

BYJU'S Monthly Magazine Answer Key [June 2021]

Q1. Consider the following pairs:

1. Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary: Tamil Nadu
2. Pench Tiger Reserve: Arunachal Pradesh
3. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary: West Bengal

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary is located in Tamil Nadu.
- Pench Tiger Reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Assam.

Q2. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 44th Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part which deals with tribunals.
2. Tribunals under Article 323 A can be established by any 'Appropriate Legislature' by passing a law.
3. The chairman and members of the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) are appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part which deals with tribunals.
- Parliament alone, by passing a law can establish tribunals under Article 323 A.
 - Article 323-A of the Constitution provides for the establishment of administrative tribunals by a parliament law for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints relating to the recruitment and conditions of service of government servants under the central government and the state government including the employee of any local or other authority within the territory of India or

under the control of the government of India or of a corporation owned or controlled by the government.

- The chairman and members of the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) are appointed by the President after consultation with the Governor of the state concerned.

Q3. Arrange the following hills from East to West:

1. Naga Hills
2. Mikir Hills
3. Jaintia Hills
4. Garo Hills

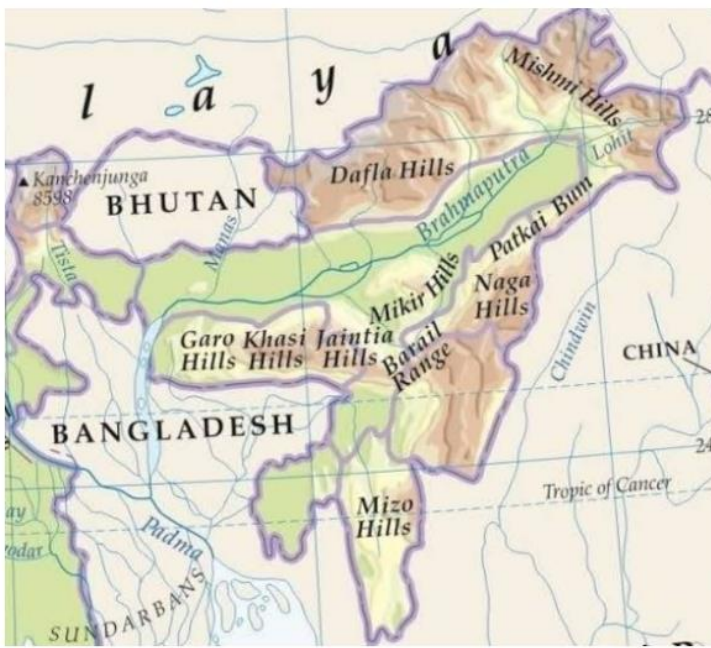
Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

NE India map with the hills



Q4. The chairman and members of National Human Rights Commission are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a committee consisting of

1. Prime Minister
2. Speaker of the Lok Sabha

3. Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
4. Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
5. Central Home Minister

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The chairman and members of the National Human Rights Commission are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a committee consisting of:

- Prime Minister
- Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
- Central Home Minister

Q5. In which of the following regions of India are shale gas resources found? (UPSC 2016)

1. Cambay Basin
2. Cauvery Basin
3. Krishna-Godavari Basin

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

In India, shale gas resources are found in Cambay Basin, Cauvery Basin as well as Krishna-Godavari Basin.

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. It is binding on the President to nominate 12 members to Rajya Sabha.
2. The nomination of members is a discretionary power of the President.
3. A member cannot be renominated after the term is over.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Article 80(3) of the Constitution of India authorizes the President of India to nominate a maximum of 12 members to the Rajya Sabha and the members nominated shall have special knowledge or practical experience in the fields of Literature, Science, Art & Social Service.
 - It is binding on the President to nominate 12 members to Rajya Sabha.
 - Only in the appointment of the Prime Minister, the President enjoys discretionary power.
- The President nominates 12 members to Rajya Sabha on the advice of the Centre (government of the day).
- They are nominated for a six-year term and are eligible to be renominated after their term is over.

Q7. Purchasing Managers' Index or PMI is an economic indicator, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies. For manufacturing PMI, the questionnaire is sent to manufacturing companies. The questions are related to 5 key variables:

1. New orders
2. Output
3. Employment
4. Suppliers' delivery times
5. Stock of items purchased

Which one of the following reflects the correct increasing order according to their weights?

- a) 5-4-3-2-1
- b) 1-2-3-4-5
- c) 1-3-4-2-5
- d) 5-4-2-3-1

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Purchasing Managers' Index or PMI is an economic indicator, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies. For manufacturing PMI, the questionnaire is sent to manufacturing companies. The questions are related to the following 5 key variables in increasing order of their weights:
 1. Stock of items purchased (10%)
 2. Suppliers' delivery times (15%)
 3. Employment (20%)
 4. Output (25%)
 5. New orders (30%)
- PMI values and their components play a major role in providing useful insight into the economic activity of a business to decision-makers, market analysts, and investors.

- The headline PMI is a number that ranges from 0 to 100.
- If a PMI is above 50, it represents an expansion when compared with the previous month.
- If the PMI value falls below 50, it indicates a contraction while a PMI value of 50 indicates no change.

Q8. Vande Bharat Mission is related to:

- a) Bringing back stranded Indians from foreign destinations after suspension of regular international flights due to Covid-19
- b) Evacuation of Indian citizens from South Sudan
- c) India's role in anti-piracy operations in Djibouti
- d) None of the Above

Answer: a

Explanation:

In an effort to bring back its stranded citizens abroad due to the spread of the novel coronavirus and the resulting lockdown thereof, India rolled out the massive evacuation plan called 'Vande Bharat Mission'.

Q9. 'Van Dhan Yojana' deals with:

- a) Financial inclusion
- b) Tax relief for street vendors
- c) The six-month moratorium on term loans announced by the Reserve Bank of India during Covid-19 lockdown
- d) Economic development of tribals

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) launched the Van Dhan scheme in 2018 intending to improve the tribal income through the value addition of tribal products.
- The scheme aims at the economic development of tribals involved in the collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and providing them with a sustainable livelihood.
- Under this scheme, the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras constituted, provide skill up-gradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facilities.

Q10. The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to

- a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments
- b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India
- c) Impose censorship on national press
- d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Sir Harcourt Butler chaired a three-member committee appointed by the Government in Britain in 1927 to inquire into the relationship between the Indian Princely States and the British Government of India.
- The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

Q11. Which of the following is not the function of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)?

- a) Present to the central government an annual report on the safeguards available to the children
- b) Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases
- c) Undertake and promote research in the field of child rights
- d) Deciding the quantum of reservation of seats for children belonging to economically weaker sections in all private unaided schools.

Answer: d

Explanation:

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body established in 2007 under an act of Parliament, the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. It functions under the Ministry of Women & Child Development of the central government.

- Deciding the quantum of reservation of seats for children belonging to economically weaker sections in all private unaided schools is not its mandate.

The Act that constituted the NCPCR laid down its functions and mandates:

- Assess and review the safeguards that are provided for child rights protection in India under existing laws and also suggest measures for implementing them effectively.
- Present reports on the workings of the laws in this domain to the central government as and when necessary.
- Inquire cases of child rights violations and initiate proceedings.
- Study the factors that prevent the enjoyment of rights of children impacted by terrorism, riots, natural calamities, communal violence, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, torture and exploitation, maltreatment, prostitution and pornography, and suggest remedial measures for them.
- Enquire into the needs of children requiring special care and protection such as disadvantaged and marginalised children, children in conflict with the law, children of prisoners and children without families, and also recommend remedial measures thereof.
- Review current policies with respect to children's rights and protection by studying treaties and international instruments and suggest changes as needed.
- Conduct research in the field of child rights.
- Advocate child rights and promote/disseminate the idea through mass campaigns, seminars, etc.
- Undertake investigation into specific complaints received from children or anyone else on their behalf.
- Encourage the incorporation of child rights in school curriculums and train teachers in that respect.
- The Commission is also mandated with responsibilities under two other acts, namely:
 - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
 - Right to Education Act, 2009

Q12. Which of the following statements regarding Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013 is/are correct?

1. The Act envisages the setting up of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at every office of the organisation or institution, having more than 100 employees, to hear and redress complaints pertaining to sexual harassment.
2. An aggrieved woman can file a written complaint to ICC within three months from the date of the incident.
3. Before initiating an inquiry, steps are to be taken to settle the matter between her and the respondent through conciliation.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (“POSH Act”) came into force in 2013.
- It is framed to provide protection to women at the workplace against sexual harassment. The Act further lays down rules for the prevention and redressal of sexual harassment complaints by female workers.
- As per the POSH Act, an employer that has 10 workers or more is required to set up an internal complaints committee for the redressal of ‘sexual harassment’ complaints at such entity and to regulate and administer complaints on sexual harassment.
- An aggrieved woman can file a written complaint to ICC within three months from the date of the incident.
 - This time limit can be extended by a maximum period of 3 months with reasons to be recorded in writing by the ICC if it is satisfied that there were circumstances that prevented the aggrieved female from filing the complaint.
- Before initiating an inquiry steps are to be taken to settle the matter between her and the respondent through conciliation.

Q13. Consider the following statements about the India Cycles4Change challenge:

1. The India Cycles4Change challenge was launched in 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. The challenge was launched last year under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2

- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- India Cycles4Change challenge was launched in 2020 under the Smart Cities Mission by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q14. Consider the following statements:

1. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation announced in 2001 in Shanghai.
2. The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO.
3. The HSC meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

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:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation announced in 2001 in Shanghai.
- The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO.
- The HSC meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

Q15. Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites? (UPSC-2017)

- a) Corbett National Park
- b) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Sariska National Park

Answer: b

Explanation:

- In 2017, there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary lies in the Sheopur district of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.

- It received the status of a national park in 2018.

