and impregnable forts. Bidar and Golconda forts are a classic example of military planning of Deccan sultanates. Apart from forts, they have constructed many tombs, mosques, and madrasas. Gol Gumbaz (tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah), was the second largest dome in the world.

Approach: This is from the static part of the syllabus. Such topics need comprehensive preparation.

Related Topic: Read about differences and similarities between Indo-Saracenic Architectural style and Indo-Islamic architecture.

Q43.

Answer: B

Explanation:

OPTION (a) is incorrect as Gond Painting is practiced in central Indian state like Madhya Pradesh.

OPTION (b) is correct as Madhubani art (or Mithila painting) is practiced in the Mithila region of the Indian subcontinent. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, etc. Using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterized by eye-catching geometrical patterns. There is ritual content for particular occasions, such as a birth or marriage, and festivals, such as Holi, Surya Shasti, Kali Puja, Upanayana, Durga Puja.

OPTION (c) is incorrect as Warli Painting is practiced in Maharashtra and Gujarat state.

OPTION (d) is wrong as patachitra story-scroll tradition is practiced in the state of West Bengal.

Approach: This is from the static part of the syllabus. Such topics need comprehensive preparation.

Related Topic: Gond, Madhubani, Warli Painting, patachitra

Q44.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option(a) is correct as The Kailasha temple is one of the largest Indian rock-cut ancient Hindu temples located in the Ellora Caves, Maharashtra, India. A megalith carved out of one single rock, it is considered one of the most remarkable cave temples in India because of its size, architecture and sculptural treatment.

Kailasa temple (Cave 16) is one of the 34 cave temples and monasteries are known collectively as the Ellora Caves. Its construction is generally attributed to the eighth-century Rashtrakuta king Krishna I (r. c. 756 – 773). The temple architecture shows traces of Pallava and Chalukya styles.

The world famous Kailashnath temple is a marvelous example of Rashtrakuta architecture. The Kailashnath temple at Ellora, near Aurangabad in Maharashtra, was built by Krishna I (757-783 A.D.) of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. It is a rock-cut temple and has four parts- the body of the temple, the entrance gate, the Nandi shrine and a group of five shrines surrounding the courtyard. The Kailasa temples resemble the Chalukya temples at Pattadakal but it is far more refined in its design than the temples at Pattadakal.

Related Topic : Ajanta And Ellora Caves.

Q45.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Ajanta is primarily a Buddhist cave and Ellora is a combination of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain caves.

STATEMENT 2 is correct Ajanta is primarily a system of caves mostly famous for the paintings, but Ellora is a collection of caves mostly famous for the massive sculptures depicting gods and goddesses of the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain faiths.

The Ajanta Caves are 30 (approximately) rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India.] The caves include paintings and rock-cut sculptures described as among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art, particularly expressive paintings that present emotion through gesture, pose and form.

According to UNESCO, these are masterpieces of Buddhist religious art that influenced the Indian art that followed. The caves were built in two phases, the first phase starting around the 2nd century BCE, while the second phase was built around 400–650 CE, according to older accounts, or in a brief period of 460–480 CE according to later scholarship. The site is a protected monument in the care of the Archaeological Survey of India, and since 1983, the Ajanta Caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ellora is located in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, India, is one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple cave complexes in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments, and artwork, dating from the 600-1000 CE period. Cave 16, in particular, features the largest single monolithic rock excavation in the world, the Kailasa temple, a chariot shaped monument dedicated to Shiva. The Kailasha temple excavation also features sculptures depicting the gods, goddesses and mythologies found in Vaishnavism, Shaktism as well as relief panels summarizing the two major Hindu Epics.

Related Topic: Differences between Ajanta and Ellora Caves.

Q46

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Koodiyattam is a traditional performing art form in the state of Kerala and not Tamilnadu. It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, a Tamil/Malayalam performing art which is as old as Sangam era.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as Koodiyattam is officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Approach: This is from the static part of the syllabus. Usually UNESCO related issues are important from exam's perspective.

Related Topic: Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Manipuri, Kuchipudi and Odissi

Q47.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Lohagarh Fort is situated at Bharatpur in Rajasthan, India and not in the state of Haryana.

STATEMENT 2 as Lohagarh Fort was constructed by Hindu rulers, Maharaja Suraj Mal. He used all his power and wealth to a good cause and built numerous forts and palaces across his kingdom, one of them being the Lohagarh Fort (Iron fort), which was one of the strongest ever built in Indian history.

