

## UPSC Monthly Current Affairs Magazine Answer Key May 2021

Q1. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
2. The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
3. SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
4. The allocation to each State depends on its population and utilisation of such funds in the previous financial year.

Options:

- a) Only 1 & 2
- b) Only 1, 2 & 3
- c) Only 1, 3 & 4
- d) All of the Above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
- The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
- The allocation to each State depends on its population and utilization of such funds in the previous financial year.

Context:

- As a special dispensation, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, at the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs, has released in advance of the normal schedule the first instalment of the Central share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for 2021-22 to all the States.
- In relaxation of the normal procedure, not only has the release of the SDRF been advanced, the amount has also been released without waiting for the utilisation certificate of the amount provided to the States in the last financial year.

Q2. Nagorno-Karabakh is often in news, in relation to which of the following?

- a) territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- b) territorial conflict between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- c) territorial conflict between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
- d) territorial conflict between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh.
- Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed territory, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.
- In September 2020, a new war erupted in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories, which saw armed conflict between the forces of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Q3. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding National Building Code of India (NBC)?

1. It is published by the Bureau of Indian Standards and is a "recommendatory document", and States have been asked to incorporate it into their local building bylaws.
2. It specifies the technical requirements for special buildings, high rises, educational and institutional buildings higher than 9 metres, and those with an area of over 300 square metres.
3. The code mandates heavy fire liability insurance compulsory for all public buildings.

Options:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 2 & 3
- d) All of the Above

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Building Code of India does not mandate heavy fire liability insurance for public buildings.

Q4. Which of the following statement regarding Remdesivir is incorrect?

- a) It is a brand name of a drug used in Covid-19 patients.
- b) It was originally developed to treat Hepatitis C.
- c) It is an intravenous nucleotide prodrug.
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Remdesivir, sold under the brand name Veklury, is a broad-spectrum antiviral medication.
- Remdesivir was originally developed to treat hepatitis C, and was subsequently investigated for Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus infections before being studied as a post-infection treatment for COVID-19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, remdesivir was approved or authorized for emergency use to treat COVID-19 in around 50 countries.
- It is administered via injection into a vein.
- Remdesivir is a prodrug.
  - A prodrug is a medication or compound that, after administration, is metabolized (i.e., converted within the body) into a pharmacologically active drug.
- The GS-441524 monophosphate form of Remdesivir subsequently biotransforms into GS-441524 triphosphate, a ribonucleotide analogue inhibitor of viral RNA polymerase.

Q5. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?

1. Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference
2. Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
3. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses
4. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Gandhi–Irwin Pact was a political agreement signed by Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, in 1931.
- While Gandhiji agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement and participate in the Second round table conference, the British agreed to withdraw ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement and release prisoners who were not charged with violence.
- Despite the demand for an enquiry into police excesses during the Civil Disobedience Movement, this demand was not accepted by the British administration, while the other three demands were accepted.

Q6. Which of the following is/are not a member of the Group of Seven (G7) countries?

1. Russia
2. Canada
3. Japan
4. India
5. Australia

Select the correct option from below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only

- b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 4 and 5 only
- d) 4 and 5 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

- G-7 countries consist of the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan.

Q7. Karen and Kachin state, recently seen in the news, is related to:

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Armenia
- c) Iran
- d) Myanmar

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Karen and Kachin states are both located in Myanmar.
- Kachin is bordered by China to the north and east; India to the west.

Q8. Which of the following is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961?

- a) Prime Minister's Office
- b) Department of Personnel and Training
- c) Cabinet Secretariat
- d) Lok Sabha Secretariat

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961.
- It is responsible for facilitating the smooth transaction of business in Ministries/Departments of the Government.
- It provides secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and its Committees, and also assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ad-hoc Committees of Secretaries.
- Through this mechanism, new policy initiatives are also promoted.

Q9. Which of the following statements regarding Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is/are correct?

1. It is an independent verification printer machine and is attached to electronic voting machines.
2. VVPAT machines can be accessed by voters to point out any malfunction.
3. In 2013, the SC had asked the Election Commission to introduce paper trails in EVMs.

Options:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 1 & 3
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is an independent verification printer machine and is attached to electronic voting machines.
- With an intent to have the fullest transparency in the system and to restore the confidence of the voters, the SC had asked the Election Commission to introduce paper trails in EVMs in 2013.
- VVPAT machines cannot be accessed by voters. The VVPAT machines can only be accessed by the polling officials.

Q10. Which of the following diseases can be transmitted from one person to another through

tattooing? [UPSC 2013]

1. Chikungunya
2. Hepatitis B
3. HIV-AIDS

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- While Hepatitis B and HIV-AIDS can be transmitted from one person to another through exposure to body fluids such as blood, semen or vaginal fluids, Chikungunya is a viral disease that is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Therefore, Hepatitis B and HIV-AIDS can be transmitted from one person to another through tattooing.

Q11. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created in 1950 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II.
2. In recognition of its work, UNHCR is the only organization to win Nobel Peace Prize more than once.
3. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group, a consortium of organizations dedicated to sustainable development.

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

Answer: c



Explanation:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created in 1950 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group, a consortium of organizations dedicated to sustainable development.
- UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has received the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and 1981. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been honoured three times, in 1917, 1944 and 1963.

Q12. Which of the following is correct regarding the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

1. NHRC is an independent statutory body established in 1993 in conformity with the Paris Principles.
2. NHRC has the power to interfere in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights.
3. NHRC has a special wing to investigate allegations of human rights violations.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- NHRC is an independent statutory body established in 1993 in conformity with the Paris Principles.
- NHRC has the power to interfere in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights.
- NHRC is a standalone entity of the Government of India with the mission of promoting and protecting human rights.
- NHRC has a special wing to investigate allegations of human rights violations.



Q13. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. If a candidate belonging to a registered political party dies before the commencement of the poll, the election to that constituency is adjourned.
2. In case the polling in a particular constituency is adjourned, the Model Code of Conduct is revoked immediately.

Options:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Only when a candidate belonging to a recognised political party dies before the commencement of the poll the election to that constituency is adjourned.
- However, if a candidate belonging to a registered political party or an independent candidate dies before the commencement of the poll, the election to that constituency is conducted as per schedule.
- In case the polling in a particular constituency is adjourned, the Model Code of Conduct is revoked only after the results of the polls being conducted in that particular state are declared.

Q14. Consider the following statements:

1. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960.
2. Qatar is the latest country to suspend its membership in OPEC.
3. Currently, the organization has a total of 23 Member Countries.

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

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

d) All of the Above

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960.
- Qatar terminated its membership on 1 January 2019. Ecuador is the latest country to suspend its membership of OPEC effective 1 January 2020.
- Currently, OPEC has 13 member countries. Algeria, Angola, UAE, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Congo, Libya, Nigeria, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Q15. Karl Marx explained the process of class struggle with the help of which one of the following theories? [UPSC 2011]

- a) Empirical liberalism
- b) Existentialism
- c) Darwin's theory of evolution
- d) Dialectical materialism

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Karl Marx explained the process of class struggle with the help of dialectical materialism.
- Dialectical materialism is a philosophy of science, history, and nature developed in Europe and based on the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Q16. Consider the following statements:

1. Self-driving cars are just one of the many potential advantages of 5G over 4G.
2. Latency is low with 4G, but 5G will make it virtually zero.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Network latency is the time required for a set of data to travel between two points. 5G technology is different from previous generations of cellular technology because of how short that amount of time is. Latency is low with 4G, but 5G will make it virtually zero.
- Latency plays a very important role in self-driving cars.
- Self-driving cars are just one of the many potential advantages of 5G over 4G.

Q17. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)?

1. MGNREGA wages are calculated based on the Consumer Price Index-Agriculture Labourer i.e. CPI-AL.
2. In FY21, as many as 11 crore individuals got work under the scheme, the highest since its inception in 2006.

Options:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wages are calculated based on the Consumer Price Index-Agriculture Labourer (CPI-AL).
- In the Financial Year 2021, as many as 11 crore individuals got work under the scheme, the highest since its inception in 2006, owing to the huge demand for work under the MGNREGA scheme in FY-21.

Q18. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Gujral Doctrine is a set of seven principles to guide the conduct of foreign relations with India's immediate neighbours.
2. The Gujral Doctrine is based on the principles of cooperation, accommodation and reciprocity.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Gujral doctrine was a five-point roadmap that sought to build trust between India and neighbours, of the solution to bilateral issues through bilateral talks and to remove immediate quid pro quos in the diplomatic relationship between India and her neighbours.
- The five principles are:
  - With neighbours such as Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka, India does not seek reciprocity but offers and accommodates what it can in good faith and trust.
  - No South Asian country should permit its territory to be used against the interest of another south Asian nation.
  - Countries should not interfere in the internal affairs of one another.
  - All South Asian countries should respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
  - They should settle all their disputes via peaceful bilateral negotiations.
- The Gujral Doctrine is based on cooperation, accommodation and non-reciprocity.

Q19. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a constitutional body established under Article 350-B of the Constitution.
2. The NCW consists of a chairperson, a member secretary and 11 other members.
3. NCW has the power to inspect the jail, remand home to ensure that the women staying there are not exploited as they are vulnerable.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 and 2
- c) Only 3
- d) All of the Above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- The Commission consists of a chairperson, a member secretary, and five other members.
- NCW has the power to inspect the jail, remand home to ensure that the women staying there are not exploited as they are vulnerable.

Q20. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the: (UPSC 2011)

- a) three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- b) three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- c) three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- d) three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Ancient Indian temples are classified into three broad categories. The Nagara (Northern India), the Dravida (Southern India) and the Vesara (Deccan, parts of North India and Central India, between the Vindhyas and the river Krishna).

Q21. Which of the following was held by the Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney v Union of India case?

1. Economic backwardness is not a criteria for providing reservation.
2. Reservation can be provided only at the time of recruitment, and not at the time of the promotions.