Q16. Consider the following statements:

1. Sedition law was inserted in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1870 in response to the Wahabi movement.
2. Sedition is one of the 8 reasonable restrictions on citizens' right to freedom of speech and expression under the Indian Constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Sedition law was inserted in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1870 in response to the Wahabi movement.
- Sedition is not among the 8 reasonable restrictions on citizens' right to freedom of speech and expression under the Indian constitution. Sedition is not mentioned in Article 19(2).
- The state can impose 8 reasonable restrictions on the exercise of freedom and expression under the Indian Constitution. They are on the following grounds:
 - 1) The sovereignty and integrity of India
 - 2) Security of the State
 - 3) Friendly relations with foreign nations
 - 4) Public order
 - 5) Decency or morality
 - 6) Contempt of court
 - 7) Defamation
 - 8) Incitement to an offense

Q17. Consider the following statements regarding SDG India Index:

1. The Index is intended to provide a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of the country and its States and UTs.
2. Goals 12, 13, 14 and 17 are excluded from the SDG India Index.
3. Centre and the States/UTs have the mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country.
4. The Index was launched in 2018.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index is intended to provide a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of the country and its States and UTs.
- In the current edition (2020-21), 115 indicators incorporate 16 out of 17 SDGs, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17.
- NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country, and also promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index was first launched in 2018.

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding Black Carbon (BC) deposits:

1. They are short-lived pollutants considered the second-largest contributor to warming the planet.
2. Accelerating the use of liquefied petroleum gas for cooking can cut BC emissions.
3. BC deposits increase the surface reflectance of sunlight.
4. BC deposits raise the air temperature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Black carbon (BC) deposits produced by human activity accelerate the pace of glacier and snow melt in the Himalayan region.
- BC is produced by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass and emissions.
- It is a short-lived pollutant that is the second-largest contributor to warming the planet after carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- Accelerating the use of liquefied petroleum gas for cooking and through clean cookstove programmes can cut BC emissions.
- Deposition of BC decreases the surface reflectance of sunlight thereby hastening the pace of glacier melt.
- BC deposits raise the air temperature.

Q19. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India's overall import dependence on edible oils has ended in 2021.
2. In 2020-21, the production of food grains has decreased when compared to the figures of 2019-20.
3. India's agricultural exports have shrunk by nearly 18 per cent in 2020-21 to meet the domestic food needs.

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 needs 25 million tonnes of edible oils to meet its requirement at current consumption level of 19 kg per person per year.
- Of the total requirement, 10.50 million tonnes are produced domestically. India's import dependence on edible oil still remains high at about 65%.
- In 2020-21, food grain production in India is projected officially to be around 305.44 million tonnes – a massive increase of nearly 27 million tonnes over the average annual output of the previous five years (2015-16 to 2019-20).
- India's agricultural exports grew 17.5 per cent to cross \$41.8 billion in 2020-21.

Q20. 'Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojna' has been launched for (UPSC 2015)

- a) providing housing loan to poor people at cheaper interest rates
- b) promoting women's Self-Help Groups in backward areas
- c) promoting financial inclusion in the country
- d) providing financial help to the marginalized communities

Answer: c

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, such as Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Q21. Recently, WHO came up with a naming system for virus variants based on

- a) Country of origin
- b) Greek alphabets
- c) Mythological figures
- d) Roman numerals

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced a naming system for variants of the coronavirus that uses letters of the Greek alphabet.
- These Greek-letter labels will only be given to "variants of concern" and "variants of interest" as defined by the WHO.
- Under the new scheme, the B.1.1.7 variant first identified in the UK, is labelled "alpha".
- The B.1.351 variant identified in South Africa is "beta", the P.1 variant that originated in Brazil is "gamma" and the B.1.617.2 variant first detected in India is "delta".

Q22. Project 75-I, recently seen in news, is related to -

- a) Construction of nuclear-powered submarines for the Indian Navy
- b) Procurement of Rafale fighter jets from France
- c) Export of Brahmos cruise missiles to Vietnam
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Recently, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister has approved the issuance of a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the construction of six conventional submarines under Project-75I.
- The Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarine for the Indian Navy.
- Under this project, the Indian Navy intends to acquire six diesel-electric submarines, which will also feature advanced air-independent propulsion systems to enable them to stay submerged for a longer duration and substantially increase their operational range.
- All six submarines are expected to be constructed in Indian shipyards.

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

1. Hydrographic survey is the science of measurement and description of marine topographic features which affect maritime navigation and other sea-based activities.
2. India lacks this technology and relies upon the USA for hydrographic surveys in the Indian Ocean region.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Hydrographic survey is the science of measurement and description of marine topographic features which affect maritime navigation and other sea-based activities.
- India is one of the pioneers in hydrographic surveys. Indian navy and other scientific institutions possess this technology.
- India offers this technology free of cost to some of the countries such as Myanmar, Maldives, Mauritius, etc.

Q24. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cancer immunotherapy is a new approach that exploits the body's immune system to put up a fight against cancer.
2. India's first indigenous tumour antigen SPAG9 was discovered in 1998.
3. This antigen has received the trademark 'ASPAGNII' and is being used in dendritic cell (DC) based immunotherapy in treating cervical, ovarian cancer and breast cancer.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Cancer immunotherapy exploits the body's immune system to put up a fight against cancer.
- With this approach, either the immune system is given a boost, or the T cells are "trained" to identify recalcitrant cancer cells and kill them.
- India's first indigenous tumour antigen SPAG9 was discovered in 1998.
- This antigen has received the trademark 'ASPAGNII' and is being used in dendritic cell (DC) based immunotherapy in treating cervical, ovarian cancer and breast cancer.

Q25. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2018)

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

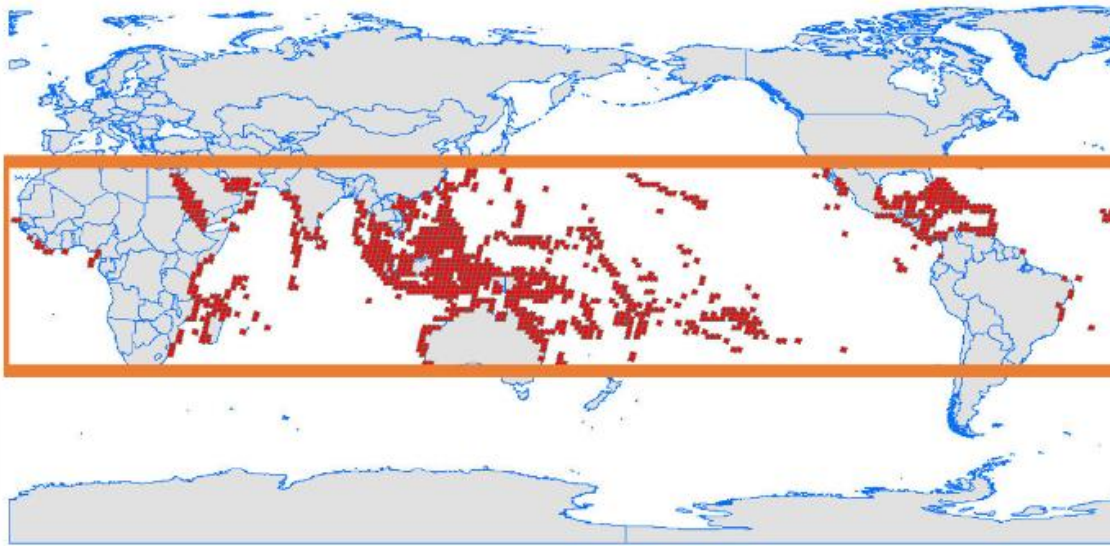
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters. Coral reefs thrive in a temperature range of 22 °C to 29 °C – usually found in tropical waters.
- More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests. They are believed to have about 4 times more animal phyla as compared to tropical rainforests.
- Coral reefs are also referred to as the 'tropical rainforests of the sea'



Q26. Consider the following statements:

1. India has five Tiger landscapes
2. TraMCA is a software-based monitoring system launched by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
3. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve is in the State of Maharashtra

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- India's five tiger landscapes are: Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains, Central Indian Landscape and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-East Hills and Brahmaputra Plains, and the Sundarbans.
- M-STrIPES, short for Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status is a software-based monitoring system launched across Indian tiger reserves by the Indian government's National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 2010.
- TraMCA is a region of high biodiversity that extends along south-eastern Bhutan and northeastern India. TraMCA stands for Transboundary Manas Conservation Area.
- The Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in India. The reserve includes the Tadoba National Park and the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q27. Which one among the following statements is incorrect about Burkina Faso?

- a) It is a landlocked country in West Africa
- b) It is part of Africa's semi-arid Sahel region
- c) Equator passes through Burkino Faso
- d) The major ethno linguistic group of Burkina Faso is the Mossi

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa lying in Africa's semi-arid Sahel region. It is bordered by Mali to the northwest, Niger to the northeast, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, and the Ivory Coast to the southwest. Ouagadougou is the capital of Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso



- The Equator does not pass through Burkino Faso.



- The Mossi are the largest ethnic group in Burkina Faso, constituting more than 40% of the population, or about 6.2 million people. Other ethnic groups include the Gurunsi, Senufo, Lobi, Bobo and Fulani.

Q28. Biomedical wastes are divided into four color categories, which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Yellow- Human anatomical waste, animal anatomical waste
2. Orange- Contaminated plastic bag, bottles

3. White- Scalpels, blades, needles
4. Blue- Broken Glassware or metallic body implant

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Bio-medical waste:

- Bio-medical waste means “any solid and/or liquid waste including its container and any intermediate product, which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biological or in health camps.

Categorization:

Biomedical waste categorization



Q29. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. H10N3 is a rare strain of a virus that normally infects poultry.
2. H5N1 is the most common virus causing bird flu, or avian influenza. Though largely restricted to birds, it can cross over to other animals, but not humans.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

1. H10N3 is a rare strain of a virus that normally infects poultry. However, China has recently confirmed the first instance of human infection from H10N3.
2. H5N1 is the most common virus causing bird flu, or avian influenza. Though largely restricted to birds, and often fatal to them, it can cross over to other animals, as well as humans.

Q30. Which of the following can be said to be essentially the parts of 'Inclusive Governance'? (UPSC 2012)

1. Permitting the Non-Banking Financial Companies to do banking
2. Establishing effective District Planning Committees in all the districts
3. Increasing the government spending on public health
4. Strengthening the Mid-day Meal Scheme

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Establishing effective District Planning Committees in all the districts allows for decentralized planning which facilitates more inclusive governance.
- Increasing the government spending on public health will help ensure universal access to healthcare facilities thus ensuring inclusive governance
- Strengthening the Mid-day Meal Scheme will help ensure nutritional security for the poor children and thus amounts to an inclusive governance measure.

