

## UPSC Monthly Magazine Answer Key July 2021

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Nodal Ministry' in the central government for the management of natural disasters is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
2. Disaster Management Act, 2005 calls for the establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with the Home Minister as chairperson.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The 'Nodal Ministry' in the central government for the management of natural disasters is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Disaster Management Act, 2005 calls for the establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with the Prime Minister as chairperson.

Q2. With reference to Kalbeliya dance, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a folk dance of Madhya Pradesh.
2. This dance performance is accredited by UNESCO as an Intangible Heritage.
3. The Kalbelia is almost exclusively performed by females.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Kalbeliya dance is a folk dance of Rajasthan.
- This dance performance is accredited by UNESCO as an Intangible Heritage.
- The Kalbelia is almost exclusively performed by females.
- The traditional occupation of the Kalbelia tribes is catching snakes and trading snake venom. Hence, the dance movements and the costumes of their community bear a resemblance to serpents.

Q3. Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status?

1. Jardalu mango
2. Hapus mango
3. Laxmanbhog mango
4. Banaganapalle mango
5. Appemidi mango

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

All the mangoes mentioned above have been accorded the Geographical Indication tag.

<b>Mango</b>	<b>State</b>
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1. Jardalu mango – Bihar
2. Hapus mango – Maharashtra
3. Laxmanbhog mango – West Bengal
4. Banaganapalle mango – Andhra Pradesh
5. Appemidi mango – Karnataka

Q4. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Current account deficit may cause depreciation.
2. Current account deficit may be a sign the economy is uncompetitive.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A current account deficit indicates that a country is importing more than it is exporting.
- Current account deficit may cause depreciation as there is greater demand for imports and foreign currency.
  - When the current account deficit increases, it leads to an increased supply of a nation's currency in the foreign exchange markets. Therefore, in the currency market, there will be an outward shift of supply. This might lead to the external value of the currency falling causing depreciation.

- Current account deficit is an indication of an uncompetitive economy. It may imply the economy is becoming uncompetitive and the exchange rate relatively overvalued.

Q5. Consider the following Bhakti Saints: (2013)

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Who among the above was/were preaching when the Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Bhakti saint who witnessed the fall of the Lodi dynasty was Guru Nanak (1469 – 1539).

Q6. Which of the following is/are treated as cruelty under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act?

1. The dehorning of cattle, or the castration or branding or nose-roping of any animal, in the prescribed manner.
2. If any person without reasonable cause, abandons any animal in circumstances which render it likely that it will suffer pain by reason of starvation or thirst.
3. If any person promotes or takes part in any shooting match or competition wherein animals are released from captivity for the purpose of such shooting.
4. The destruction of stray dogs in lethal chambers.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted in 1960 and was authored by acclaimed dancer and animal lover, Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- It was enacted to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering on animals.
- As per the provisions of the law, the Government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India in 1962.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Rukmini Devi Arundale.

- It falls under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Intentional infliction of pain and suffering to animals is termed cruelty under the act. Under the law, cruelty is:

- If any person without reasonable cause, abandons any animal in circumstances which render it likely that it will suffer pain by reason of starvation or thirst.
- If any person promotes or takes part in any shooting match or competition wherein animals are released from captivity for the purpose of such shooting.

Q7. Which of the following is/are the right bank tributaries of Krishna?

1. Musi
2. Koyna
3. Ghataprabha
4. Tungabhadra
5. Munneru

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- River Krishna originates in Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.
- It flows through Sangli and drains the sea in the Bay of Bengal.
- The river flows through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- Tungabhadra River is the main tributary which itself is formed by the Tunga and Bhadra rivers that originate in the Western Ghats.
- Its Right bank tributaries are: Koyna, Doodhganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Tungabhadra.
- Its Left bank tributaries are: Bheema, Peddavagu, Musi, Paleru, Munneru.

Q8. Consider the following statements with respect to Public Interest Litigation (PIL):

1. The concept of PIL originated and developed in the USA.
2. Locus standi is not a necessity for PIL.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) implies litigation for the protection of public interests.
- Any matter where the interest of the public at large is affected can be redressed by filing a Public Interest Litigation in a court of law such as Pollution, Terrorism, Road safety, Constructional hazards, etc.
- The expression 'Public Interest Litigation' has been borrowed from American jurisprudence, where it was designed to provide legal representation to previously unrepresented groups like the poor, the racial minorities, unorganized consumers, citizens who were passionate about the environmental issues, etc.
- Locus standi implies that only the person/party whose rights have been infringed upon can file petitions.
- Locus standi is not a necessity for PIL.