3. Reservation cannot exceed 50% under any circumstance as it was needed to ensure "efficiency" in administration.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney v Union of India case 1992 held that economic backwardness is not a criterion for providing reservation.
- It said that reservation can be provided only at the time of recruitment, and not at the time of the promotions.
- It fixed the reservation limit at 50%.
- The Indira Sawhney judgment had categorically said "50% reservation shall be the rule, only in certain exceptional and extraordinary situations for bringing far-flung and remote areas population into mainstream, 50% rule can be relaxed."
- That is reservation can exceed 50% in "exceptional circumstances" or "extraordinary situation".

Q22. The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 deals with:

- a) Withdrawal of political reservation in favour of Anglo Indians.
- b) Providing constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- c) 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the economically weaker section in the unreserved category.
- d) Implementation of Goods and Services Tax.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 gave constitutional status to the National Backward Classes Commission.

- The Amendment gives the President Powers to notify backward classes.

Q23. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff, as its ex-officio secretary.
2. Officers from the Army, Navy and the Air Force are posted as Joint Secretaries in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).
3. Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is an independent department directly under the command of the Prime Minister.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is the department in charge of military matters within the Indian Ministry of Defence.
- It is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff, as its ex-officio secretary.
- The DMA provides integration between the armed forces of the Union and the Ministry of Defence.
- Officers from the Army, Navy and the Air Force are posted as Joint Secretaries in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

Q24. Consider the following statements:

1. MRIs (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) use radio waves and CT (Computed Tomography) scans use X-rays.
2. CT scans can spot blood clots while X-rays cannot.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only



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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- MRIs (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) use radio waves and CT (Computed Tomography) scans use X-rays.
- CT scan uses computers and rotating X-ray machines to create cross-sectional images of the body. These images provide more detailed information than normal X-ray images. They can show the soft tissues, blood vessels, and bones in various parts of the body.
- CT scans can spot blood clots while X-rays cannot.

Q25. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Brahmo Samaj? (UPSC 2012)

1. It opposed idolatry.
2. It denied the need for a priestly class for interpreting the religious texts.
3. It popularized the doctrine that the Vedas are infallible.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Brahmo Samaj opposed polytheism and idol-worship.
- It denied the need for a priestly class for interpreting the religious texts.
- The doctrine of the infallibility of Vedas was not popularized by BrahmoSamaj. Many of its members questioned the infallibility of Vedas.

Q26. With reference to Uranium, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is weakly radioactive because all isotopes of uranium are unstable.
2. In India, only public sector companies under the Government of India are allowed to explore and mine atomic minerals like Uranium.
3. The largest deposits are found in China, South Africa, and Argentina.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Uranium is weakly radioactive because all isotopes of uranium are unstable.
- Fissionable isotopes, especially U-235, are used in nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons.
- In India, only public sector companies under the Government of India are allowed to explore and mine atomic minerals like Uranium.
- Australia, Kazakhstan, Canada, Namibia and South Africa have the largest deposits of Uranium in the world.

Major uranium deposits in India



Q27. Consider the following Pairs:

**Tiger Reserve**

1. Anamalai Tiger Reserve
2. Satkosia Tiger Reserve

**State**

Tamil Nadu  
Odisha

3. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

West Bengal

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Anamalai Tiger Reserve – Tamil Nadu
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve – Odisha
- Pilibhit Tiger Reserve – Uttar Pradesh

Q28. Which of the following statements about Darwin Port is/are correct?

1. It is a port located on the South Western coast of Australia.
2. The US-owned Landbridge Group had won the bid for a lease of Port Darwin and the port hosts the annual naval exercise between the USA and Australia.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Port Darwin is a port in northern Australia.
- Landbridge Group, a Chinese firm won a bidding process in September 2015 to operate Darwin Port on a 99-year lease in a deal.
- Naval exercises between the USA and Australia have not been conducted in Port Darwin.

Q29. Dahla Dam recently seen in news is in

- a) Iran
- b) Pakistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Afghanistan

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Dahla Dam is Afghanistan's second-biggest dam.
- The Taliban has captured Dahla Dam amidst clashes, shortly after the U.S. military formally began withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan.

Q30. With reference to National Legal Services Authority, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2013)

1. Its objective is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
2. It issues guidelines for the State Legal Services Authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) was formed in 1995 under the authority of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- Its objective is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
- It organizes Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases.

- It issues guidelines for the State Legal Services Authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.

Q31. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Union Territories (UT) of Puducherry and Delhi are the only two UTs with legislative assembly.
2. These Union territories can make laws on any subject in the State List only.
3. The President can establish a high court for a union territory or put it under the jurisdiction of the high court of adjacent state.

Options:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Puducherry, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir are the Union Territories with legislative assembly.
- The Parliament can establish a high court for a union territory or put it under the jurisdiction of the High Court of adjacent state.
- These Union Territories can make laws on any subject in the State List as well as the Concurrent List.

Q32. Kabasura Kudineer recently seen in news is a/an

- a) Formulation used by Siddha practitioners for managing respiratory health
- b) Ayurvedic medicine for nerve regeneration
- c) Ayurvedic formulation for the management of Diabetes
- d) Ayurvedic herb which acts as a blood purifier and detoxifier

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Kabasura Kudineer also termed 'Nilavembu Kudineer' is a type of powder form of medicine mainly used in the treatment of respiratory problems such as fever, cold, severe phlegm and flu.
- It is a Siddha medicine that was widely used as a prophylactic during times of viral epidemic like Swine flu.

Q33. Which of the following statements about Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) is/are correct?

1. Drones flying Beyond Visual Line of Sight are controlled by data provided by on-board instruments.
2. Deploying a drone for BVLOS costs more than several other methods such as manned helicopters and airplanes.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Drones flying Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) are controlled by data provided by on-board instruments.
- Deploying a drone for BVLOS costs far less than several other traditional methods such as manned helicopters and airplanes.

Q34. With reference to Hajongs, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Hajongs are predominantly Buddhists and they speak Hajong, an Indo-Aryan language.
2. Hajongs are exogamous people who marry outside one's social group.

Options:

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Hajong are a tribal group native to the Indian subcontinent, notably in the northeast Indian states and Bangladesh.
- Hajongs follow Hajong Hinduism also called Dyaoism which is a form of Hinduism practised by the Hajong people of Northeast India. It represents a distinct form of Hindu worship incorporating tribal animism.
- The Hajong people speak the Hajong language, which is an Indo-Aryan language.
- Hajongs are endogamous people. They marry within the specific social group or ethnic group, rejecting those from others as unsuitable for marriage or other close personal relationships.

Q35. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2017)

1. India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
3. TFA came into force in January 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
- In December 2013, WTO members concluded negotiations on a Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) at the Bali Ministerial Conference, as part of a wider "Bali Package".
- Therefore, TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.



- The TFA entered into force on 22 February 2017 after two-thirds of the WTO membership completed their domestic ratification process.

Q36. The Central Authorities are responsible for which of the following?

1. Manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs.
2. Approval of New Drugs.
3. Clinical Trials in the country.
4. Laying down the standards for Drugs.
5. Control over the quality of imported Drugs.

Options:

- a) 1, 2, 3 & 5
- b) 1, 3, 4 & 5
- c) 2, 3, 4 & 5
- d) All of the Above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The central authorities are not involved in the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs.
- Central authorities like the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approve new drugs, lay down standards for drugs and help regulate the quality of imported drugs.

Q37. Arnesh Kumar judgment is related to which of the following?

- a) Defection of legislators
- b) Shortage of oxygen in the hospitals
- c) Guidelines related to arrests
- d) Euthanasia

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Arnes Kumar v. the State of Bihar is a landmark judgment, which was pronounced by the Apex Court imposing checks and balances on the powers of the police before an arrest.
- The judgment had laid guidelines related to arrests holding that arrests should be an exception in cases where the offences are punishable with less than 7 years imprisonment.

Q38. Match the following:

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Keibul Lamjao National Park | A) Manipur      |
| 2. Kaziranga National Park     | B) Chhattisgarh |
| 3. Kanger Valley National Park | C) Assam        |
| 4. Bandipur National Park      | D) Karnataka    |

Select the correct option from below:

- a) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D
- b) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
- c) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A
- d) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D

Answer: a

Explanation:

- KeibulLamjao National Park- Manipur
- Kaziranga National Park- Assam
- Kanger Valley National Park- Chhattisgarh
- Bandipur National Park- Karnataka

Q39. Consider the following countries/organisations:

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
2. South Korea
3. Japan
4. Sri Lanka

Select the correct options India has Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 1, 2 & 3
- d) All of the Above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- India's first bilateral FTA with Sri Lanka (ISFTA) came into effect in March 2000.
- India has a FTA with South Korea, Japan and ASEAN as well.

Q40. The function of heavy water in a nuclear reactor is to

- a) Slow down the speed of neutrons
- b) Increase the speed of neutrons
- c) Cool down the reactor
- d) Stop the nuclear reaction

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Moderator is required in a Nuclear reactor to slow down the neutrons produced during the fission reaction so that the chain reaction can be sustained.
- Heavy Water is an excellent moderator due to its high moderating ratio and low absorption cross section for neutrons.

Q41. Which of the following is/are correct regarding Gopal Krishna Gokhale?

1. He became Congress president at its Banaras session in 1905.
2. He was regarded by Mahatma Gandhi as his political guru.
3. He started a weekly newspaper, 'The Hitavada', in Marathi.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- He became Congress president at its Banaras session in 1905.
- He was regarded by Mahatma Gandhi as his political guru.
- He started a weekly newspaper 'Hitavada' in English.

Q42: Which of the following is/are incorrect regarding 'Dharmatma Gokhale'?

1. It was a book written by Bal Gangadhar Tilak as a tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
2. It was written in Sanskrit.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- 'DharmatmaGokhale' is a book written by Gandhiji in Gujarati, as a tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Q43: Which of the following is incorrect regarding Rabindranath Tagore?