Q48

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as The Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism and not by the Ministry of Culture. International Buddhist Conclave 2018 will have a religious / spiritual dimension, an academic theme and a diplomatic and business component. Ministry of Tourism has invited senior leaders of various Buddhist sects, scholars, public leaders, journalists and international and domestic tour operators to increase footfalls to the Buddhist circuit in the country from other parts of the world, and participants from countries having significant Buddhist population including the ASEAN region and Japan.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as the Ministry of Tourism organized this event biannually. It is not organized annually. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has been organizing the International Buddhist Conclave biennially. The earlier International Buddhist Conclaves were organized in New Delhi and Bodhgaya (February 2004), Nalanda and Bodhgaya (February 2010), Varanasi and Bodhgaya (September 2012), Bodhgaya and Varanasi (September 2014) and in Sarnath/Varanasi and Bodhgaya (October 2016).

Approach: International Buddhist Conclave (IBC) was in news recently. Keep a close watch on the developments related to this event.

Q49

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1 is incorrect as Jama Masjid Gulbarga is located in the state of Karnataka.

STATEMENT 2 is correct as it was built by Mohammed Shah I to commemorate Gulbarga as the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate. The Jama Masjid Gulbarga does not have minarets. Built inside the Gulbarga Fort is a unique mosque with a huge dome and smaller ones as embellishments

Q50.**Answer: A****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 1 is correct as Bijak' is a composition of the teachings of Kabir.

Compositions of Kabir are Bijak, Kabir Parachai, Sakhi Granth, and Kabir Granthawali.

STATEMENT 2 is incorrect as Kabir was a Nirgun Bhakti Saint. So STATEMENT 2 is incorrect.

Q51.**Answer: A****Explanation:**

STATEMENT 2: It is the festival to pray to overcome the destructive forces of nature. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Behdienkhlam Festival is the most celebrated religious festival among the Pnars or Jaintias community. It is popular at Jowai the District headquarters of Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

This festival is held after the sowing season is over so as to overcome any destructive forces of nature including diseases by invoking God for a good harvest.

Approach: Culture-related questions need extensive reading and some of these topics appear sometimes in news.

Related Topics: Ambubachi Mela and Cherry Blossom festival.

Q52.**Answer: C****Explanation:**

Kabir was a famous disciple of Ramananda. He emphasized the essential oneness of all religions by describing Hindus and Muslims 'as pots of the same clay'. To him Rama and Allah, temple and mosque were the same. He regarded devotion to god as an effective means of salvation and urged that to achieve this one must have a pure heart, free from cruelty, dishonesty, hypocrisy, and insincerity. He is regarded as the greatest of the mystic saints and his followers are called Kabirpanthis.

Context: Recently 500th death anniversary of Kabir was observed.

Related Topics: Sufism

Q53**Answer: A****Explanation:**

The project maluti involves conservation of 62 temples among 108 temples which were in a dilapidated condition in the state of Jharkhand. It is carried out by Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development, an NGO with cooperation with government agencies.

Approach: Keep yourself abreast with the important cultural and architecture rejuvenation projects carried out in India. These projects become important from the exam's perspective.

Related Topics: Restoration of cultural elements by India in foreign countries.

Q54.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It is present in India for more than 2000 years and incorrect.

Paithani weaving technique, popular for its unique art and tradition is the carrier of a legacy for over 2000 years. Born in Paithan, the splendid capital of Satvahana Dynasty in 200 BC on the banks of divine Godavari River, Paithani grew under the patronage of the Satvahana dynasty of kings. Later it progressed throughout the Deccan region. Paithani uses the ancient technique of tapestry where multiple threads of different along with gold and silver threads are woven together to form a fascinating piece of silk. In the distant past, Romans imported this golden woven fabric in exchange for gold of equal weight. The art of Paithani survived under successive rulers. In fact, it flourished under Aurangzeb, who not only brought it back to its glory but also incorporated many novelties in appearance. The well-known floral motifs and AmarVell are contributions from the Mughal era.

Peacock is one of the famous motifs in Pathani saris.

Q55.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Neermahal literally means Water palace. The palace is located in the middle of the Rudrasagar Lake built by Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya. Every year the Neermahal water festival will be conducted in the lake. A big attraction of the Neermahal water festival is boat race in Rudrasagar Lake.

Approach: Make a list of the important festivals of North East India and do a regular revision of the list.

Q56

Answer: C

Explanation:

ENTRY 2: Tamil is not part of the award. Hence it is incorrect.

The Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinction is conferred on persons once a year by the President of India in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, and Classical Malayalam. The award was introduced in the year 2002, is given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years.

Approach: Make a list of important awards from the various fields in India. An indirect question can be asked from this portion.