Q9. Which of the following methods can be employed to reduce the ill-effects of Non-Performing Assets (NPA)?

1. Sell the NPAs
2. Compromise Settlement
3. Pumping money into the banking system

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- A nonperforming asset (NPA) refers to a classification for loans or advances that are in default.
- Selling the NPAs to Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) or the bad banks is a method of removal of NPAs from the bank's balance sheet.
- Compromise settlement is executed by the banks in order to recover non-performing assets (NPAs). Eg: A one-time settlement or OTS is a type of compromise settlement. Under this method, the borrower (the one who has defaulted) proposes to settle all the dues at once, and banks agree to accept an amount lesser than what was originally due.

Q10. How does the National Rural Livelihood Mission seek to improve livelihood options of rural poor? (2012)

1. By setting up a large number of new manufacturing industries and agribusiness centres in rural areas
2. By strengthening 'self-help groups' and providing skill development
3. By supplying seeds, fertilizers, diesel pump-sets and micro-irrigation equipment free of cost to farmers

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. This scheme is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor by strengthening 'self-help groups' and providing skill development.

Q11. Which of the following are the literary works of Kalidasa?

1. Abhijnanashakuntala
2. Mudrarakshasa
3. Kumarasambhava
4. Mrichchhakatika
5. Meghaduta

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Kalidasa is widely regarded as the greatest poet and dramatist in the Sanskrit language in India. His literary works are as follows:
- Plays: Malavikagnimitram, Abhijnanasakuntalam, Vikramorvasiyam.
- Epic Poems (Maha kayvas): Raghuvamsa, Kumarasambhava.
- Minor Poems (Khanda kavyas): Meghaduta, Ritusamhara.
- His works were likely authored within the 4th–5th century CE.

Note:

- Vishakhadatta wrote Mudrarakshasa.
- Mricchakatika is a Sanskrit play written by Shudraka.

Q12. With reference to Solicitor General, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Solicitor General's office and duties are governed by Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987 and by Constitution.
2. He has the right to participate in the proceedings of Parliament but 'not to vote'.

Options:

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Solicitor General is the second highest ranking law officer of the government after the Attorney General. It is a statutory post.
  - “Law Officer” includes the Attorney-General for India, the Solicitor-General for India, and Additional Solicitor-General for India.
- The Solicitor General is subordinate to the Attorney General.
- Solicitor General’s office and duties are governed by Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987 and not by the Constitution.
- Solicitor General does not have the right to participate in the proceedings of Parliament.

Q13. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) sometimes seen in the news refers to

- a) Simplifying and harmonizing international customs procedures globally
- b) Anti-Dumping Measures
- c) Tax planning techniques employed by companies to exploit gaps in international and domestic tax laws
- d) Criminals using crypto currency for illegal activities

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to shift profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax jurisdictions.
- This practice erodes the tax-base of the higher-tax jurisdictions.

Q14. Consider the following pairs:

Lake	State
1. Vembanad Lake	Kerala
2. Indira Sagar Lake	Rajasthan
3. Pulicat Lake	Andhra Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:



Lake	State
Vembanad Lake	Kerala
Indira Sagar Lake	Madhya Pradesh
Pulicat Lake	Andhra Pradesh

List of largest Lakes(Decreasing order of area covered)	State/UT
Vembanad Lake	Kerala
Chilika Lake	Odisha
Shivaji Sagar Lake	Maharashtra
Indira Sagar lake	Madhya Pradesh
Pangong Lake	Ladakh
Pulicat Lake	Andhra Pradesh
Sardar Sarovar Lake	Gujarat
Nagarjuna Sagar Lake	Telangana
Loktak Lake	Manipur
Wular lake	Jammu and Kashmir

Q15. With reference to 'IFC Masala Bonds', sometimes seen in the news, which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. The International Finance Corporation, which offers these bonds, is an arm of the World Bank.
2. They are the rupee-denominated bonds and are a source of debt financing for the public and private sector.