- a) Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali.
- b) In 1874, Tagore's poem Abhilaash was published anonymously in a magazine called Tattobodhini.
- c) In 1905, following the partition of Bengal, Tagore renounced his knighthood.
- d) In 1921, Rabindranath Tagore established Viswabharati University.

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali.

- In 1874, Tagore's poem Abhilaash (Desire) was published in a magazine called Tattobodhini.
- Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in 1919 following the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919.
- In 1921, Rabindranath Tagore established Viswabharati University.

Q44: Which of the following amendments were made to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 2020?

1. Foreign contribution must be received only in an account designated by the bank as an "FCRA account" in the Delhi branch of the State Bank of India.
2. The government may conduct an inquiry before renewing the FCRA certificate to ensure that the person making the application is not indulging in activities aimed at religious conversion.
3. A person who receives foreign contribution must not use more than 20% of the contribution for meeting administrative expenses.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was passed in the Parliament in September 2020. As per the amendments:
- Foreign contribution must be received only in an account designated by the bank as an "FCRA account" in the Delhi branch of the State Bank of India.
  - The Home Ministry had directed all NGOs seeking foreign donations to open a designated FCRA account at the State Bank of India's New Delhi branch by March 31, 2021.
- The government may conduct an inquiry before renewing the FCRA certificate to ensure that the person making the application is not indulging in activities aimed at religious conversion.

- A person who receives foreign contribution must not use more than 20% of the contribution for meeting administrative expenses.

Q45. Consider the following areas: (UPSC 2012)

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sunderbans

Which of the above are Tiger Reserves?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Bhitarkanika National Park is a national park in northeast Kendrapara district in Odisha. It obtained the status of a Ramsar site in 2002. It is surrounded by Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. It is not a Tiger Reserve.
- Bandipur in Karnataka, Manas in Assam and Sunderbans in West Bengal are all Tiger Reserves.

Q46. Which of the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is/are correct?

1. PMGKAY is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19.
2. The scheme is aimed at providing each household covered under the National Food Security Act with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised food grain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
3. The central Govt. and the state Govts will share the burden of expenditure on account of intrastate transportation in the ratio of 90:10.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19.
- PMGKAY provides 5 kg of rice or wheat (according to regional dietary preferences) per person.
- The foodgrains will be allocated free-of-cost at 5 Kg per person per month to the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) over and above NFSA foodgrains.
- It is being operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- The Government of India is bearing 100% financial burden.

Q47. Consider the following statements regarding Tanjore paintings:

1. They are painted mostly on cloth and vellum.
2. They depict a liberal use of golden leaf.
3. Lord Krishna and his life is a major theme of these paintings.

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:



- Tanjore painting is popularly known as 'palagaipadam' which means picture on a wooden plank as most of these pictures are etched on solid wood boards.
- They depict a liberal use of golden leaf.
- Lord Krishna and his life is a major theme of these paintings.

Q48. Which of the following is part of the 'Charter of Duties' of the Indian Coast Guard?

1. Safety and Protection of Artificial Islands and Offshore Terminals
2. Protection of Fishermen
3. Assistance to Fishermen in Distress at Sea
4. Preservation and Protection of Marine Environment
5. Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution

Select the correct option from below:

- a) 1, 2 & 3
- b) 1, 2, 3 & 4
- c) 2, 3 & 5
- d) All of the Above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- 'Charter of Duties' of the Indian Coast Guard include:
  - Safety and Protection of Artificial Islands and Offshore Terminals
  - Protection of Fishermen
  - Assistance to Fishermen in Distress at Sea
  - Preservation and Protection of Marine Environment
  - Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution
  - Assisting the Customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations
  - Enforcement of Maritime Laws in Force
  - Safety of Life and Property at Sea
  - Collection of Scientific Data

Q49. Consider the following statements:

1. Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented in partnership with States/UTs to provide safe tap water to every rural home by 2034.
2. Puducherry has become India's first 'Har Ghar Jal' UT by ensuring that every rural home in the Union Territory gets a household tap connection.
3. For Jal Jeevan Mission there is assured fund available under the 15th Finance Commission tied-grant to RLB/PRIs for water & sanitation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented in partnership with States/UTs to provide safe tap water to every rural home by 2024.
- JJM is implemented to enable every rural home in the villages to have Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- Andaman and Nicobar became India's first 'Har Ghar Jal' UT by ensuring that every rural home in the Union Territory gets a household tap connection.
- Puducherry is the fourth state/UT after Goa, Telangana, Adaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under the Union Government's Jal Jeevan Mission.
- For Jal Jeevan Mission there is assured fund available under the 15th Finance Commission tied-grant to Rural Local bodies /Panchayati Raj Institutions for water & sanitation.

Q50. What is the role of ultraviolet(UV) radiation in the water purification systems?(UPSC 2012)

1. It inactivates/kills the harmful microorganisms in water.
2. It removes all the undesirable odours from the water.
3. It quickens the sedimentation of solid particles, removes turbidity and improves the clarity of water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Ultraviolet water purification is the most effective method for disinfecting bacteria from the water. Ultraviolet (UV) rays penetrate harmful pathogens in the water and destroy illness-causing microorganisms by attacking their genetic core (DNA).
- It does not remove undesirable odour from the water.
- It does not play any role in the sedimentation of solid particles and does not remove turbidity.

Q51. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2018)

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.
2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.
3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of Opposition.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Communist Party of India.
- In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.

- The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognized as the leader of the Opposition in that House. In case of Lok Sabha, it is one tenth of 545 seats.

Q52. What are S&P, Moody's and Fitch, which are often seen in news and referred to as the 'Big Three'?

- a) Multinational private banks
- b) Legal consulting firms
- c) Credit rating agencies
- d) Multilateral lending institutions

Answer: c

Explanation:

- S&P, Moody's and Fitch are referred to as the 'Big three Credit rating agencies'.
- A credit rating agency assigns credit ratings that rate a debtor's ability to pay back debt by making timely principal and interest payments as well as the likelihood of default.
- An agency may rate the creditworthiness of issuers of debt obligations, of debt instruments, and in some cases, of the servicers of the underlying debt, but not of individual consumers.

Q53. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cyclonic activity is comparatively less intense in the Arabian Sea, as compared to the Bay of Bengal.
2. Arabian Sea cyclones are also relatively weak compared to those emerging in the Bay of Bengal.
3. But the number of cyclones that form in the Arabian Sea in a year is roughly the same as the number of cyclones that form in the Bay of Bengal.

Options:-

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- While cyclonic activity is comparatively less intense in the Arabian Sea, high-intensity severe cyclones originate frequently in the Bay of Bengal.
- Arabian Sea cyclones are also relatively weak compared to those emerging in the Bay of Bengal.
- Bay of Bengal witnesses more cyclones in a given year as compared to the Arabian Sea. This is because:
  - The Bay of Bengal is warmer than the Arabian Sea, it is able to provide the heat energy needed to sustain the low-pressure system.
  - The Bay of Bengal receives higher rainfall and a constant inflow of fresh water from the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. This means that the Bay's surface water keeps getting refreshed, making it impossible for the warm water to mix with the cooler water below, making it ideal for depression.
  - The absence of a large landmass between the Pacific and the Bay, allows cyclonic winds to easily move into the Bay of Bengal.
  - Low-pressure system originating from the Pacific Ocean also travel towards the left to the Bay of Bengal.

Q54. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is an autonomous and statutory body mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
2. CARA is responsible for granting a 'no objection' certificate for all inter-country adoptions, pursuant to India becoming a signatory to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoptions.
3. India is also a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Options:-

- 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.
- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is an autonomous and statutory body mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- It is responsible for granting a 'no objection' certificate for all inter-country adoptions, pursuant to India becoming a signatory to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoptions.
- India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Q55. Which of the following are located to the west and east of Strait of Hormuz respectively?

- a) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- b) Arabian Sea and Iran
- c) Saudi Arabia and Kuwait
- d) Iran and Qatar

Answer: a

Explanation:

Oil Transit Route through Strait of Hormuz



Q56. Which of the following countries are members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Pakistan
3. India
4. Turkey

Options:-

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation founded in 1969 has 57 members, with 42 countries being Muslim majority countries. India is not a member of OIC.

Q57. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2016)

The India-Africa Summit

1. Held in 2015 was the third such Summit.
2. Was actually initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- India-Africa summits started in 2008 with New Delhi as its first venue. It is the key diplomatic initiative of India to reach out to the African countries, especially the members of the African Union.
- Since then, it was decided to hold these summits every three years, alternately in India and Africa.
- The second summit was held in Addis Ababa in 2011.
- The third summit, scheduled to be held in 2014, was postponed because of the Ebola outbreak and took place in October 2015.



Q58. The Bolshevik Party and its revolution was concerned with which country?

- a) France
- b) Russia
- c) Venezuela
- d) Turkey

Answer: b

Explanation:

- In 1917, leftist revolutionaries led by Bolshevik Party leader Vladimir Lenin launched a nearly bloodless coup against the Duma's provisional government and seized power. This is referred to as the October Revolution of Russia or the Bolshevik Revolution.

Q59. Which states/UTs are involved in the Cauvery river dispute?