Q31. With reference to Mango showers, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. These rains are usually seen at the end of the spring season.
2. They are common in the states of Karnataka and Kerala.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- These rains are usually seen at the end of the summer season.

- Mango showers are used to describe the occurrence of pre-monsoon rainfall, they help in the early ripening of mangoes.
- These rains normally occur from March to April, although their arrival is often difficult to predict.
- Pre-monsoon showers are common, especially in Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and parts of Tamil Nadu in India.
- The mango showers occur as the result of thunderstorm development over the Bay of Bengal.

Q32. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon is quite stronger than the Bay of Bengal branch.
2. All the South Indian States receive heavy rainfall during Southwest Monsoons.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoons is quite stronger than the Bay of Bengal branch.
- Tamil Nadu does not receive much rain during the southwest monsoons because of two major reasons.
 - The Bay of Bengal Branch currents flow parallel to the coast of Tamil Nadu.
 - Tamil Nadu is a rain shadow region with respect to the Arabian Sea branch.

Q33. Consider the following statements about the Performance Grading Index:

1. It is an index released annually which examines governance performance in the states through a data-based framework, ranking them on social and economic development.
2. It is released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC) in Bengaluru.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Performance Grading Index monitors the progress that the States and Union Territories have made in school education with regard to learning outcomes, access & equity, infrastructure & facilities, and governance & management processes.
- It is released by the Ministry of Education.

Q34. India is a signatory to which of the following Conventions and Treaties?

1. Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
2. Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
3. Australia Group
4. Wassenaar Arrangement
5. Convention on Cluster Munitions

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- India is a signatory to Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
- Among the export control regimes, India is a part of the Australia Group as well as the Wassenaar Arrangement.
- India is not a signatory to Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Q35. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2015)

1. The Executive Power of the Union of India is vested in the Prime Minister.
2. The Prime Minister is the ex officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.

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:

- The Executive Power of the Union of India is vested in the President.
- Cabinet Secretary is the ex officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.

Q36. With reference to Aravalli Range, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Aravalli Mountain range passes through three states.
2. The highest peak is Guru Shikhar.
3. It is the oldest range of Fold Mountains in India.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Aravalli Mountain range passes through Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Guru Shikhar in the Aravalli Mountains of Rajasthan is the highest peak in the Aravalli Mountain range.
- It is the oldest range of fold mountains in India. The natural history of the Aravalli Range dates back to times when the Indian Plate was separated from the Eurasian Plate by an ocean.

Q37. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, juveniles charged with heinous crimes and who are between the ages of 15-18 years would be tried as adults and processed through the adult justice system.
2. "Heinous Offences" include the offences for which the minimum punishment under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment for five years or more

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- According to the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, juveniles charged with heinous crimes and who are between the ages of 16-18 years would be tried as adults and processed through the adult justice system.
- Juvenile justice procedure has categorized the offence into 3 types, petty, serious and heinous.
- "Heinous Offences" include the offences for which the minimum punishment under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment for seven years or more.

Q38. In the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), an initiative of six countries, which of the following is/are not a participant/participants?

1. Bangladesh
2. Cambodia
3. China
4. Myanmar
5. Thailand
6. India

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism (LMC) was formally launched in March 2016.
- It is an initiative of China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- India and Bangladesh are not a part of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

Q39. Which of the following countries border Peru?

1. Venezuela
2. Colombia
3. Paraguay
4. Chile
5. Bolivia

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

South America Map



Q40. Regarding 'carbon credits', which one of the following statements is not correct? (UPSC 2011)

- The carbon credit system was ratified in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol.
- Carbon credits are awarded to countries or groups that have reduced greenhouse gases below their emission quota.
- The goal of the carbon credit system is to limit the increase of carbon dioxide emission.
- Carbon credits are traded at a price fixed from time to time by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The carbon credit system was ratified in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol.

- Carbon credits are awarded to countries or groups that have reduced greenhouse gases below their emission quota.
- The goal of the carbon credit system is to limit the increase of carbon dioxide emission.
- Carbon credit prices are traded on an exchange. So, their prices are never fixed.

Q41. Consider the following statements:

1. An Election Commissioner is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
2. An Election Commissioner is removed in the like manner and on the like grounds as the judge of the Supreme Court.
3. An Election Commissioner, after his/her term is over, is ineligible to become a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Under Article 324(2) of the Constitution of India, the President of India (on the recommendation from the incumbent Government of India) is empowered to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from his office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. However, the Constitution is silent about the procedure for removal of the two Election Commissioners. It only provides that they cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.
- An Election Commissioner, after his/her term is over, can become a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Q42. Consider the following statements:

1. Fifty-two countries and territories are presently classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by the United Nations OHRLLS.
2. SIDS were recognized by the UN as a special case for their security issues.
3. Trinidad and Tobago, Maldives, Singapore and Bahrain are some of the members of the SIDS.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a group of developing countries that are small island countries that tend to share similar sustainable development challenges.
- Fifty-two countries and territories are presently classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by the United Nations OHRLLS.
- The SIDS were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.
- The Barbados Programme of Action was produced in 1994 in order to assist the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts.
- The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) represents this group of states.
- The 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2005 adopted the World Heritage Programme for SIDS and they have since become a point of focus for World Heritage identification and protection.
- Trinidad and Tobago, Maldives, Singapore and Bahrain are some of the members of the SIDS.

Q43. Operation Pangea XIV, recently seen in the news, is a:

- a) global crackdown on illegal medical trade
- b) research study to evaluate continental drift theory
- c) oil and gas exploration initiative in the Arctic area
- d) none of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

The operation codenamed “Operation Pangea XIV” was an exercise coordinated by Interpol for a global crackdown on illegal medical trade.

Q44. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Error	Description
1. 403	A – server is unable to handle the information request
2. 404	B – requested page is not available
3. 503	C – resource is forbidden

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) standard response code and description:

- Error 403 occurs when the resource is forbidden. It occurs when the web page that is trying to be opened in the web browser is a resource that is not allowed to be accessed.
- Error 404 – Page Not Found error message is an HTTP standard response code, to indicate that the browser was able to communicate with a given server, but the server could not find what was requested. In short, it means, the requested page is not available.
- Error 503 – is an HTTP status code that means that the server is unable to handle the information request. Most of the time, it occurs because the server is too busy or because there's maintenance being performed on it.

Q45. Consider the following statements: Attorney General of India can

1. take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha
2. be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha
3. speak in the Lok Sabha
4. vote in the Lok Sabha

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [UPSC 2013]

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Attorney General of India can take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha.
- He/she can be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha.
- He/she can speak in the Lok Sabha.
- The Attorney General of India has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which s/he may be named a member but without a right to vote.

Q46. With reference to Minimum Support Prices (MSP), which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. They are announced by the Government of India at the end of the sowing season.
2. MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and its recommendation is binding.
3. MSP also covers commercial crops.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers.
- They are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season.
- MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and its recommendations are not binding and are only advisory in nature.
- MSP also covers commercial crops.
- MSPs cover:
 - Cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi)
 - Pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil)
 - Oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, sesamum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed)
 - Commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

Q47. Consider the following pairs:

Name of the Paper/Journal	Name of the Founder/Editor
1. Young India	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
2. Navjivan	Sachindranath Sanyal
3. Jugantar	Barindra Kumar Ghosh and Bhupendranath Dutt

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Young India was a weekly paper or journal in English published by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- Navjivan was also published by Mohandas Gandhi.
- Yugantar, the weekly magazine was started by Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Bhupendranath Dutt.

Q48. Which of the following National Parks are in the state of Assam?

- 1. Kaziranga National Park
- 2. Dibru Saikhowa National Park
- 3. Nameri National Park
- 4. Orang National Park
- 5. Dihing Patkai National Park
- 6. Raimona National Park

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- There are 7 national parks in the state of Assam with Dihing Patkai recently being notified as a National Park.
- National Parks in Assam are: Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru-Saikhowa, Raimona and Dihing Patkai.

Q49. Consider the following statements:

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a member of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI).
2. RBI has four deputy governors, two are from the outside and two from within the central bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a member of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI).
- AFI is an international policy institute and public policy network that specializes in financial inclusion policy for the unbanked and underbanked population of the world.
- Institutions comprising central banks, financial regulatory institutions, and financial inclusion policymakers from 80 least developed and developing countries are its members.
- AFI is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- As per the RBI Act, RBI should have four deputy governors – two from within the ranks (in RBI), one commercial banker and another economist to head the monetary policy department.
- Of the four deputy governors, two are from the outside and two from within the central bank.

Q50. Which of the following is/are the principal feature(s) of the Government of India Act, 1919? (UPSC 2012)

1. Introduction of dyarchy in the executive government of the provinces
2. Introduction of separate communal electorates for Muslims
3. Devolution of legislative authority by the centre to the provinces

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: c

Explanation:

- The Government of India Act 1919 was an act of the British Parliament that sought to increase the participation of Indians in the administration of their country.
- The act was based on the recommendations of a report by Edwin Montagu, the then Secretary of State for India, and Lord Chelmsford, India's Viceroy between 1916 and 1921. Hence the constitutional reforms set forth by this act are known as Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.
- Dyarchy was introduced, i.e., there were two classes of administrators – Executive councillors and ministers.
- The subjects were divided into two lists – reserved and transferred.
- It provided for devolution of legislative authority by the centre to the provinces.
- While the act extended consolidated and communal representation, the introduction of separate communal electorates for Muslims was not provided for in the GOI Act 1919.