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: c

Explanation:



- Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees, rather than the local currency.
- It is a debt instrument issued by an Indian entity in foreign markets to raise money, in Indian currency, instead of dollars or local denomination.
- They are a source of debt financing for the public and private sector.
- Masala is an Indian word and it means spices. The term was used by the International Finance Corporation to evoke the culture and cuisine of India.
- The International Finance Corporation, which offers these bonds, is an arm of the World Bank.

Q16. Consider the following statement with respect to Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG):

1. AsESG is a part of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. It acts as the Red List Authority for the Asian Elephant.
3. It operates and manages Elephant Trade Information System.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) is a part of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It acts as the Red List Authority for the Asian Elephant.
- Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) is managed and coordinated by TRAFFIC in consultation with the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat.

Q17. Consumer Price Index can be used for which of the following?

1. Identifying periods of inflation or deflation
2. Inspecting price stability
3. Tool for inflation targeting
4. Understanding the real value of salaries, wages, and pensions

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.
- It can be useful for the following purposes:
  - Identifying periods of inflation or deflation
  - Inspecting price stability
  - Tool for inflation targeting (Indian uses CPI as a benchmark for inflation targeting)
  - Understanding the real value of salaries, wages, and pensions

Q18. Which of the given statements with respect to Supernova is/are correct?

1. Massive stars, towards the end of their lifetimes form supernovas.
2. Supernova can happen in systems where two stars orbit one another and at least one of those stars is an Earth-sized white dwarf.
3. Study of supernova can help measure distances in space.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- A supernova is a powerful and luminous stellar explosion. This transient astronomical event occurs during the last evolutionary stages of a massive star or when a white dwarf is triggered into runaway nuclear fusion.
- Supernova can happen in systems where two stars orbit one another and at least one of those stars is an Earth-sized white dwarf.
- The study of supernova is beneficial in better understanding of our universe as they can help measure distances in space.

Q19. Which of the given statements with respect to Jagannath Temple in Puri is/are INCORRECT?

1. The temple famous for its annual Rath Yatra is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
2. Located in coastal Odisha, it is also called the Black Pagoda.
3. It is one of the Char Dham.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Jagannath temple in Puri is famous for its annual Rath Yatra, dedicated to Jagannath, a form of Lord Vishnu.
- It is the Sun Temple at Konark, Odisha which is referred to as the Black Pagoda.
- Puri Jagannath Mandir is one of four great 'Char Dham' pilgrimage sites

Q20. With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statement:

1. They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand.
2. They rear the Pashmina goats that yield a fine wool.
3. They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Changpa or Champa are a semi-nomadic tribe found mainly in the Changtang region of Ladakh.
- The Changpas rear the highly pedigreed and prized Changra goats that yield the rare Pashmina (Cashmere) fibre. The pashmina fibre is the finest fibre of all goat hair.
- As of 2001, the Changpa were classified as a Scheduled Tribe under the Indian government's reservation program of affirmative action.

Q21. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution does not specify the strength of the State Public Service Commission (SPSC) but has left the matter to the discretion of the Governor.
2. The Chairman and members of an SPSC are appointed by the Governor, they can be removed only by the President.
3. Joint State Public Service Commission is a statutory body.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- A State Public Service Commission performs all those functions in respect of the state services as the UPSC does in relation to the Central services.
- The Constitution does not specify the strength of the State Public Service Commission (SPSC) but has left the matter to the discretion of the Governor.
- The Chairman and members of an SPSC are appointed by the Governor, they can be removed only by the President.
- Joint State Public Service Commission is a statutory body.

Q22. With reference to the Rabha Tribe, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Rabhas are a tribe from Assam.
2. Bagurumba is a folk dance in Assam which is performed by the Rabhas.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Rabhas are Scheduled Tribes in Assam.
- While Bagurumba is a folk dance in Assam, it is performed by the Bodos.
- Hamja is a folk dance performed by the Rabha tribes.
- The Hamja Dance is about paddy cultivation.
- Baikho Dera is the main festival of Rabhas.

Q23. The Sharda Act is one of the significant reforms initiated by the British in India. What does it deal with?