1. Karnataka
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Kerala
4. Puducherry
5. Andhra Pradesh

Options:

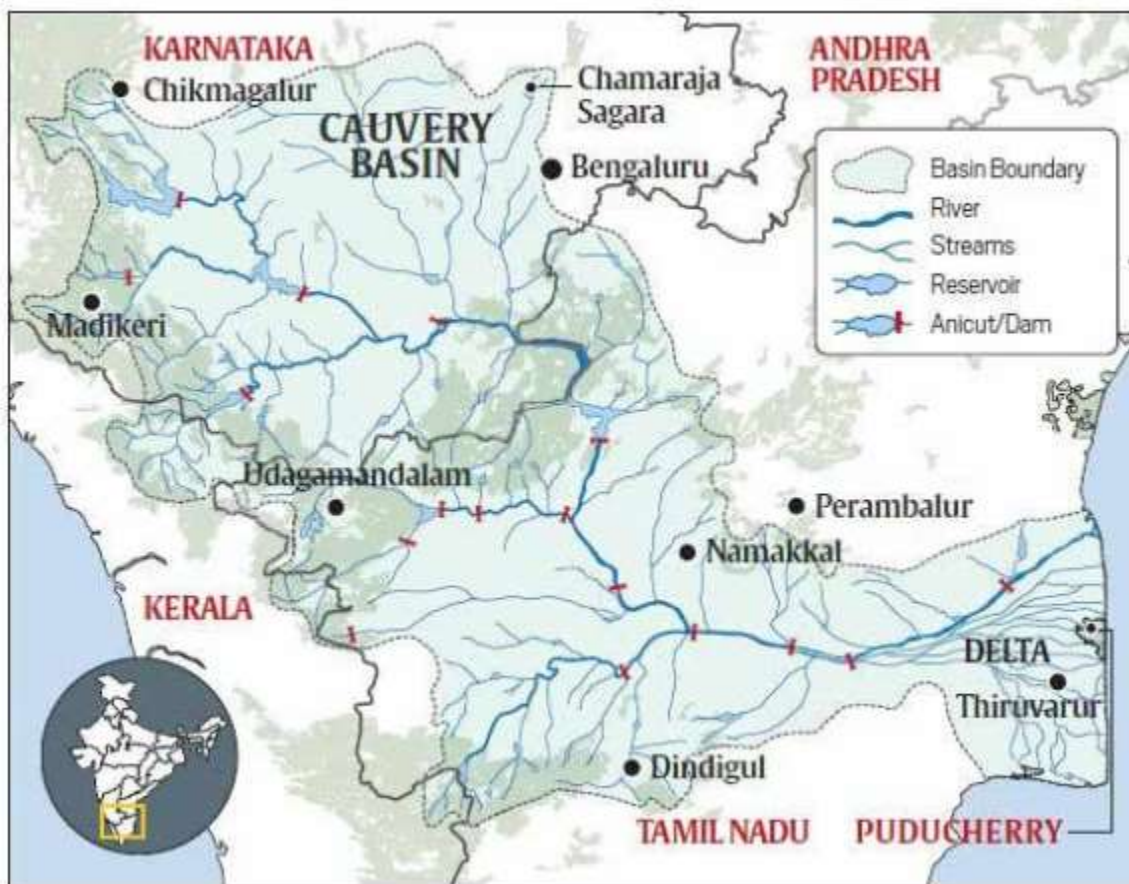
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Cauvery river basin is spread across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Cauvery Basin



Q60. What is Iron Dome of Israel?

- A sacred religious site which is revered by both Palestinian Muslims and Israeli Jews
- An advanced cyber weapon developed by Israeli intelligence to target Iran's critical infrastructure
- A mobile all-weather air defense system designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells
- Israel's naval blockade of Gaza strip to deny essential supplies to Hamas militants in the Gaza strip

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Iron Dome is a mobile all-weather air defense system developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries. The system is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells.

Q61. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
  2. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) represents the status of production in the industrial sector for a given period of time as compared to a reference period of time.
- a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period. It shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO) (formerly known as Central Statistical Organization) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Q62. The terms 'Event Horizon', 'Singularity', 'String Theory' and 'Standard Model' are sometimes seen in the news in the context of -

- a) Observation and understanding of the Universe  
b) Study of the solar and the lunar eclipses  
c) Placing satellites in the orbit of the Earth  
d) Origin and evolution of living organisms on the Earth

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Event horizon, boundary marking the limits of a black hole. At the event horizon, the escape velocity is equal to the speed of light. Since general relativity states that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, nothing inside the event horizon can ever cross the boundary and escape beyond it, including light. Thus, nothing that enters a black hole can get out or can be observed from outside the event horizon.
- A gravitational singularity, space time singularity or simply singularity is a location in space time where the density and gravitational field of a celestial body is predicted to become infinite by general relativity.
- In physics, string theory is a theoretical framework in which the point-like particles of particle physics are replaced by one-dimensional objects called strings. String theory describes how these strings propagate through space and interact with each other.

Q63. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The National Health Mission (NHM) is an exclusive healthcare programme for rural areas.
2. States have no role in its implementation, it is entirely executed by the Centre.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The National Health Mission (NHM) launched in 2013 encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).
- It is the flagship healthcare programme for both the rural as well as urban areas.
- Both the Centre and states play a key role in the implementation of the scheme.
- The funding for NHM is in the sharing pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State for most of the states and 90:10 in some special cases.

Q64. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mucormycosis is a fungal infection caused by a group of moulds called mucormycetes.

2. Poor immunity, uncontrolled diabetes, steroid treatment are considered to be risk factors.
3. It is commonly referred to as Black Fungus and has been reported in patients recovering from COVID-19.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

- Mucormycosis is a fungal infection caused by a group of moulds called mucormycetes.
- Major risk factors are poor immunity, uncontrolled diabetes, steroid treatment.
- Mucormycosis is commonly referred to as Black Fungus and has been reported in patients recovering from COVID-19.

Q65. Who was referred to as 'Deenabandhu' for his contributions to the Indian independence movement?

- a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- b) Charles Freer Andrews
- c) Jotirao Govindrao Phule
- d) Madan Mohan Malaviya

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Charles Freer Andrews was an Anglican priest and Christian missionary, educator and social reformer, and activist for Indian independence.
- He became a close friend of Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi.
- He was instrumental in convincing Gandhi to return to India from South Africa.

- CF Andrews is known for his work in uplifting the poor and hence was given the name "Deenabandhu" by Mahatma Gandhi.

Q66. What is the purpose of the National Register of Citizens (NRC)?

- a) To identify native and indigenous tribes and distinguish them from outsiders
- b) To document all the legal citizens so that the illegal immigrants can be identified
- c) To facilitate rehabilitation of those facing religious persecution in neighbouring countries
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The main purpose of the National Register of Citizens is the identification of illegal immigrants.
- The objective of the introduction and updating of the NRC in Assam was the identification of the illegal immigrants in Assam who had migrated to Assam from Bangladesh during the 1971 war with Pakistan.

Q67. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2019)

1. Most of India's external debt is owed by governmental entities.
2. All of India's external debt is denominated in US dollars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:



- According to the data by the Ministry of Finance, External Commercial Borrowings by private entities is far higher than governmental debt. Hence, most of India's external debt is not owed by governmental entities.
- India's external debt is denominated in US Dollars, Euro, Special Drawing Rights of the International Monetary Fund, etc.

Q68. Which of the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi(PM-KISAN) Yojana is/are correct?

1. It is a 100 per cent centrally funded scheme under which Rs 6,000 is transferred in three equal installments to eligible farmer families in a year.
2. The responsibility of identifying the landholder farmer family eligible for benefit under the Scheme and uploading the data of the eligible beneficiaries on the PM-KISAN Portal is that of the States/UT Administrations.
3. Under the Scheme, the States/UTs are required to set up Grievance Redressal Committees for looking into the grievances related to the implementation of the scheme.
4. Data of grievances received/disposed of by the states is maintained centrally.

Options:

- a) 1, 2 & 3 only
- b) 1, 2 & 4 only
- c) 1 & 4 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a 100 per cent centrally funded scheme under which Rs 6,000 is transferred in three equal installments to eligible farmer families in a year.
- The responsibility of identifying the landholder farmer family eligible for benefit under the Scheme and uploading the data of the eligible beneficiaries on the PM-KISAN Portal is that of the States/UT Administrations.
- Under the Scheme, the States/UTs are required to set up Grievance Redressal Committees for looking into the grievances related to the implementation of the scheme. No data of grievances received/disposed of by them is, however, maintained centrally. It is maintained at the state level.



Q69. Which of the following can be considered competitive advantages of the red-eared slider over the native turtle species?

1. lower age at maturity
2. higher fecundity
3. larger adult body size

Select the correct option from below:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 2 & 3
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The red-eared slider is included in the list of the world's 100 most invasive species published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.
- They have become an invasive species in many areas where they outcompete native species.
- They mature at an early age as compared to other native turtle species.
- They have higher fecundity i.e ability to reproduce abundantly.
- They have a large adult body size thereby competing with the native turtle species for food and resources.

Q70. Consider the following statements:

1. The red-eared slider is traded illegally in India.
2. Continuous releasing of exotic pet turtles in natural ecosystems increases the risk of parasite transmission to native species.
3. Because of their omnivorous diet and ability to adapt to various habitats, the red-eared slider has a great potential for impacting indigenous habitats.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The trading of the red-eared slider is legal in India. They are popular as pets.
- Continuous releasing of exotic pet turtles in natural ecosystems increases the risk of parasite transmission to native species.
- The red-eared sliders found in the natural water bodies grow fast, virtually leaving nothing for the native species to eat.
- Because of their omnivorous diet and ability to adapt to various habitats, the red-eared slider has a great potential for impacting indigenous habitats.

Q71. Consider the following:

1. African Forest Elephant
2. African Savanna Elephant
3. Asian Elephant

Which of the above has/have been categorised as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 1 & 3
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

- African Forest Elephant is categorised as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- African Savanna Elephant and Asian Elephant have been categorised as endangered by the IUCN.

Q72. In India, if a religious sect/community is given "the status of a national minority", what special advantages it is entitled to? (UPSC 2011)

1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.
3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In India, if a religious sect/community is given "the status of a national minority":
  - Under Article 30, it can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
  - It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme, a program launched by the government for the welfare of minority community in 2006.
  - There is no communal electoral system in India that allows the President of India to automatically nominate a representative of the community to Lok Sabha based on religion, sect or community.

Q73. Which of the following statement(s) regarding Zeolites is/are correct?