Q51. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Lily Thomas case: Issue of criminalization of politics
2. I R Coelho case: ninth schedule items were open to judicial scrutiny
3. Kihoto Hollohan case: disqualification of MPs and MLAs under Anti-Defection Law

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- In the Lily Thomas case, the Supreme Court had struck down Section 8 (4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to disqualify a legislator immediately when convicted for two or more years' prison. It dealt with the issue of the criminalization of politics.
- In the I R Coelho case, also known as the Ninth Schedule Case, the unanimous judgement delivered by a 9-judge bench led by Chief Justice Sabharwal upheld the validity of the Doctrine of Basic Structure propounded in the Kesavananda Bharti case.
 - The Court upheld the power of the Judiciary to review any such law which in its opinion would in any way destroy the basic structure of the Constitution.
 - As a result of this judgement, ninth schedule items were open to judicial scrutiny.
- In the Kihoto Hollohan case, a constitution bench of the Supreme Court analyzed the various provisions of the 52nd amendment of the Constitution which inserted the Tenth schedule (Anti-Defection Law).

Q52. With reference to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is based on the Directive Principles, contained in Article 47 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The central government can add or omit from the list of psychotropic substances and not the State Government.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is based on the Directive Principles, contained in Article 47 of the Indian Constitution.
- Article 47 of the Constitution is a Directive Principle which stipulates that the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.
- The state governments do not have the power to add/remove/modify/omit from the list of psychotropic substances. Only the Central government has this power.

Q53. Which one of the following statements best describes the Atlantic Charter?

- a) It was a set of economic policy recommendations for developing countries supported by prominent economists and international organisations
- b) It was a joint declaration issued during World War II by the United States and Great Britain that set out a vision for the post-war world
- c) It is a treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) systems
- d) It was a set of guidelines that led to the establishment of an economic and political bloc comprising, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Atlantic Charter is a declaration signed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1941 (during World War II), setting out common goals for the world after Second World War.
- Those goals included freer trade, disarmament and the right to self-determination of all people.
- It is often cited as a cornerstone of the trans-Atlantic “special relationship.”
- The charter laid the foundation for the United Nations and NATO.

Q54. Consider the following statements about CHIME:

1. It is a network of radio antennas in the Netherlands, Germany, the UK, France, Sweden, Poland, Ireland and Italy, all connected by high-speed fiber optic cables.
2. It is a superior instrument for observing the phenomenon of Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME) is an interferometric radio telescope at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia, Canada.
- CHIME comprises four massive cylindrical radio antennas operated by the National Research Council of Canada.
- It is a superior instrument for observing the phenomenon of Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs).
- The telescope has detected 535 new fast radio bursts in its first year of operation itself (2018-2019).

Q55. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (UPSC-2015)

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

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:

- 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)' was formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative.
- It was established in Mauritius in March 1997 with the aim of promoting economic and technical cooperation.
- IOR-ARC is the only pan-Indian ocean grouping. It brings together countries from three continents – Asia, Australia and Africa.
- IOR-ARC alliance is meant for Maritime Safety and Security, Sustainable Development, Economic Co-operation and technological co-operation as well.

Q56. With reference to Ram Prasad Bismil, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He was associated with the Arya Samaj from an early age.
2. In the initial phase of his life, he believed independence can be achieved by means of non-violence.
3. He had participated in Mainpuri Conspiracy and Lahore Conspiracy.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Ram Prasad Bismil was associated with the Arya Samaj from an early age. This had a profound influence on him.
- He believed that revolution only can bring independence to India. He did not believe in non-violent means to achieve independence.
- He had participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy in 1918. However, he was not a part of the Lahore Conspiracy.
- Bismil is perhaps most remembered for the Kakori Conspiracy Case. He was the mastermind behind the plan which was to loot a train carrying government money. The incident occurred on 9th August 1925 at Kakori, near Lucknow.

Q57. Consider the following statements with respect to National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
2. It not only helps in the speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests but also provides compensation for damages to persons and property for matters connected to the environment.
3. NGT will be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
- It not only helps in the speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests but also provides compensation for damages to persons and property for matters connected to the environment.
- NGT is guided by the principles of Natural Justice. It is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure.

Q58. EnVision recently seen in news is a/an

- a) European Space Agency's mission to Venus
- b) Air Quality and Weather Forecast System
- c) High-Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer project
- d) Gene silencing technology

Answer: a

Explanation:

- EnVision is European Space Agency's next Venus orbiter mission.
- It will be launched in 2030.
- Its aim is to provide a holistic view of the planet from its inner core to the upper atmosphere to determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently.

Q59. Which of the following are sources of Atmospheric Aerosols?

- 1. Automobiles
- 2. Power Plants
- 3. Cigarettes
- 4. Volcanic Eruptions
- 5. Desert Storms

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Aerosols are minute particles that are suspended in the atmosphere.
- An aerosol is a suspension of fine solid particles or liquid droplets in air or another gas.
- Aerosols can be natural or anthropogenic.
- 90% of aerosols present in the atmosphere are natural.
- Automobiles, power plants, cigarettes, volcanic eruptions, desert storms are all sources of aerosols.

Q60. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements: (UPSC-2011)

- 1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
- 2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

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:

- Indus Valley Civilization was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
- During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Q61. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Operation Blue Star: eliminate armed militants who were holed up in the Golden Temple.
2. Operation Pawan: Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF's) operation to wrest control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
3. Operation Vijay: Indian operation to push back the infiltrators from the Kargil Sector
4. Operation Olivia: Indian armed forces ended the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The annual "Operation Olivia" by the Indian Coast Guard helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting.
- The Coast enforce laws near the rookeries Guard carries out round-the-clock surveillance from November till May utilizing Coast Guard assets and helps

Q62. Consider the following statements with respect to Olive Ridleys:

1. Olive Ridleys are found in Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Indian Ocean.
2. The Olive Ridley is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list.
3. Coast of Odisha is the largest mass nesting site for them

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), also known commonly as the Pacific ridley sea turtle, is a species of turtle in the family Cheloniidae.
- The species is one of the most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- It is primarily found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, but also in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Olive Ridley is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list.
- It is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and in the Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- The coast of Odisha is one of the largest mass nesting site for the Olive Ridley Turtles. There are three beaches along the Odisha coast including Gahirmatha, the mouth of the Devi river, and Rushikulya.

Q63. Consider the following statements:

1. Coral reefs occur in Shallow waters of the tropics
2. Only hard corals build reefs

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Given that Coral reefs need sunlight they occur in shallow waters. Reef-building corals require warm water conditions to survive.
- Soft corals are not capable of building reefs.

Q64. Recently, *Bharitalasuchus tapani* was in the news. What is it?

- a) A new species of wasp from the genus *Kudakrumia* identified by scientists in Goa
- b) A carnivorous reptile that lived 240 million years ago
- c) A *Zingiber* from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- d) A newly discovered fish fossil from Assam

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Yerrapalli Formation of the Pranhita-Godavari Basin in Telangana has had several fossils unearthed from it.

- One of the species identified includes a carnivorous reptile that lived 240 million years ago. It has been named *Bharitalasuchus tapani*. Studies have revealed that the reptile belonged to a family of extinct reptiles named *Erythrosuchidae*.
- The *Bharitalasuchus tapani* were robust animals with big heads and large teeth, and these probably preyed on other smaller reptiles. They were approximately the size of an adult male lion and might have been the largest predators in their ecosystems.

Q65. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Secretary in a State is appointed by the Governor of that State.
2. The Chief Secretary in a State has a fixed tenure.

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:

- The Chief Secretary in a State is appointed by the government of the state.
- The Chief Secretary in a State does not enjoy a fixed tenure.

Q66. With reference to Bhitarkanika National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a national park in the State of Odisha.
2. It is a Ramsar site.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in northeast Kendrapara district in Odisha in eastern India. It is also a Ramsar site.
- The national park and wildlife sanctuary is inundated by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, Pathsala. It hosts many mangrove species, and is the second-largest mangrove ecosystem in India.
- The national park is home to Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), Indian python, king cobra, black ibis, darters and many other species of flora and fauna.

Q67. Consider the following statements with respect to *Pyrostria laljii*:

1. It is the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India.
2. It belongs to the genus of the coffee family discovered from the Andaman Islands.
3. Its IUCN status is endangered.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- A new species named *Pyrostria laljii* belonging to the genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered from the Andaman Islands.
- The new species has been reported from the Wandoor forest in South Andaman.
- It is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India.
- Plants belonging to the genus *Pyrostria* are usually found in Madagascar.
- *Pyrostria laljii* has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.

Q68. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Kawasaki disease?

1. It is a rare viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in remote parts of central and west Africa, near tropical rainforests.
2. It is mostly transmitted to people from various wild animals such as rodents and primates.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Kawasaki disease is a syndrome of unknown cause that results in a fever and mainly affects children under 5 years of age. It is a form of vasculitis, where blood vessels become inflamed throughout the body.
- While the specific cause is unknown, it is thought to result from an excessive immune system response to an infection in children who are genetically predisposed. It does not spread between people.

Q69. Which of the following is/are Rare earth minerals?

1. Neodymium

2. Selenium
3. Praseodymium
4. Dysprosium
5. Uranium
6. Thorium

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Rare earth metals are a group of 17 elements – lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium, scandium, yttrium – that appear in low concentrations in the ground. They are lustrous silvery-white soft heavy metals.
- Although they are more abundant than their name implies, they are difficult and costly to mine and process cleanly.

Q70. The “New START” treaty was in the news. What is this treaty? (UPSC 2011)

- a) It is a bilateral strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the USA and the Russian Federation.
- b) It is a multilateral energy security cooperation treaty among the members of the East Asia Summit.
- c) It is a treaty between the Russian Federation and the European Union for energy security cooperation.
- d) It is a multilateral cooperation treaty among the BRICS countries for the promotion of trade

Answer: a

Explanation:

- New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. It was signed in 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification, entered into force in 2011.

Q71. Tilak Swaraj Fund was started to fund which of the following movements?

- a) Civil Disobedience Movement
- b) Swadeshi Movement
- c) Non-Cooperation Movement
- d) Quit India Movement

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Tilak Swarajya Fund was started to fund the non-cooperation movement.

- It gathered over 1 crore rupees and was a part of the constructive agenda of the non-cooperation movement.

Q72. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a constitutional body.
2. It is mandated to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3. It has the powers to take suo-moto cognisance of serious cases of violation of child rights.

Options:-

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body established in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It is mandated to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- For the Commission, the protection of all children in the 0 to 18 years age group is of equal importance.
- It has the powers to take suo-moto cognisance of serious cases of violation of child rights.