Q57.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: It originated from the northern part of Kerala and hence incorrect.

Theyyam is one of the famous ritual art forms of Kerala that originated from the northern part of Kerala. It encompasses dance, mime, and music. It exalts the beliefs of the ancient tribal who gave a lot of importance to the worship of heroes and the spirits of their ancestors. The ceremonial dance is accompanied by the chorus of such musical instruments as Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal, and Veekkuchenda. There are over 400 separate Theyyams, each with their own music, style, and choreography. The most prominent among these are Raktha Chamundi, Kari Chamundi, Muchilottu Bhagavathi, Wayanadu Kulaven, Gulikan, and Pottan.

There is no stage or curtain or other such arrangements for the performance. The devotees would

be standing or some of them would be sitting on a sacred tree in front of the shrine which is an open theatre.

Approach: Sabarimala has appeared in the news for the tradition followed at temple. Keep yourself abreast with the cultural traditions of Sabarimala. A question might be asked from this section.

Q58.

Answer: B

Explanation:

ENTRY 2: Nautanki belongs to Uttar Pradesh. Hence it is incorrect.

Bhavai is the traditional theatre form of Gujarat. The centers of this form are Kutch and Kathiawar.

Nautanki is usually associated with Uttar Pradesh. The most popular centers of this traditional theatre form are Kanpur, Lucknow, and Haathras.

Therukoothu, the most popular form of the folk drama of Tamil Nadu, literally means street play. It is mostly performed at the time of annual temple festivals of Mariamman (Rain goddess) to achieve rich harvest. At the core of the extensive repertoire of Therukoothu, there is a cycle of eight plays based on the life of Draupadi.

Q59.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Putul Nautch is the traditional rod puppet of West Bengal. The puppets are carved from wood and follow the various artistic styles of a particular region of Bengal. The Bengal rod-puppets, which survive are about 3 to 4 feet in height and are costumed like the actors of Jatra, a traditional theatre form prevalent in the State. These puppets have mostly three joints. The heads, supported by the main rod, is joined at the neck and both hands attached to rods are joined at the shoulders and the technique of manipulation is interesting and highly theatrical.

Q60.

Answer: B

Explanation:

STATEMENT 1: Earliest reference was present in Silappadikaram and hence incorrect.

The earliest reference to the art of puppetry is found in Tamil classic 'Silappadikaram' written around the 1st or 2nd century B.C. Natyashastra, the masterly treatise on dramaturgy was written sometime during the 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD., does not refer to the art of puppetry but the producer-cum-director of the human theatre has been termed as 'Sutradhar' meaning the holder of strings. The word might have found its place in theatre-terminology long before Natyashastra was written but it must come from marionette theatre. Puppetry, therefore, must have originated in India more than 500 years before Christ.

Almost all types of puppets are found in India. Puppetry throughout the ages has held an important place in traditional entertainment.

Q61.

Answer: A

Explanation:

OPTION A: It came into existence in the 17th century. Hence it is incorrect.

Krishnattam is the folk theatre of Kerala, came into existence in the middle of the 17th century A.D. under the patronage of King Manavada of Calicut. The episodes are based on the theme of Lord Krishna from his birth, childhood pranks and various deeds depicting the victory of good over evil.

Mudiyettu is the traditional folk theatre form of Kerala is celebrated in the month of Vrischikam. It

Koodiyaattam is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala, is based on Sanskrit theatre traditions. Emphasis on hand gestures and eye movements makes this dance and theatre form unique.

Q62.

Answer: A

Only PAIR 3 and 4 are correctly matched

Nabanna is celebrated in Bengal region which comprises West Bengal, India, and Bangladesh

Pongal celebrated by the Tamil people in Tamil Nadu, India and other places

Behdienkhlam is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest by Jaintia tribe of Meghalaya

Q63.

Answer: A

Explanation:

STATEMENT 2: It is provided by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The National Kalidas Samman is a prestigious arts award presented annually by the government of Madhya Pradesh in India. The award is named after Kalidasa, a renowned Classical Sanskrit writer of ancient India. The Kalidas Samman was first awarded in 1980. It was initially conferred in alternate years in the fields of Classical Music, Classical Dance, Theatre and Plastic Arts. From 1986-87 onwards, the awards were presented in all four fields every year.

Approach: Culture current affairs question. Awards and honors are important from the exam perspective.

064.

Answer: A

Explanation:

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Approach: Prepare a chart of important index and reports.

Related Topics: Ease of Doing Business, World Development Report, Ease of Living Index, Global Economic Prospect (GEP) report