1. Zeolites do not occur naturally but are produced industrially on a large scale.
2. Zeolites are used as molecular sieves to create purified oxygen from air using its ability to trap impurities.
3. Zeolites are reusable

Options:

- a) 1 & 2
- b) 1 & 3

- c) 2 & 3
- d) All of the Above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Zeolites are crystalline solids structures made of silicon, aluminum and oxygen that form a framework with cavities and channels inside them. Zeolites are basically microporous, aluminosilicate minerals commonly used as commercial adsorbents and catalysts.
- They are often also referred to as molecular sieves.
- Zeolites occur naturally and are also produced industrially on a large scale. Conventional open-pit mining techniques are used to mine natural zeolites.
- The oxygen concentrator compresses air and passes it over zeolite, causing the zeolite to adsorb the nitrogen from the air. It then collects the remaining gas, which is mostly oxygen, and the nitrogen desorbs from the zeolite under the reduced pressure to be vented. Hence it is reusable.

Q74. Zeolites are used in the following:

1. Water softeners
2. Water filters
3. Odour control
4. Pet litter

Select the correct option from below:

- a) 1 & 2
- b) 1, 2 & 3
- c) 2 & 4
- d) All of the Above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Oxygen concentrators use zeolites in conjunction with pressure swing adsorption to remove nitrogen from compressed air to supply oxygen for aircrews at high altitudes, as well as home and portable oxygen supplies.

- Zeolites are widely used as ion-exchange beds in domestic and commercial water purification, softening, and other applications.
- Zeolites are used to adsorb a variety of materials. This includes applications in drying, purification, and separation.
  - Zeolite controls odours by absorbing moisture from waste and adsorbing the ammonia produced by microbial activity on the liquids
  - Zeolites also absorb up to 50 percent of their weight in liquids without expansion, and individual wet grains bind into clumps. Because of these characteristics, zeolite is added to many bentonite and non-bentonite litters to provide additional odor and moisture control.

Q75. Consider the following statements:

1. China is the fifth country to perform a successful soft landing successfully on Mars.
2. China's Tianhe Rover landed on the Moon in its first attempt.
3. India's Mangalyaan, launched in 2013, landed on the surface of Mars in its first attempt.

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

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 1 & 3
- d) None of the Above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- China landed a spacecraft on Mars carrying its first Mars rover.
  - China has previously launched its first Mars mission, called Tianwen-1, carrying a lander and rover. Tianwen-1 had been in orbit and recently a lander descended successfully onto the surface of the red planet carrying a rover named Zhurong.
- This makes China the third country to achieve this feat. Only the Soviet Union and the U.S. had previously carried out a successful landing on Mars.
  - China had previously tried to launch a Mars orbiter along with Russia in 2011, but that failed to enter orbit.
- China's first space station called the Tianhe is set to be functional by the end of next year and only the second space station after the International Space Station.
- India's 2013, Mangalyaan mission involved only an orbiter and did not involve a rover.

Q76. NASA's Perseverance rover is related to:

- a) Mars
- b) Moon
- c) Sun and its Influence on Earth
- d) Venus

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Mars 2020 is a Mars rover mission forming part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program that includes the rover Perseverance and the small robotic, coaxial helicopter Ingenuity.

Q77. Which one of the following is a purpose of 'UDAY', a scheme of the Government?(UPSC 2016)

- a) Providing technical and financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in the field of renewable sources of energy
- b) Providing electricity to every household in the country by 2018
- c) Replacing the coal-based power plants with natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind and tidal power plants over a period of time
- d) Providing for financial turnaround and revival of power distribution companies

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana is the financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India initiated by the Government of India with the intent to find a permanent solution to the financial mess that the power distribution is in.

Q78. Consider the following statements:

1. India formally recognized Israel in 1992 when full diplomatic relations were established between India & Israel.
2. No Indian Prime Minister has made an official visit to Israel.
3. India has never voted in support of Israel at the UN or any of its committees.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- India officially recognised the State of Israel on 17th September 1950, whereas full diplomatic ties were established only in 1992.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India visited Israel in 2017 at the invitation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- In 2019, India voted in support of Israel at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
  - India voted in favour of Israel at ECOSOC to deny observer status to "Shahed", a Palestinian Human Rights organization (a terrorist organization according to Israel) from securing an observer status at the United Nations.

Q79. Which of the following is/are weapons India has purchased from Israel?

- 1. Heron
- 2. SPYDER
- 3. Chinook
- 4. Python

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: d



Explanation:

- India has purchased Heron, SPYDER and Python from Israel.
- Heron is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial system (UAS) for strategic and tactical missions developed by Israel Aerospace Industries.
- The SPYDER (Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby) is an Israeli short and medium range mobile air defence system developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- Python refers to a family of missiles developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- The Boeing CH-47 Chinook is an American twin-engine, tandem rotor, heavy-lift helicopter.

Q80. Consider the following statements:

1. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is an advisory body of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions.
3. India has not ratified the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is an autonomous and statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development set up in 1990.
- It functions as the nodal body/central authority for the adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- India signed and ratified the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption in 2003

Q81. Consider the following statements:

1. National Tribunals Commission (NTC) is an independent autonomous body responsible for oversight as well as administration of tribunals, constituted in 2019.
2. The establishment of NTC was suggested by the Supreme Court in the Rojer Matthew case (2019).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Centre is yet to constitute a National Tribunals Commission (NTC).
- The idea of an NTC was first mooted in L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India (1997).
- It would be set up as an independent autonomous body responsible for oversight as well as administration of tribunals, also to oversee selection, appointment, salaries and service conditions of tribunal members.

Q82. Which of the following National Parks is unique in being a swamp with floating vegetation that supports a rich biodiversity? (UPSC 2016)

- a) Bhitarkanika National Park
- b) Keibul Lamjao National Park
- c) Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- d) Sultanpur National Park

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Keibul Lamjao National Park is located in Manipur.
- The national park is characterized by a unique floating decomposed plant material locally called phumdi.
- It is a floating national park with floating vegetation that supports a rich biodiversity.

Q83. Consider the following pairs:

Terrorist Group	Region
1. Al-Badr	West Africa
2. Al-Shabaab	East Africa
3. Boko Haram	Nigeria

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Al-Badr operates in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in India.
- The group was allegedly formed by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 1998.
- Al-Badr was banned by India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2004.
- Al-Shabaab operates in East Africa, especially in Somalia and Yemen.
- Boko Haram operates in Nigeria. It is based in northeastern Nigeria, which is also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon.

Q84. With reference to carving out a new district in a State, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State Government with the consent of the Central Home Ministry.
- 2. It can be changed only by passing a law in the State Assembly.

Options:

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

d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments.
- The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones.
- This can either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly.

Q85. Farzad B gas field recently seen in news is in

- a) Qatar
- b) Tajikistan
- c) Iran
- d) Azerbaijan

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Farzad B gas field is in the Farsi region which is located between the Iranian and Saudi territories

Farzad B gas field in Map



Q86. Which of the following statements about Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is/are correct?

1. WPI-based inflation is used by the government in the preparation of fiscal, trade, and other economic policies.
2. Core inflation is the total inflation in an economy.
3. 2015-2016 is the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- WPI-based inflation is used by the government in the preparation of fiscal, trade, and other economic policies.
- Headline inflation is the total inflation in the economy as it includes commodities such as food and energy prices, which tend to be much more volatile and prone to inflationary spikes.
- Core inflation excludes items frequently subject to volatile prices, like food and energy.
- 2011-2012 is the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

Q87. Consider the following statements regarding the Directive Principles of State Policy: (UPSC 2015)

1. The Principles spell out the socio-economic democracy in the country.
2. The provisions contained in these Principles are not enforceable by any court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Directive Principles of State Policy spell out the socio-economic democracy in the country.
- The provisions contained in the DPSPs are not enforceable by any court.

Q88. Which one of the following statements is the best description of Minsk agreement?

- a) It is an agreement between Ukraine and Russia to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine
- b) It is an agreement between England and France to resolve the dispute over access to waters around the Jersey island
- c) It is an agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- d) It is a collective defense treaty between Russia and seven other countries in Central and Eastern Europe

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Minsk agreement is an agreement between Ukraine and Russia to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- It is an agreement to halt the war in the Donbass region of Ukraine.
- It was drawn-up by the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, which comprised of representatives from Ukraine, Russia, and the OSCE.

Q89. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kerch Strait -Black Sea with the Sea of Azov
2. Strait of Messina- Tyrrhenian Sea with the Ionian Sea
3. Strait of Dover- North Sea with English Channel

Options:

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



Answer: d

Explanation:

- Kerch Strait connects Black Sea with the Sea of Azov.
- Strait of Messina connects Tyrrhenian Sea with the Ionian Sea.
- Strait of Dover connects North Sea with English Channel.



Q90. Consider the following statements about Competition Commission of India (CCI):



1. Commission has suo moto power to enquire whether an anti-competitive agreement or abuse of dominant position causes or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition.
2. It is a quasi-judicial body.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

- Competition Commission of India is the competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 and promoting competition throughout India and to prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.
- It has suo moto power to enquire whether an anti-competitive agreement or abuse of dominant position causes or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition.
- It is a quasi-judicial body.

Q91. With reference to Right to Information Act, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. An applicant making request for information shall not be required to give any reason for requesting the information or any other personal details.
2. Intelligence and security organizations specified in the 2nd schedule of the Act are exempted from providing information in all the cases.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- An applicant making an RTI request for information is not be required to give any reason for requesting the information or any other personal details.
- Intelligence and security organizations specified in the 2nd schedule of the Right To Information Act are exempted from providing information in all the cases except information pertaining to the allegations of corruption and human rights violations.
- For issues relating to allegations of corruption and human rights violations, such organisations are required to provide information.

Q92. A rapid increase in the rate of inflation is sometimes attributed to the "base effect". What is "base effect"? (UPSC 2011)

- a) It is the impact of drastic deficiency in supply due to failure of crops
- b) It is the impact of the surge in demand due to rapid economic growth
- c) It is the impact of the price levels of previous year on the calculation of inflation rate
- d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The base effect refers to the impact of the rise in price level (i.e. last year's inflation) in the previous year over the corresponding rise in price levels in the current year.
- If the inflation rate was too low in the corresponding period of the previous year, even a smaller rise in the Price Index will arithmetically give a high rate of inflation. This is referred to as inflation due to base effect.