Q73. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Floating raft agriculture is a way of utilising areas that are waterlogged for long periods of time in the production of food.
2. The approach employs a floating raft set up on bamboo frames and held together by coir geotextile with a bed of degraded water hyacinth or beds of rotting vegetation, which act as compost for crop growth.
3. Floating raft farming is taken up as a measure of improving adaptability and resilience in the background of climate change.

Options:-

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Floating raft agriculture is a way of utilising areas that are waterlogged for long periods of time in the production of food.

- It employs an approach where a floating raft set up on bamboo frames and held together by coir geotextile with a bed of degraded water hyacinth or beds of rotting vegetation, which act as compost for crop growth.
- This form of farming is taken up as a measure of improving adaptability and resilience in the background of climate change.

Note:

- An enterprising farmer in the Vembanad backwaters in Alappuzha in Kerala has taken up a floating raft farming experiment for the cultivation of marigold.

Q74. What is the best description of the 'Karman Line'?

- a) Marks the boundary between EEZ and international waters.
- b) Defines a boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space.
- c) It is a reference line along the equator for navigation.
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Karman Line is an attempt to define a boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space.
- It is an internationally recognised boundary of space.
- According to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), it is at an altitude of 100 kilometres, or 62 miles, above sea level.
- The definition is based on a calculation by physicist Theodore von Karman that shows that around this point the atmosphere becomes too thin to support flight.

Q75. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement? (UPSC 2018)

- a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
- b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV.
- c) Article 21 and freedom guaranteed in Part III.
- d) Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution.

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Article 21 and freedom guaranteed in Part III implies that the Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty.

Q76. Which of the following cities are located in the Brahmaputra Valley?

1. Guwahati
2. Dibrugarh
3. Aizwal
4. Tezpur

Options:-

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Nagaon, Bongaigaon, Tinsukia, Tezpur are the cities are located in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Q77. Which of the following statements is/are correct w.r.t Humayun's tomb?

1. The construction of Humayun's tomb was commissioned by Humayun's son Akbar.
2. The tomb has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. The last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar took refuge here, during the Mutiny of 1857, before being exiled to Rangoon.

Options:-

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The construction of Humayun's tomb was commissioned by Bega Begum, Humayun's Persian wife and chief consort in 1565 AD, nine years after the Emperor's death.
- It was completed in 1572 AD under the patronage of the Mughal Emperor Akbar.
- The tomb was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.
- The last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar took refuge here, during the Mutiny of 1857, before being exiled to Rangoon.

Q78. 'Christchurch Call to Action Summit' is related to -

- a) Tackling GHG emissions linked to cryptocurrency mining
- b) Curbing online dissemination of extremist content
- c) Preventing oil spills and marine disasters
- d) Promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Christchurch Call to Action Summit was a political summit started by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in Paris, France, after the Christchurch mosque shootings of 15 March 2019.
- The summit brings together leaders from signatory governments, tech companies, and civil society to discuss efforts to address terrorist and violent extremist content online.
- The Christchurch Call to Action Summit is related to curbing online dissemination of extremist content.

Q79. Mayun island/Perim Island, recently seen in news, is located near which crucial maritime chokepoint?

- a) Strait of Malacca
- b) Suez Canal
- c) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- d) Strait of Hormuz

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Mayun island/Perim island, recently seen in news, is located near Bab-el-Mandeb Strait near Yemen.
- It is a volcanic island in the Strait of Mandeb at the south entrance into the Red Sea, off the southwest coast of Yemen.
- The location of the island is extremely strategic from the point of view of cargo shipments and war ammunition. It is a crucial maritime chokepoint.

Q80. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS): (UPSC 2017)

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

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: b

Explanation:

- The 'Indian Ocean Naval Symposium' (IONS) is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region and enhance regional security.
- Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2008 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.

Q81. Which of the following statements is/are INCORRECT?

1. India will soon be launching a deep ocean mission with the Indian Navy as the nodal agency.
2. One of the objectives of the mission would be to explore the mining potential of polymetallic nodules at the depths of the Central Indian Ocean.

3. All mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction are regulated by the International Seabed Authority, a United Nations organisation.
4. India has been allotted a site of 75,000 square kilometres in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by the UN International Sea Bed Authority for the exploitation of polymetallic nodules.

Options:-

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Deep Ocean Mission is a central sector scheme that proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO about 35 years ago.
- The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics-related technologies.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal ministry implementing this multi-institutional mission.
- All mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction are regulated by the International Seabed Authority, a United Nations organisation.
- India has been allotted a site of 75,000 square kilometres in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by the UN International Sea Bed Authority for the exploitation of polymetallic nodules.

Q82. Which of the following connects the South China Sea with the Pacific Ocean?

- a) Strait of Malacca
- b) Sunda Strait
- c) Luzon Strait
- d) Gulf of Thailand

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Luzon Strait is the strait between Taiwan and Luzon island of the Philippines.
- The strait connects the Philippine Sea to the South China Sea in the western Pacific Ocean.
- Therefore, the Luzon Strait connects the South China Sea with the Pacific Ocean.

Q83. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India recently extended a \$100 million loan to Sri Lanka to support its efforts to expand solar power coverage.
2. Sri Lanka is not a party to the International Solar Alliance launched by India.
3. Sri Lanka owes roughly around \$1 billion in debt repayment to India.

Options:-

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- India recently extended a \$100 million loan to Sri Lanka to support its efforts to expand solar power coverage.
- Sri Lanka is a party to the International Solar Alliance launched by India in 2015.
- Sri Lanka owes roughly around \$1 billion in debt repayment to India.

Q84. 'Vivad Se Vishwas' scheme is related to

- a) Environmental cess on polluters
- b) Direct tax dispute resolution
- c) Settling medical insurance claims
- d) Resolving GST related disputes

Answer: b

Explanation:

- 'Vivad Se Vishwas' scheme is related to direct tax dispute resolution.
- The Vivad Se Vishwas scheme was announced by Union Finance Minister during the budget speech on February 1, 2020.
- The scheme aims to end litigation and legacy disputes under the direct taxes category.
- The entities who opt for the scheme must pay a requisite tax following which all litigation against them would be closed by the tax department and penal proceedings dropped.

Q85. Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel? (2016)

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Rajasthan

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Rajasthan had explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to the sea by a long navigation channel.
- Both the Centre and state had explored ways to develop an artificial inland port in Jalore by channelling seawater from the Arabian Sea into Rajasthan through Gujarat.

Q86. Which one of the following statements best describes Bonn Challenge?

- a) It is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- b) The objective is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.
- c) It is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- d) It aims to combat illicit wildlife trafficking by stimulating political will, improving law enforcement, and reducing consumer demand.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- It was launched by the Government of Germany and IUCN.
- The Bonn Challenge unites nations and regions in bringing landscapes into restoration, to halt and reverse the effects of land degradation. Also read: Desertification

Q87. Which of the following is/are related to the development of education in India?

- 1. Fowler Committee
- 2. Hartog Committee
- 3. MacDonnell Commission
- 4. Sadler Commission
- 5. Wood's Despatch

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Wood's Despatch is considered as the 'Magna Carta of English Education in India. In 1854, Charles Wood sent a despatch to Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor-General of India. Through the despatch, he suggested that high schools must use anglo-vernacular medium and that English should be the medium for college-level education.
- The Calcutta University Commission under the Chairmanship of the late Sir Michael Sadler was appointed in 1917. It looked into the question of secondary education.
- Sir Philip Joseph Hartog committee was appointed by the British Indian government to survey the growth of education in India. The Hartog committee on education submitted its report in 1929.
- The Fowler Committee (Indian Currency Committee) was a government committee appointed by the British Government in 1898 to examine the currency situation in India.

- MacDonnell Commission (famine commission) was appointed by Lord Curzon in 1901 to formulate the general principles of dealing with famines.

Q88. A wetland can be considered internationally important if it meets which of the following criterion/criteria?

1. Contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.
2. If it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
3. If it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions
4. If it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

A wetland can be considered internationally important under the Ramsar Convention if it meets one of the following criteria:

1. Contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.
2. If it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
3. If it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
4. If it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
5. If it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.
6. If it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.
7. If it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.
8. If it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.
9. If it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.

Q89. Consider the following statements about Miyazaki mangoes:

1. They are grown primarily in South Korea.
2. These mangoes are rich in antioxidant and contain beta-carotene and folic acid, which is great for people that need help with tired eyes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- They are grown primarily in Miyazaki – a city in Japan.
- These mangoes are rich in antioxidant and contain beta-carotene and folic acid, which is great for people that need help with tired eye

Q90. Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar? (UPSC 2017)

- a) Sumatra
- b) Borneo
- c) Java
- d) Sri Lanka

Answer: a

Explanation:



Q91. With reference to Committee of Privileges, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The functions of the committee are semi-judicial in nature.
2. In Lok Sabha it has 15 members, in Rajya Sabha, it has 10.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Some distinct rights are enjoyed by the legislators in a parliament or an assembly without which they cannot discharge their functions and these rights are peculiar to them and as such are not enjoyed by members of any other institution or body of individuals.
- In India, these privileges emanate from the Constitution itself with identical provisions in this regard in the form of Articles 105 and 194, which give these privileges to the Members of Parliament and members of the state legislature respectively.
- Committee of Privileges investigates the matters of breach of such privileges.
- Its function is to examine every question involving breach of privilege of the House or of the members of any Committee thereof referred to it by the House or by the Speaker.
- It has 15 Members in Lok Sabha and 10 Members in Rajya Sabha.
- It recommends suitable actions to be initiated by the house. Therefore, the functions of the committee are semi-judicial in nature.

Q92. Consider the following statements:

1. Jamdani weaving tradition is of Bengali origin.
2. Uppada Jamdani Silk Saree from Telangana has been accorded the GI tag.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Jamdani weaving tradition is of Bengali origin.
- Jamdani is a handloom woven fabric made of cotton, which was historically referred to as muslin.
- Uppada Jamdani Silk Saree that has been accorded GI tag is from Andhra Pradesh.

Q93. Consider the following Pairs:

Virus

1. Coronaviruses
2. Togaviruses
3. Paramyxoviruses
4. Filoviruses

Illness

- SARS
Nipah
Chikungunya
Ebola

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Coronaviruses cause common cold, SARS, MERS, etc.
- Filoviruses were discovered for the first time in 1967. They belong to the family Filoviridae. Two members of the family that are commonly known are the Ebola virus and the Marburg virus.
- Togaviruses cause Chikungunya.
- Paramyxoviruses cause Nipah.

Q94. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is in the state of

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is a protected area in Uttar Pradesh. It shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal.

Q95. Why is the offering of “teaser loans” by commercial banks a cause of economic concern? (UPSC 2011)

1. The teaser loans are considered to be an aspect of sub-prime lending and banks may be exposed to the risk of defaulters in future.
2. In India, the teaser loans are mostly given to inexperienced entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing or export units

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:

- A teaser loan is any loan that offers a lower interest rate for a fixed amount of time as a purchase incentive.

- The teaser loans are considered to be an aspect of sub-prime lending and banks may be exposed to the risk of defaulters in future.
- In India, teaser loans are mostly given as personal loans, car loans and home loans.

Q96. Total Fertility Rate is:

- a) the total number of children born in a country in a given year divided by its population in that year.
- b) the average number of children expected to be born per woman during her entire span of reproductive period.
- c) the average number of children each woman needs to have to maintain current population levels.
- d) the number of live births per 1000 persons in a population in a given year.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The total fertility rate of a population is the average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime she was to live from birth until the end of her reproductive life.

Q97. Black money is generated in which of the following ways?

1. Tax evasion
2. Tax avoidance
3. Smuggling
4. Hawala
5. Tax planning

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Tax evasion, tax avoidance, smuggling and hawala transactions lead to generation of black money.
 - Tax evasion is where an entity/ a person wilfully does not pay taxes that are due to the government.
 - Tax avoidance is where an entity takes advantage of the existing loopholes in the system and avoids paying taxes. This is not illegal.
 - Hawala is an informal method of transferring money without any physical money actually moving. It is described as a “money transfer without money movement
- Tax Planning involves ensuring savings on taxes while simultaneously conforming to the legal obligations and requirements of the tax laws hence it does not amount to generation of black money.

Q98. Which of the statement/s with respect to the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters is/are correct?

1. It was developed jointly by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe.
2. This Convention deals with issues such as exchange of information, assistance in the collection of taxes and tax dispute resolution.
3. All the BRICS countries are signatories to the convention.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters is a convention to facilitate the entering into bilateral tax information exchange agreements between state parties. The Convention was developed by the OECD and the Council of Europe.
- This Convention deals with administrative tax issues, such as exchange of information, assistance in the collection of taxes and dispute resolution.
- All the BRICS countries are signatories to the convention.

Q99. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 370 was a part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950.
2. The Gupkar Alliance is a grouping comprising various political parties and civil society organizations.
3. The first Gupkar declaration was signed before the abrogation of Article 370.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Articles 370 and 371 were part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950
- The Gupkar alliance is an alliance of seven political parties in Jammu and Kashmir.
- A day before the revocation of Article 370, the J&K parties had joined hands on August 4 and signed the “Gupkar Declaration” and vowed to protect J&K’s special status

Q100. The term “sixth mass extinction/sixth extinction” is often mentioned in the news in the context of the discussion of:

- a) Widespread monoculture practices in agriculture and large-scale commercial farming with indiscriminate use of chemicals in many parts of the world that may result in the loss of good native ecosystems.
- b) Fears of a possible collision of a meteorite with the Earth in the near future in the manner it happened 65 million years ago that caused the mass extinction of many species including those of dinosaurs. .
- c) Large scale cultivation of genetically modified crops in many parts of the world and promoting their cultivation in other parts of the world which may cause the disappearance of good native crop plants and the loss of food biodiversity.
- d) Mankind's over-exploitation/misuse of natural resources, fragmentation/loss of natural habitats, destruction of ecosystems, pollution and global climate change.

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Holocene extinction, otherwise referred to as the sixth mass extinction or Anthropocene extinction, is an ongoing extinction event of species during the present Holocene epoch (with the more recent time sometimes called Anthropocene) as a result of human activity.
- Mankind's over-exploitation/misuse of natural resources, fragmentation/loss of natural habitats, destruction of ecosystems, pollution and global climate change are said to be contributing to this extinction.

Q101. With reference to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It applies to the conduct or commission of an act that harms or injures or has the potential to harm or injure an individual. It does not include omission.
- 2. Domestic violence includes physical, financial, sexual violence and not emotional abuse which is the major drawback of this act.
- 3. The law also covers children.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 says that any act, conduct, omission or commission that harms or injures or has the potential to harm or injure will be considered domestic violence by the law.
- Domestic violence includes physical, financial, sexual violence, emotional abuse as well as verbal abuse.
- The law also covers children.

Q102. Consider the following statements with respect to Green Hydrogen:

- 1. This is produced from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage technologies and is less polluting.

2. Green hydrogen can be used in industry and can be stored in existing gas pipelines to power household appliances.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Hydrogen generated entirely from renewable power sources is called green hydrogen.
- Green hydrogen can be used in industry and can be stored in existing gas pipelines to power household appliances.
- Blue Hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage technologies and is less polluting.

Q103. Arrange the types of coal on the basis of carbon content from the highest to the lowest rank:

1. Peat
2. Bituminous
3. Anthracite
4. Lignite

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The ranking of the types of coal depends on the types and amounts of carbon the coal contains and on the amount of heat energy the coal can produce.
- Anthracite is the most mature coal and thus has the highest carbon content of any type of coal.
- Lignite coal (brown coal) is the lowest grade coal with the least concentration of carbon.
- Peat is a soft, organic material consisting of partly decayed plant and mineral matter. When peat is placed under high pressure and heat, it undergoes physical and chemical changes to become coal.
- Highest to lowest ranking: Anthracite, Bituminous, Lignite, Peat (least concentration of carbon).

Q104. NISHTHA recently seen in the news is a

- a) Campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices

- b) Program aimed at improving learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme
- c) Web portal for citizens to report children sighted as abandoned, lost or with a suspicious person
- d) Scheme under which cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly

Answer: b

Explanation:

- NISHTHA stands for National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Programme.
- NISHTHA is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.
- It is a program aimed at improving learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme.
- The basic objective of this massive training programme is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- It was launched under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019–20.

Q105. What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram? (UPSC 2016)

1. Both were built in the same period.
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the statements given above is correct

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Ajanta rock-cut cave monuments were built during 200 BC-650 AD by the Vakataka kings. These are Buddhist monuments.
- Mahabalipuram was built between the 7th and the 8th centuries by the Pallavas. It is a Hindu group of monuments.
- Both have rock-cut monuments.

Q106. Consider the following statements:

1. The orders of the delimitation commission set up by the Government of India cannot be challenged in any court.
2. Delimitation of Jammu and Kashmir's Lok Sabha seats is governed by the Indian Constitution, but the delimitation of Assembly seats is governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Delimitation Commission of India is tasked with redrawing of boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.
- The orders of the delimitation commission set up by the Government of India cannot be challenged in any court. This is done to prevent indefinite delays in elections.
- The delimitation of Jammu and Kashmir's Lok Sabha seats is governed by the Indian Constitution.
- Prior to the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that provided a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the delimitation of Assembly seats is governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957. Currently, the delimitation of Assembly seats is governed by the Indian Constitution itself.

Q107. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) which functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology examines the scientific merits of releasing genetically modified seeds into the environment.
2. Bt cotton is the only GM crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It is a statutory body.
- GEAC examines the scientific merits of releasing genetically modified seeds into the environment.
- The body regulates the use, manufacture, storage, import and export of hazardous microorganisms or genetically-engineered organisms and cells in India.
- Bt cotton is the only GM crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in India.

Q108. Which of the following differences between Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is/are correct?

1. Under the 1986 Act the complaint could be filed in a consumer court where the seller's office was located. Under the 2019 Act complaint can be filed in a consumer court where the complainant resides.

2. There were no mediation cells under the 1986 Act. Under the 2019 Act court can refer settlement through mediation.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

- Under the Consumer Protection Act 1986 the complaint could be filed in a consumer court where the seller's office was located. Under Consumer Protection Act 2019 complaint can be filed in a consumer court where the complainant resides.
- There were no mediation cells under the 1986 Act. Under the 2019 Act court can refer settlement through mediation.

Q109. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Chairman of Legislative Council is nominated by the Governor.
2. To become a member of a State Legislative Council (MLC), a person must be at least 25 years old.
3. The tenure of a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) is six years.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Chairman of the Legislative Council is elected by the members of the Legislative Council.
- To become a member of a State Legislative Council (MLC), a person must be at least 30 years old, whereas to become a Member of a Legislative Assembly (MLA), a person must be at least 25 years old.
- The tenure of a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) is six years.

Q110. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently? (UPSC-2016)

- a) Amphibious warfare ship
- b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel

- d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Answer: c

Explanation:

- INS Astradharini is an indigenously designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel built by Shoft Shipyard for the Indian Navy. She was commissioned to Naval Service in 2015.

Q111. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. Kerala is the largest producer of rubber in India.
2. The world's first GM Rubber was planted in Karnataka.
3. Rubber planting is eligible for carbon credits that can be obtained and sold in the Clean Development Mechanism market.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Kerala is the largest producer of rubber in India.
- The world's first GM Rubber was planted in Assam. It has been inserted with additional copies of the gene MnSOD (manganese-containing superoxide dismutase), to withstand extreme environmental stresses like cold.
- Rubber planting is eligible for carbon credits that can be obtained and sold in the Clean Development Mechanism market.

Q112. Which of the given statements with respect to Carnatic Music is/are correct?

1. Dhrupad, Tarana and Dadra are its main vocal forms.
2. The first references to Carnatic music were found in Haripala's "Sangeeta Sudhakara".
3. Purandharadasa, Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar are referred to as the Carnatic Musical Trinity.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Alapana, Niraval, Kalpanaswaram and Ragam Thana Pallavi are the main vocal forms of Carnatic Music while Dhrupad, Tarana and Dadra are the main vocal forms of Hindustani Music.
- The first references to Carnatic music were found in Haripala's "Sangeeta Sudhakara".
- Syama Shastri, Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar are referred to as the Carnatic Musical Trinity.