Q93. Which of the following has/have been accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

1. Suvarnarekha mango
2. Banganapalli mango
3. Gholvad Sapota

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Gholvad Sapota from Maharashtra, Suvarnarekha mango and Banganapalli mango from Andhra Pradesh have all been accorded the Geographical Indication Tag.

Q94. With reference to President's Rule, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within three months from the date of its issue.
2. A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues to be operative even after the President's Rule.
3. Chhattisgarh and Telangana are the only Indian states that have never slipped to President's rule.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) None
- d) 2 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.

- If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's rule continues for six months.
- A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues to be operative even after the President's Rule.
- This means that the period for which such a law remains in force is not co-terminus with the duration of the proclamation. But it can be repealed or altered or re-enacted by the state legislature.
- Chhattisgarh and Telangana are the only Indian states that have never slipped to President's rule.

Q95. Consider the following statements about National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. A person who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or a Judge of the Supreme Court can be the chairperson of the NHRC.
2. The chairperson and members of the NHRC will hold office for five years or till the age of seventy years.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A person who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or a Judge of the Supreme Court can be the chairperson of the NHRC.
- The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019 reduced the tenure of the Chairperson and members of NHRC to three years (earlier five years) or till the age of seventy years.

Q96. Which of the following statements about Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is/are correct?

1. The CBI functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. With the nationalisation of the banks in 1969, the Public Sector Banks and their employees also came within the ambit of the CBI.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- It is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- With the nationalisation of the banks in 1969, the Public Sector Banks and their employees also came within the ambit of the CBI.

Q97. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2016)

1. Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.
2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Tamil Siddhas are a religious order of mystics (liberated yogis) found in the southern part of India.
- They were monotheistic and condemned idolatry, as they believed in Nirakara or formless god.
- Lingayats are the followers of the 12th-century philosopher and poet Basavanna.
- Lingayats of the Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.
- They challenged the idea of caste and the "pollution" attributed to certain groups by Brahmanas.

Q98. Which of the following statements about pardoning powers of the Governor is/are correct?

1. The Governor can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute a death sentence.
2. Governor does not have the power to pardon the sentence inflicted by a court-martial on the convict.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Unlike the President of India, the Governor does not have the power to pardon a death sentence.
- A governor can reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute a death sentence.
- Governor does not have the power to pardon the sentence inflicted by a court-martial on the convict.

Q99. A-76 recently seen in news is

- a) A team of research scholars visiting Antarctica in an attempt to measure pollution and climate change

- b) A project funded by the European Space Agency (ESA) to understand the pole's gravity field
- c) A large iceberg that has broken off from the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica
- d) An experiment being conducted in the Southern Ocean, Antarctica, aimed at increasing CO sequestration through ocean iron fertilization

Answer: c

Explanation:

A huge ice block has broken off from Ronne Ice Shelf in Western Antarctica into the Weddell Sea, becoming the largest iceberg in the world. This has been named A-76.

Q100. Consider the following statements:

1. Tropical cyclones have much more intense rainfall than temperate cyclones.
2. Tropical cyclones are surrounded by closed isobars, the isobars of a temperate cyclone are generally elongated.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Tropical cyclones have much more intense rainfall than temperate cyclones.
- Tropical cyclones are surrounded by closed isobars, the isobars of a temperate cyclone are generally elongated.
- While the velocity of wind in a tropical cyclone is much higher and more damaging, the velocity of air in a temperate cyclone is comparatively lower.

Q101. Which of the following is/are the advantages of Northern Sea Route (NSR)?

1. It could potentially cut the travel distance between East Asia and Western Europe.



2. Substantial reductions in transportation time.
3. Increased insurance costs and safety considerations.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Northern Sea Route is one of several Arctic shipping routes along the Siberian coast in Russia.
- The Northern Sea Route runs from Norway to Alaska.
  - It runs from the Barents Sea, near Russia's border with Norway, to the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska.
- It will help reduce the transportation time and cost.
- It could potentially cut the travel distance between East Asia and Western Europe.
- However, the disadvantage is that it would increase the insurance costs and safety considerations as the route is open only for 3 months of the year. The region is ice-free only during the summer.

Q102. Recombinant DNA technology (Genetic Engineering) allows genes to be transferred

1. across different species of plants
2. from animals to plants
3. from microorganisms to higher organisms

Select the correct answer using the codes given below. [UPSC 2013]

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Genetic Engineering or Recombinant DNA technology allows selected individual genes to be transferred from one organism into another, also between nonrelated species.
- It allows genes to be transferred across different species of plants, from animals to plants and from microorganisms to higher organisms.

Q103. "Bao-dhaan" recently in News is:

- a) A medium-grain rice, grown in Bhutan and the eastern Himalayas.
- b) Red parboiled rice variety grown in Palakkad district of Kerala.
- c) A GI-tagged variety of rice known for its strong aroma that is widely used in traditional Bengali cuisine.
- d) Iron rich red rice grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam.

Answer: d

Explanation:

- BaoDhaan is the Iron-rich 'red rice' grown in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam.
- This variety is grown without the use of chemical fertilizers.

Q104. Consider these statements w.r.t Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

1. A separate category for Primitive Tribal Groups was created by the Bhuria Commission.
2. India has more than 100 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
3. Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of PVTGs.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Dhebar commission in 1973 created a separate category for Primitive Tribal Groups.
- There are 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India.
- Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs. 13 tribes in the state are recognized as PVTGs. Andhra Pradesh has 12 PVTGs.

Q105. Which of the given statements w.r.t Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is/are correct?

1. It was conceptualized in 2002 during World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.
2. Koraput in Odisha known for Kayal cultivation is a recognised GIAHS site in India.
3. Kuttanad in Kerala and Kashmir valley's Pampore region are proposed to be recognised as GIAHS sites.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was conceptualized in 2002 during World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Koraput in Odisha is a recognised GIAHS site in India but not for Kayal cultivation.
- Kuttanad in Kerala for Kayal Cultivation and Kashmir valley's Pampore for saffron cultivation have already been accorded the GIAHS status.

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

1. Chipko Movement – Uttarakhand
2. Appiko Movement – Andhra Pradesh
3. Save Silent Valley Movement – Kerala
4. Jungle Bachao Andolan – Bihar

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Chipko Movement took place in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- Inspired by the Chipko movement, Appiko Movement was organized in the state of Karnataka.
- Save Silent Valley movement was an environmental movement organized to protest against the hydroelectric project in the Silent Valley Forest in Kerala.
- Jungle Bachao Andolan was organized by the tribals in Bihar's Singhbhum district.

Q107. Which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC 2017)

Viruses can infect

- 1. bacteria
- 2. fungi
- 3. plants

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Viruses can infect all types of life forms including bacteria, fungi, plants, animals and other micro-organisms.

Q108. Which of the given statement/s is/are correct w.r.t National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)?

1. Vice-chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority is the ex-officio chairman of the NCMC.
2. NCMC and Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) are the key committees involved in the top-level decision-making with respect to Disaster Management (DM).
3. It coordinates the activities of the ministries in the central government and the state governments in ensuring disaster preparedness and relief operations.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Cabinet Secretary chairs the National Crisis Management Committee.
- NCMC and Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) are the key committees involved in the top-level decision-making with respect to Disaster Management (DM).
- NCMC coordinates the activities of the ministries in the central government and the state governments in ensuring disaster preparedness and relief operations.

Q109. Which of the given statement/s w.r.t Spiralling whitefly is/are correct?

1. It is an invasive species native to Sri Lanka.
2. It predares upon fruit plants, vegetables and entomopathogenic fungi.
3. First reported in Kerala, it is now distributed throughout India except for Jammu and Kashmir.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Sipsralling Whitefly (*Aleurodicus disperses*) is an invasive species native to Caribbean islands or Central America or both.
- It predares upon fruit plants, ornamental plants, medicinal plants, vegetables etc. However, it does not feed on entomopathogenic fungi.
- Entomopathogenic fungi is one of the measures used in controlling Sipsralling Whitefly. The Entomopathogenic fungi kill and feed on Sipsralling Whiteflies.
- First reported in Kerala in 1995, it is now distributed throughout India except for Jammu and Kashmir.

Q110. Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

1. Genome sequencing helps in understanding the role of mutations in increasing the virus's infectivity.
2. Coronavirus genome is made of RNA only.
3. The Human Genome Project is India's research effort to determine the sequence of the human genome and identify the genes that it contains.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Genome sequencing helps in understanding the role of mutations in increasing the virus's infectivity.
- The Coronavirus genome is made of RNA.
- The Human Genome Project (HGP) was an international scientific research project that led to the decoding of the entire human genome.
- Inspired by Human Genome Project (HGP), India started the Genome India Project

Q111. Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?

**Cyclones****Suggested by**

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Yaas    | Oman       |
| 2. Nisarga | India      |
| 3. Nivar   | Bangladesh |
| 4. Burevi  | Maldives   |

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Cyclones****Suggested by**

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Yaas    | Oman       |
| 2. Nisarga | Bangladesh |
| 3. Nivar   | Iran       |
| 4. Burevi  | Maldives   |

Q112. With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements: (UPSC 2019)

- 1. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.
- 2. India is the largest shareholder in AIIB.
- 3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has 103 members.
- For Asian or Non-Asian members, the allocated shares in the bank are based on the size of each member country's economy.
- China is the largest shareholder in the bank followed by India.
- The bank has members from outside Asia as well.

Q113. With reference to Baul, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are a group of mystic singing minstrels living in rural West Bengal and Bangladesh.
2. They belong to a devotional tradition influenced by Vaishnavism only.
3. Baul songs are listed under UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) None
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Baul are a group of mystic minstrels or poets of mixed elements of Sufism and Sahaja from Bangladesh and Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Barak Valley of Assam.
- They belong to a devotional tradition influenced by Vaishnavism, Buddhism and Sufism.
- In 2008, Baul songs were listed under UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Q114. Consider the following statements:

1. Mount Nyiragongo is an active strato volcano in the Philippines.
2. Barren Island is the only active volcano in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Barren Island is the only active volcano in India.