Q113. The term 'Hidden hunger' seen in news best describes:

- a) Deficiency of micronutrients, such as vitamins, iron, iodine and other trace elements.
- b) Body's inability to absorb nutrients due to an infection or disease.
- c) Protein energy malnutrition due to acute deficiency of food.
- d) Deficiency of macronutrients affecting the metabolic system, growth, and development of the body.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The word hidden hunger refers to a more insidious type of deficiency caused by eating food that is cheap and filling but deficient in essential vitamins and micronutrients.
- Hidden hunger describes deficiency of micronutrients, such as vitamins, iron, iodine and other trace elements.

Q114. Manas National Park has which of the following designations?

1. Important Bird Area
2. World Heritage Site
3. Tiger Reserve
4. Elephant Reserve
5. Biosphere Reserve

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Manas National Park or Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve, Important Bird Area and a biosphere reserve. It is located in Assam.

Q115. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2018)

1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
2. Soil does not play any role in the Sulphur cycle.
3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A high content of organic matter in soil increases the soil's water holding capacity.
- Soil does play an important role in the Sulphur Cycle. Sulphur reservoir is in the soil. Also, sulphur bound in living beings is carried to the soil through decomposition and excretion. Therefore, soil is a part of the sulphur cycle.
- Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands as the water could contain some dissolved salts.

Q116. With reference to anti-defection law, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. An independent member of a House becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.
2. A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution includes the following provisions with regard to the disqualification of MPs and MLAs on the grounds of defection:

- If an elected member gives up his membership of a political party voluntarily.
- If he votes or abstains from voting in the House, contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
- If any member who is independently elected joins any party.
- If any nominated member joins any political party after the end of 6 months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

The decision on disqualification questions on the ground of defection is referred to the Speaker or the Chairman of the House, and his/her decision is final. All proceedings in relation to disqualification under this Schedule are considered to be proceedings in Parliament or the Legislature of a state as is the case.

Q117. Electoral Trust can receive contributions from which of the following individuals/companies?

1. Indian citizens
2. Domestic companies which are registered in India
3. Foreign Entity
4. Firm or Hindu Undivided Family
5. Any other electoral trust

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- An Electoral Trust is a non-profit company established for orderly receipt of the voluntary contributions from any person (or company) for distributing the same to the respective political parties, registered under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Electoral trust can receive voluntary contributions from:

- Citizens of India
- A company registered in India
- A firm or Hindu undivided family or an association of persons or a body of individuals, resident in India.

The electoral trust cannot accept contributions from:

- An individual who is not a citizen of India
- Any foreign entity whether incorporated or not
- From any other electoral trust

Q118. Which of the following authorities hold the office during the pleasure of the President?

1. Advocate General
2. Attorney General of India
3. Chief Election Commissioner
4. Civil Services of the centre
5. Governor

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The doctrine of pleasure has its origin in England.
- It means that the holder of an office under the pleasure of the president can be removed at any time, without notice, without assigning cause, and without there being a need for any cause.
- Governors of the states, Attorney General of India, Civil Services of the centre hold the office during the pleasure of the President.
- Chief Election Commissioner, though appointed by the president, does not hold the office under the pleasure of the President.
- Advocate General holds the office at the pleasure of the Governor.

Q119. Consider following statements about the Thanjavur Maratha kingdom:

1. Venkoji was the founder of the dynasty.
2. The Thanjavur Maratha Rajas were more in favour of Tamil as it was the language of the land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Thanjavur Maratha kingdom of the Bhonsle dynasty was a principality of Tamil Nadu between the 17th and 19th centuries.
- Venkoji was the founder of the Thanjavur Maratha kingdom.
- The language used in the kingdom was Sanskrit and Telugu. The Thanjavur Maratha Rajas were more in favour of these two languages.
- This period saw a decline of the Tamil language.

Q120. Consider the following pairs:

Region often in news	Country
1. Chechnya:	Russian Federation
2. Darfur:	Mali
3. Swat Valley:	Iraq

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched? [UPSC 2016]

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

Answer: a

Region often in news

1. Chechnya:
2. Darfur:
3. Swat Valley:

Country

- Russian Federation
Sudan
Pakistan

Q121. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Mediterranean Climate?

1. They are confined to the western portion of continental masses, between 30 to 45 degree north and south of the equator.
2. The basic cause of this type of climate is the shifting of winds belts.
3. The Mediterranean lands receive most of their precipitation in Summer.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Mediterranean climatic conditions are seen in and around the Mediterranean Sea and the western portion of continental masses, roughly between 30 to 45 degree north and south of the equator.
- The climate receives its name from the Mediterranean Basin, where this climate type is most common.
- The basic cause of this type of climate is the shifting of winds belts.
- Mediterranean Climate is characterized by dry summers and mild, wet winters.

Q122. Which of the following countries border Black Sea?

1. Bulgaria
2. Ukraine
3. Russia
4. Kazakhstan
5. Turkmenistan

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia and Turkey border the Black Sea.



Q123. Consider the following pairs:

Region in News

- 1) Tokara Islands
- 2) Tigray region
- 3) Dzukou Valley

Country

- Philippines
Nigeria
Afghanistan

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Region in News

Tokara Islands
Tigray region
Dzukou Valley

Country

Japan
Ethiopia
India (located at the border of Manipur and Nagaland)

Q124. Consider the following statements about Kabir:

1. Kabir was the most famous disciple of Ramananda.
2. He was brought up by a Muslim couple who were weavers by profession.
3. He criticized all forms of worship of idols.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Kabir Das was a 15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint, whose writings influenced Hinduism's Bhakti movement.
- Kabir was the most famous disciple of Ramananda.
- He was brought up by a Muslim couple who were weavers by profession.
- He criticized all forms of worship of idols.
- He aided the common people to shed age old superstitions and attain salvation through Bhakti or pure devotion.

Q125. With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/reconciliators.

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:

- Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 is an Act of Parliament of India enacted for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas or village courts for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India.
- Gram Nyayalayas can hear both criminal and civil cases.
- The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari, who will have the same power, enjoy same salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class. Such Nyayadhikari are to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court.
- Gram Nyayalayas allow for conciliation of the dispute and settlement of the same in the first instance.
- The Act allows local social activists as mediators/reconciliators.

Q126. Which of the following countries are in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) blacklist?

1. Iran
2. North Korea
3. Somalia

4. Syria
5. Yemen

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The FATF blacklist is the common shorthand description for the Financial Action Task Force list of “Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories” (NCCTs).
- The FATF blacklist has been issued by the FATF since 2000 and lists countries which FATF judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Currently, Iran and North Korea are on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) blacklist.

Q127. Consider the following statements about Additional Judges:

1. The Governor can appoint duly qualified persons as additional Judges of a high court for a period not exceeding two years.
2. The additional Judge cannot hold office after attaining the age of 65 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Article 224 deals with the appointment of additional and acting Judges.
- Duly qualified persons can be appointed by the President of India as additional Judges of a high court for a maximum period of two years.
 - The President may appoint additional judges for the time being when there is a temporary increase in the business of the High Court or arrears of work.
 - Also, when a Judge of a High Court other than the Chief Justice is by reason of absence or for any other reason unable to perform the duties of his office or is appointed to act temporarily as Chief Justice, the President can appoint a duly qualified person to act as a Judge of that Court until the permanent Judge has resumed his duties.
- An acting judge/additional judge holds office until the permanent judge resumes his office.
- However, the additional Judge cannot hold office after attaining the age of 62 years.

Q128. Consider the following statements with respect to Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF):

1. National Compensatory Afforestation Fund is established under the Public Account of India.
2. As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) was created to compensate for the loss of tangible as well as intangible benefits from the forest lands which were diverted for non-forest use.
- National Compensatory Afforestation Fund is established under the Public Account of India.
- As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.

Q129. Pinaka recently seen in news is a/an

- a) Airborne early warning and control system for the Indian Air Force
- b) Unmanned tank developed by the DRDO
- c) New explosive detection device, developed by DRDO & IISc Bangalore
- d) Rocket System that can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kilometres

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket system.
- Recently, the DRDO successfully test-fired an extended-range version of the indigenously developed Pinaka rocket.
- The enhanced range version of the Pinaka rocket system can destroy targets at distances up to 45 km.
- Pinaka was developed by the Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory with manufacturing support from Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.

Q130. The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (2012)

1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
2. Purchasing power parity at national level
3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

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: a

Explanation:

The multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) bases its estimation on:

- Education (years of schooling and attendance in schools)
- Health (child mortality and nutrition)
- Standard of living (electricity, sanitation, drinking water, flooring of the house, cooking fuel and asset ownership).

The idea behind this index is to measure acute multidimensional poverty across developing countries using various indicators. It was developed by OPHI with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2010. It is a part of UNDP's Human Development Report (HDR) and is released annually.

Q131. Which of the following statements with respect to Ethanol Blending of Petrol is/are correct?

1. It ensures thorough combustion of fuel as Ethanol is high in oxygen content.
2. It will solve the problem of agricultural waste.
3. India has set a target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2030.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Ethanol burns well because it is an oxygenate, meaning that ethanol molecules contain oxygen. Oxygen atoms inside ethanol join forces with oxygen molecules in the air to help ethanol burn more completely. This extra amount of oxygen also helps gasoline burn better when it is blended with ethanol. Hence, carbon monoxide production from ethanol fuel is significantly lower than that of petrol engines.
- Given that ethanol can be produced from a variety of feed stocks such as sugar cane, bagasse, switch grass and also other cellulose biomass waste, it can be a potential solution to agricultural waste
- The government has advanced the country's target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by five years to 2025, from the earlier 2030.

Q132. Which of the given statement/s with respect to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is/are correct?

1. The beneficiaries of the programme are Children in the age group of 0-14 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. It is a central sector scheme under the ministry of Women and Child Development.

3. It aims to provide pre-school non-formal education to children.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by state governments and union territories.
- The following services are sponsored under ICDS to help achieve its objectives:
 - Immunization
 - Supplementary nutrition
 - Health checkup
 - Referral services
 - Pre-school education(Non-Formal)
 - Nutrition and Health information
 - Contraceptive counselling for adolescents

Q133. Which of the given statements with respect to Green Sea Turtles is/are correct?