Q115. Which of the following statements about International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is/are correct?

1. It is an organization within the United Nations family.
2. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. IAEA was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a UN agency. Although the IAEA is an independent international organisation, it reports annually to the UNGA.

- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- IAEA was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, along with its former Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei.

Q116. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Treasury bills can be issued by the Government of India only.
2. Dated securities are issued at a discount to their true (PAR) value and upon expiry, it's redeemed at its true value.
3. G-Secs can be used as collateral to borrow funds in the repo market.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- G-Secs are of two types: Treasury bills with maturity less than a year and G-Secs with maturity of more than a year.
- Treasury bill is one such money market instrument that the government issues for the short-term requirement of funds. Only the government of India can issue treasury bills.
- Dated securities can be issued by both the state government as well as the central government.
- Treasury bills are issued at a discount to their true (PAR) value and upon expiry, it's redeemed at its true value. Dated securities are not issued at a discount on their PAR value.
- G-Secs can be used as collateral to borrow funds in the repo market.

Q117. With reference to 'National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)', which of the statements given below is/are correct? (UPSC 2017)

1. Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning.

2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) is a quality assurance framework. It is a nationally integrated education and competency-based skill framework that will provide for multiple pathways, horizontal as well as vertical, both within vocational education and vocational training, and among vocational education, vocational training, general education and technical education, thus linking one level of learning to another higher level.
- Hence, the learner is not restricted to acquiring the certification for competency through formal learning only.
- NSQF will also provide facilities for multiple entry and exit between skill training, vocational education, job markets, general and technical education.
- An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education.

Q118. Which of the given statements is/are correct w.r.t the GST Council?

1. The Chairperson of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a permanent invitee to all proceedings of the GST Council and has one vote.
2. Each state has one vote, irrespective of its size or population.
3. Half of the total number of Members of the Council constitutes the quorum at its meetings.

Options:

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

d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Chairperson of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a non-voting permanent invitee to all proceedings of the GST Council.
- Each state has one vote, irrespective of its size or population.
- In the GST Council meetings, half of the total number of Members of the Council constitutes the quorum.

Q119. Which of the following can help in Carbon Sequestration?

1. Dumping of Iron in the upper ocean
2. Crop Rotation
3. Deep sea fishing

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Dumping of Iron in the upper ocean leads to phytoplankton bloom which is known as Iron Fertilization. The phytoplankton uses carbon dioxide in the air and converts it to carbohydrates. This helps in carbon sequestration.
- The organic content in the soil increases due to crop rotation fostering carbon sequestration.
- The animal and plant material are deposited in deep sea are a part of the ocean food web. The carbon thus sequestered in the deep sea is removed during deep sea fishing. This does not facilitate carbon sequestration.

Q120. The search committee involved in making recommendation for the appointment of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director comprises:

1. Chief Justice of India
2. Leader of Opposition/Leader of the largest opposition party
3. Central Vigilance Commissioner
4. Home Secretary
5. Prime Minister

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- CBI Director is appointed as per the Lokpal Act.
- The search committee that recommends the name of CBI director to be appointed, to the centre comprises the Prime Minister as the chairperson, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition.
  - In the absence of the Leader of Opposition, the Leader of the largest opposition party.

Q121. Which of the following is/are fungal infections?

1. Mucormycosis
2. Cryptococcus
3. Histoplasmosis
4. Candida

Options:

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

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Mucormycosis, candida, aspergillosis, cryptococcus, histoplasmosis and coccidioidomycosis are all fungal infections.

Q122. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2017)

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito – the same mosquito that transmits dengue, yellow fever and chikungunya.
- Zika virus is also transmitted through sexual contact, transfusion of blood, during organ transplantation and from mother to foetus during pregnancy.

Q123. Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

1. Tides originate in deep sea under impact of crustal movement.
2. They occur on the impact of gravity of moon and the sun.
3. Gravitational force and centrifugal force give rise to tides.

Options:



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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Tsunami's originate in deep sea under impact of crustal movement.
- Tides are the rise and fall of sea levels caused by the combined effects of the gravitational forces exerted by the Moon and the Sun, and the rotation of the Earth. The rotation of the earth gives rise to centrifugal forces.

Q124. Which of the following is/are the importance of Mangroves?

1. Stabilize the coastal shores.
2. Enhance the natural recycling of nutrients.
3. Act as carbon sinks.
4. Reduce the turbidity of water.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Mangroves play a critical role in the environment. The help in the following ways.
  - Stabilize the coastal shores and help limit coastal erosion.
  - Enhance the natural recycling of nutrients.
  - Act as carbon sinks and hence play a critical role in carbon cycle of the environment
  - By reducing the rate of flow of water it helps reduce the turbidity of water.

Q125. Arrange the following Islands in Lakshadweep from North to South:

1. Kavaratti
2. Agatti
3. Minicoy
4. Amini

Options:

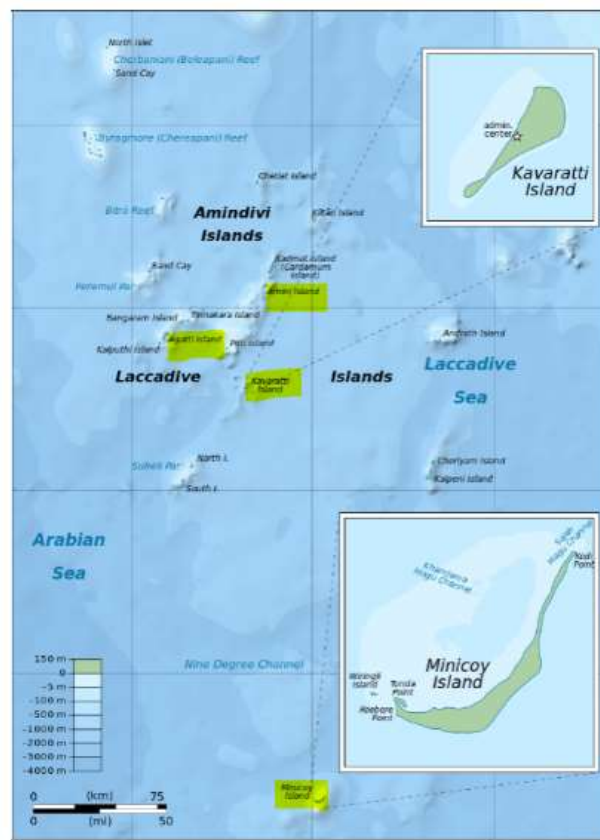
- a) 4, 2, 1, 3
- b) 4, 1, 2, 3
- c) 1, 4, 2, 3
- d) 3, 4, 2, 1

Answer: a

Explanation:

Lakshadweep Map





Q126. Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

1. Ahimsa, Karma and Nirvana are the three ratnas of Buddhism.
2. Right observation, right determination and right livelihood are a part of Buddha's Ashtangamarga.
3. Mahayana and Theravada are the two major sects of Buddhism created by Gautama Buddha.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Tri-ratna or (three ratnas) of Buddhism comprises the Buddha, the dharma (doctrine, or teaching), and the sangha (the monastic order, or community).
- The eight elements of the eight fold path (Buddha's Ashtangamarga) includes the following:
  - Right livelihood
  - Right observation
  - Right determination
  - Right action
  - Right meditation
  - Right exercise
  - Right speech
  - Right memory
- Buddhism was divided into two major sects (Mahayana and the Theravada) upon the death of Gautama Buddha. The division was not made by Buddha.

Q127. 'Net metering' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the

- a) Production and use of solar energy by the households/consumers
- b) Use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households
- c) Installation of CNG kits in motor-cars
- d) Installation of water meters in urban households

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid.
- The provision for earning from solar energy production incentivizes consumers to install solar energy systems.

Q128. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is an extra-constitutional body.
2. NH1 extends from Delhi to Amritsar.
3. NH7 is the longest National Highway in India.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is an extra-constitutional body i.e statutory body.
- NH1 extends between the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The number 1 indicates, under the new numbering system, that it is the northernmost East-West highway in India.
- NH 1 passes from Uri to Baramulla, Srinagar, Sonamarg, Zoji La, Dras, Kargil and Leh.
- At present, NH44 is the longest National Highway in India.

Q129. With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The agency is allowed to investigate offences committed outside India.
2. NIA can investigate terror cases across the country without having to get permission from the states.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central counter-terrorism agency functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- The agency is allowed to investigate offences committed outside India.

- NIA can investigate terror cases across the country without having to get permission from the states.

Q130. Which one among the following statements is incorrect with respect to International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- a) The ISA is a coalition of solar resource-rich countries that lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- b) It is the first full-fledged treaty-based international intergovernmental organization headquartered in India.
- c) The ISA membership is limited to countries that are partially or fully located within the tropics.
- d) The body is funded by voluntary contributions by its members and partner countries.

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The membership of the International solar alliance is not restricted to the countries which are partially or fully located within the tropics (Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn).
- Any member country of the United Nations is eligible for ISA membership.

Q131. With reference to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. CDRI was launched by the President of the European Commission at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- 2. CDRI Secretariat is based in Madrid.
- 3. A large share of the estimated fund requirements to cover the core costs for the first five years was invested by Germany and France.

Options:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) None
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by the Prime Minister of India at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.
- Its secretariat is based in New Delhi.
- A large share of the estimated fund requirements to cover the core costs for the first five years was invested by India.

Q132. What does venture capital mean? (UPSC 2014)

- a) A short-term capital provided to industries
- b) A long-term start-up capital provided to new entrepreneurs
- c) Funds provided to industries at times of incurring losses
- d) Funds provided for replacement and renovation of industries

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Venture capital (VC) is a long-term start-up capital provided to new entrepreneurs.
- VC is an investment fund that is involved in managing money from different investors seeking to provide capital to new entrepreneurs and start-ups that have immense growth potential.