- 1. Global warming contributes to the feminization of green sea turtles.
- 2. They are found in tropical and subtropical seas around the world except for the Indian Ocean.
- 3. Their presence in seas helps in providing a nursery for numerous species of fish, shellfish and crustaceans.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Research has indicated that the global warming seems to be having an impact on the gender ratio of the green turtles. Warmer temperatures have led to feminization of green turtles, leading to significant scarcity or absence of adult males.
- The Green turtle feeds on sea grass beds and by cropping the grass provide a nursery for numerous species of fish, shellfish and crustaceans.
- Green sea turtles are found around the world in warm subtropical and tropical ocean waters, including the Indian Ocean.

Q134. Which of these UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India have been on the “List of World Heritage in Danger”?

1. Group of Monuments at Hampi
2. Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram
3. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Ellora Caves
5. Sundarbans National Park

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The List of World Heritage in Danger is compiled by UNESCO.
- The list is intended to increase international awareness of the threats and to encourage counteractive measures.
- Previous delisted India sites include:
 - Group of Monuments at Hampi
 - Manas Wildlife sanctuary

Q135. The term ‘Domestic Content Requirement’ is sometimes seen in the news with reference to

- a) Developing solar power production in our country
- b) Granting licenses to foreign T.V. channels in our country
- c) Exporting our food products to other countries
- d) Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The domestic content requirement (DCR) category was instituted in the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission from the beginning of 2010 in an effort to create a healthy and robust indigenous manufacturing base and to elevate India’s status as a solar hub.

Q136. Consider the following statements:

1. He is known as Sahitya Samrat.
2. He published his novel Anandamath depicting a Sanyasi army fighting the British soldiers.

The above statements best describe:

- a) Rabindranath Tagore

- b) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- c) Rash Behari Bose
- d) Chittaranjan Das

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is known as Sahitya Samrat.
- He is widely regarded as a key figure in the literary renaissance of Bengal.
- His political novel Anandamath depicted a Sanyasi army fighting the British soldiers. It was inspired by the sanyasi rebellion.
- Anandamath is the source of the national song “Vande Mataram”.
- His other celebrated books are Kapalkundala, Mrinalini, Vishabriksha, Durgeshnandini, Rajmohan’s Wife.

Q137. Arrange the following sectors in the decreasing order in the total share of power generated:

1. Thermal
2. Hydro
3. Nuclear
4. Renewable energy sources

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Power Generation in India Stats

Fuel	MW	% of Total
Total Thermal	2,34,728	61.3%
Coal	2,02,675	53.0%
Lignite	6,620	1.7%
Gas	24,924	6.5%
Diesel	510	0.1%
Hydro (Renewable)	46,209	12.2%
Nuclear	6,780	1.8%
RES* (MNRE)	95,013	24.8%
Total	382,730	

* Installed capacity in respect of RES (MNRE) as on 30.04.2021.

RES (Renewable Energy Sources) include Small Hydro Project, Biomass Gasifier, Biomass Power, Urban & Industrial Waste Power, Solar and Wind Energy.

Q138. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Chief Minister.
2. The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister in the council of ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of the total number of members of the legislative assembly of that State.
3. A person who is not a member of either house of the state legislature can also be appointed as a minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
 - The Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.
- The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister in the council of ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of the total number of members of the legislative assembly of that State. Provided that the number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State, shall not be less than twelve.
 - This provision was introduced through the 91st Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2003.

- A person who is not a member of either house of the state legislature can also be appointed as a minister. However, he must be elected or appointed to either of the houses within 6 months of such appointment, failing which he ceases to be a minister.

Q139. Marib, recently in the news, is in which country?

- a) Syria
- b) Iran
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Yemen

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Marib is located in Yemen.



Q140. The jet aircrafts fly very easily and smoothly in the lower stratosphere. What could be the appropriate explanation? (2011)

1. There are no clouds or water vapour in the lower stratosphere.
2. There are no vertical winds in the lower stratosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct in this context?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Jet aircraft mostly fly in the lower stratosphere to avoid turbulence.
- The stratosphere is dry. There is very little water vapour because of which there are no clouds.
- Vertical winds are almost absent in the stratosphere. The air tends not to overturn in the region as there is an increase in temperature with height in the stratosphere. Therefore, the vertical winds are almost absent.

Q141. With reference to Attorney General (AG) of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The term of AG is not fixed by the Constitution.
2. AG is barred from private legal practice.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Attorney-General of India is the first law officer of the Government of India.
- The tenure of the AG of India is not fixed by the Constitution.
- The Attorney-General is appointed by the President and he holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- The Attorney General represents the government but is allowed to take up private practice provided the other party is not the state.

Q142. Which of the following statements about Exercise Sea Breeze is/are correct?

1. It brings South China Sea nations and US Allies together to train and operate in the pursuit of building increased capability.
2. It will be an annual exercise beginning from 2021 as it marks the centenary celebration of the Communist Party of China.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Exercise Sea Breeze has been held since 1997.
- It involves NATO states and their allies in the Black Sea region.
- The drill is aimed at improving naval and land operations and improving cooperation among participating countries.

Q143. Consider the following statements:

1. Baihetan Dam is the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze.
2. Yangtze is the longest river in Asia, the third-longest in the world and the longest in the world to flow entirely within one country, and drains into the South China Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Baihetan Dam is the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze
- Yangtze is the longest river in Asia and the third-longest in the world.
- It is the longest in the world to flow entirely within one country and drains into the East China Sea.

Q144. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Persons with Disabilities (PwD) have the right to reservation in promotions.
2. Reservation to promotion can be given to a PwD even if the person was not originally appointed in the PwD quota.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has said that a disabled person can avail the benefit of reservation for promotion even if he/she was recruited in the regular category or developed the disability after gaining employment.

- The important thing is the employee should be a 'person with disability' (PwD) at the time of the promotion to avail of the disabled quota.
- The Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 does not make a distinction between a person who may have entered service on account of disability and a person who may have acquired a disability after having entered the service.
- The Supreme Court has said that the mode of entry in service cannot be a ground to make out a case of discriminatory promotion.

Q145. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2013)

1. Natural gas occurs in the Gondwana beds.
2. Mica occurs in abundance in Kodarma.
3. Dharwar are famous for petroleum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Coal deposits are found in Gondwana beds.
- Kodarma mines in Jharkhand are one of the important mica producing areas. Mica occurs in abundance in Kodarma.
- Dharwar, a district in Karnataka is not famous for petroleum.

Q146. Consider the following statements:

1. The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to buy subsidised ration from any fair price shop anywhere in the country under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
2. Implementation of ONORC is a precondition for additional borrowing by states.
3. Non-NFSA ration cardholders are also covered under the ONORC.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme allows all beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through existing ration card. The system also allows their family members back home, if any, to claim the balance foodgrains on the same ration card.
- In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre set the implementation of ONORC as a precondition for additional borrowing by states.
- Non-NFSA ration card holders are not covered under the ONORC.

Q147. Consider the following statements regarding the distribution of subsidised ration:

1. Annavitaran portal maintains a record of inter-state transactions.
2. Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal records the intra-state transactions.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- One Nation One Ration Card scheme is based on technology that involves details of the beneficiary's ration card, Aadhaar number, and electronic Points of Sale (ePoS).
- The system identifies a beneficiary through biometric authentication on ePoS devices at fair price shops.
- The system runs with the support of two portals — Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) and Annavitaran, which host all the relevant data.
- Annavitaran Portal – maintains a record of intra-state transactions — inter-district and intra-district.
- Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) – records the inter-state transactions.

Q148. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India provides for three sessions of Parliament in a year.
2. It is mandatory to convene the Parliament at least twice every year.
3. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has no role in convening the sessions of the Indian Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- As per the Constitution of India, it is mandatory to convene at least two sessions per year.
- In practice, the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, comprising senior ministers, decides on the dates for Parliament's sitting and it is then conveyed to the President.
- President from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet.
- The Constitution of India does not provide for three sessions of Parliament in a year. However, by convention, the Indian Parliament conducts three sessions each year.
- The Budget session: February to May, the Monsoon session: July to September and the Winter session: November to December.

Q149. Consider the following statements:

1. India is yet to ratify the 1987 UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).
2. The Méndez Principles aim to provide a cohesive blueprint of practical measures to replace torture and coercive interrogation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) is an international human rights treaty, under the review of the United Nations, that aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- India is one of only five countries that have yet to ratify the 1987 UNCAT. The others include Sudan, Brunei, Palau and Haiti.
- Recognizing the widespread use of torture during investigations, Juan E. Méndez, submitted a report in 2016 to the United Nations General Assembly as outgoing Special Rapporteur on Torture.
 - It called for the development of a universal set of standards for non-coercive interviewing and associated procedural safeguards during investigations to ensure that no person — including suspects, witnesses, victims, and other persons being interviewed is subjected to torture, ill-treatment, or coercion while being questioned.
- The Méndez Principles aim to provide a cohesive blueprint of practical measures to replace torture and coercive interrogation.

Q150. In the Parliament of India, the purpose of an adjournment motion is (2012)

- a) to allow a discussion on a definite matter of urgent public importance
- b) to let opposition members collect information from the ministers
- c) to allow a reduction of specific amount in demand for grant
- d) to postpone the proceedings to check the inappropriate or violent behaviour on the part of some members

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Adjournment motion is the procedure for adjournment of the business of the House to draw the attention of Lok Sabha to a recent matter of urgent public importance having serious consequences and in regard to which a motion or a resolution with proper notice will be too late.
- The purpose of the Adjournment Motion is to allow discussion on a definite matter of urgent public importance.
- It is followed only in the Lok Sabha.

Q151. Consider the following statements with respect to Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA):

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It aims to provide strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.

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

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

Answer:

Option b

Explanation:

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2013.
- It aims to provide strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
- The central funding (in the ratio of 60:40 for general category states, 90:10 for special category states and 100% for union territories) is based on norms and is outcome dependent.
- Funds flow from the central ministry through the state governments/union territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions.
- It is a scheme under the Ministry of Education (formerly HRD).