Q133. Colour-coded notices such as red, blue, green, yellow, etc. are issued by which international organisation?

- a) World Trade Organisation
- b) World Bank
- c) Interpol
- d) UNEP

Answer: c

Explanation:



- INTERPOL Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- Red Notice: To seek the location/arrest of a person wanted by a judicial jurisdiction or an international tribunal with a view to his/her extradition.
- Blue Notice: To locate, identify or obtain information on a person of interest in a criminal investigation.
- Green Notice: To warn about a person's criminal activities if that person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- Yellow Notice: To locate a missing person or to identify a person unable to identify himself/herself.
- Black Notice: To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- Orange Notice: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing an imminent threat and danger to persons or property.
- Purple Notice: To provide information on modus operandi, procedures, objects, devices, or hiding places used by criminals.

Q134. What does CARICOM, often seen in news, refer to?

- a) Private communication satellite developed by Indian students
- b) Regional organisation representing the Caribbean nations
- c) UN financing mechanism for disaster risk reduction
- d) Intelligence gathering and sharing arrangement of NATO countries

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) is a group of countries in the Caribbean.
- It is an economic and political community that works together to shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.
- The organisation was established in 1973.
- The secretariat headquarters is in Georgetown, Guyana. CARICOM is an official United Nations Observer.

Q135. Which of the following statements about Rabindranath Tagore is/are correct?

1. Rabindranath Tagore was ideologically opposed to the Non-cooperation movement.

2. He wrote an essay – 'The Cult of the Charkha' – which offered a critique on the Gandhian ethic of "charkha-spinning" as an activity that could rejuvenate the Indian masses during the Indian independence movement.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Rabindranath Tagore was ideologically opposed to the Non-cooperation movement.
- He opined that it presented a more isolationist view of India. Rabindranath Tagore argued that violent nationalism (burning foreign clothes) would destroy civilization itself. Rather he supported the creative programmes.
- He wrote an essay – 'The Cult of the Charkha' – which offered a critique on the Gandhian ethic of "charkha-spinning" as an activity that could rejuvenate the Indian masses during the Indian independence movement.

Q136. The State of the Global Climate Report is brought out by -

- a) World Meteorological Organization
- b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Answer: a

Explanation:

- State of the Global Climate Report is published by the World Meteorological Organization.

Q137. In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in others because: (UPSC 2019)

- a) poverty rates vary from State to State
- b) price levels vary from State to State
- c) Gross State Product varies from State to State
- d) quality of public distribution varies from State to State

Answer: b

Explanation:

- In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in others because price levels vary from State to State.
- Poverty lines are measured based on the minimum consumption cost incurred by the people in a particular region as per the Tendulkar Committee recommendations.
- The minimum consumption cost differs from state to state as the price levels vary for each of the states.

Q138. Which of the following statements regarding 'National AI Portal' is/are correct?

1. It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
2. It serves as a central hub for AI-related news, learning, articles, events and activities, etc., in India and beyond.
3. The portal was launched in 2019.

Options:-

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 2 & 3
- d) All of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
- It serves as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities, etc., in India and beyond.

- The portal was launched by the Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law and Justice and Communications on the 30th of May 2020.

Q139. The 'Great Gatsby Curve' deals with:

- a) inflation
- b) unemployment
- c) inequality and inter-generation mobility
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The "Great Gatsby Curve" highlights differences in mobility across countries.
- It shows the relationship between income inequality and intergenerational income mobility.
- The Great Gatsby Curve illustrates the connection between concentration of wealth in one generation and the ability of those in the next generation to move up the economic ladder compared to their parents.

Q140. Which of the following are the three values of Olympism?

- a) excellence, friendship and respect
- b) excellence, friendship and honour
- c) fairness, teambuilding and equality
- d) discipline, inclusion and perseverance

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The three values of Olympism are excellence, friendship and respect.
- These values constitute the foundation on which the Olympic Movement builds its activities to promote sport, culture and education with a view to building a better world.

Q141. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. An IAS officer may, with the concurrence of the state governments concerned and the central government, be deputed for service under the central government or another state government.
2. If there is a disagreement between the centre and state on the central deputation of an officer, the matter shall be decided by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

Options:-

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: a

Explanation:

- An IAS officer may, with the concurrence of the state governments concerned and the central government, be deputed for service under the central government or another state government.
- With respect to disagreement between the centre and state on the central deputation of an officer, Rule 6(1) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954 states that "provided that in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government."

Q142. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2012)

1. Union Territories are not represented in the Rajya Sabha.
2. It is within the purview of the Chief Election Commissioner to adjudicate the election disputes.
3. According to the Constitution of India, the Parliament consists of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Union territories such as Delhi and Puducherry have representation in Rajya Sabha.
- Election disputes are adjudicated by the respective state High Courts.
- As per the Constitution of India, the parliament of India consists of three parts:
  - The President
  - Rajya Sabha
  - Lok Sabha

Q143. Which of the following species are most likely to be seen at the Sundarbans?

1. Indian python
2. Irrawaddy dolphin
3. Hangul
4. Batagur baska

Select the correct option from below:

- a) 1 & 2
- b) 1, 2 & 3
- c) 2 & 4
- d) 1, 2 & 4

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Hangul is also known as the Kashmir stag. It is native to Kashmir and is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of the Kashmir Valley and northern Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Sundarbans forest is among the largest mangrove forest ecosystem in the world. It is home to Indian python, Batagur baska (Northern river terrapin-a species of riverine turtle), Irrawaddy dolphins, Estuarine Crocodile and Royal Bengal Tiger among the others.

Q144. Consider the following:

1. Batagur baska
2. Irrawaddy dolphins
3. Gharial

Which of the above species is/are Critically Endangered?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 & 2
- c) 1 & 3
- d) 2 & 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

IUCN classification:

- Batagur baska – Critically Endangered
- Irrawaddy dolphins – Endangered
- Gharial – Critically Endangered

Q145. Consider the following statements:

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General is the sole authority prescribed in the Constitution entrusted with the responsibility of audit of accounts of the Union and of the States.
2. The Executive does not have powers of direction in relation to Comptroller and Auditor General's audit mandate and its execution.
3. Audit is required to report only significant cases of irregularity and breach of rules, regulations and orders.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 & 2
- c) 2 & 3
- d) All of the Above



Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Comptroller and Auditor General is the sole authority prescribed in the Constitution entrusted with the responsibility of audit of accounts of the Union and of the States.
- The Executive does not have powers of direction in relation to Comptroller and Auditor General's audit mandate and its execution.
- Audit is required to report not only significant cases of irregularity and breach of rules, regulations and orders but also – all the matters which, in the judgment of the Audit, appears to involve significant unnecessary, excessive, extravagant or wasteful expenditure of public money and resources despite compliance with the rules, regulations and orders or expenditure that has not yielded the intended outputs and/or outcomes.

Q146. YUVA, recently seen in news, is:

- a) a skill development program for youth below the age of 30
- b) an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors
- c) a National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education
- d) none of the Above

Answer: b

Explanation:

- YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- It was launched by the Department of Higher Education as a scheme Mentoring Young Authors.
- The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education is the Implementing Agency.

Q147. Which of the following is/are the indicator/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report? (UPSC 2016)

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Global Health Index (GHI) ranks countries on a 100 point scale, 0 representing zero/no hunger. The GHI scores are based on four indicators.
  - Undernourishment: the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient.
  - Child Stunting: the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age.
  - Child Wasting: the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height.
  - Child Mortality: the mortality rate of children under the age of five (a reflection of the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).
- Taken together, the component indicators reflect deficiencies in calories as well as in micronutrients. Thus, the GHI reflects both aspects of hunger (under nutrition and malnutrition).

Q148. Consider the following statements regarding the National Security Act (NSA):

1. The NSA is a preventive detention law that empowers only the Centre to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.
2. Under NSA, a person could be kept in the dark about the reasons for his arrest for up to five days.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1

- b) Only 2
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- NSA is a preventive detention law.
- The NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.
- Under NSA, a person could be kept in the dark about the reasons for his arrest for up to five days.

Q149. Under 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013' which of the following circumstances may amount to sexual harassment?

1. Implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in her employment.
2. Humiliating treatment likely to affect her health or safety.
3. Implied or explicit threat about her present or future employment status.

Options:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 2 & 3
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Under 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, the following circumstances, among other circumstances, if it occurs or is present in relation to or connected with any act or behaviour of sexual harassment may amount to sexual harassment:
  - implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in her employment; or
  - implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in her employment; or

- implied or explicit threat about her present or future employment status; or
- interference with her work or creating an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment for her; or
- Humiliating treatment likely to affect her health or safety.

Q150. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is a Public Sector entity under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. IREDA reported an all-time high annual Profit Before Tax (PBT) in 2020-21.
3. IREDA has been notified as a "Public Financial Institution" as well as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 1 & 2
- c) Only 2 & 3
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is a Public Sector entity under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- IREDA reported an all-time high annual Profit Before Tax (PBT) in 2020-21.
- IREDA has been notified as a "Public Financial Institution" as well as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
  - A public financial institution takes funds from customers and places them in financial assets. The most common financial assets include deposits, loans and bonds issued by or made by the public financial institution.

Q151. 'Camp David Accords' are related to which of the following countries?

- a) Israel and Egypt
- b) Israel and Saudi Arabia
- c) Israel and UAE
- d) Israel and Jordan

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Camp David Accords were a pair of political agreements signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin that normalised connections between Israel and Egypt in 1978.

Q152. Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State? (UPSC 2017)

1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- President's rule is the suspension of state government and imposition of direct Union government rule in a state.
- When the President's Rule is imposed in a state, the President removes/dismisses the council of ministers in the state headed by the chief minister. The governor of the state carries on the administration of the state.
- The President can either suspend or dissolve the Legislative assembly. Therefore, the dissolution of the state legislative assembly is not necessarily the consequence of the proclamation.
- The President's rule does not lead to the dissolution of local bodies.