- a) Transfer of ancestral property
- b) Child marriage
- c) Remarriage of widows
- d) Prohibition of Sati & female infanticide

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Child Marriage Restraint Act was a legislative act passed by the British on 28 September 1929.
- The act fixed the marriageable age for girls at 14 years and 18 years for boys.
- It is popularly known as the Sharda Act after its sponsor, Harbilas Sarda.

Q24. Arrange the following rivers from west to east:

1. Ramganga
2. Gomati
3. Ghaghara
4. Gandak

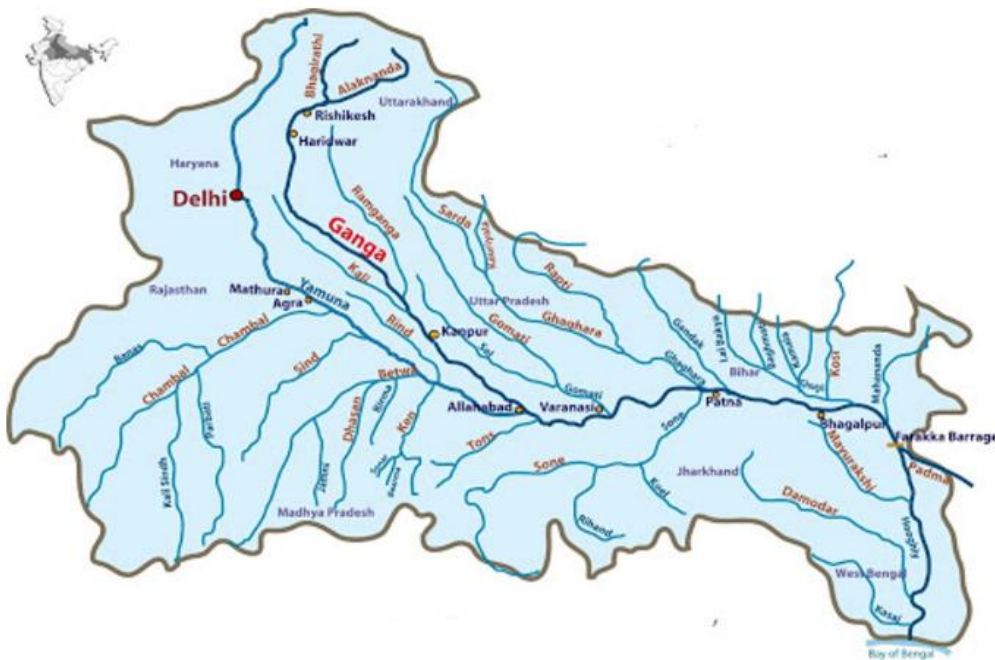
Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

West to East: Ramganga – Gomati – Ghaghara – Gandak



Q25. In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency.
2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to frame charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.

4. While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [UPSC 2012]

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Comptroller and Auditor General does not exercise exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares a national emergency/financial emergency. He/she has no such powers.
- CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
- Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to frame charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.

Q26. Which of the following differences between Debt and Equity is/are correct?

1. In Debt the maturity is for a fixed period, whereas in Equity it is mostly undetermined.
2. In Debt the returns are calculated by Dividend/increase in the price, whereas in Equity it is by Coupon Rate.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Funds that a company owes to another party is known as Debt. Funds raised by the company by issuing shares is known as Equity.
- In Debt, the returns are calculated by the coupon rate or the interest rate (charged against the profit). Whereas the returns on Equity is the dividend (appropriation of profit)/increase in the price of the share.
- Funds raised through debt financing are to be repaid after the expiry of the specific term. Equity is the source of permanent capital.
- Term loan, Debentures, Bonds, etc are the examples of Debt.
- Equity is shares and stocks.

Q27. Consider the following statements about Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair:

1. He had served as a President of the Indian National Congress.



2. Sankaran Nair was an advocate who defended Bhagat Singh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair served as a President of the Indian National Congress in 1897.
- He was the advocate who fought against the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, Michael O'Dwyer for the atrocities at the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- He served as a judge of the Madras High Court.

Q28. Consider the following pairs:

Portal	Objective
1. AMAR	Online public access catalogue for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books
2. E-Medha studies	Showcases inscriptions, archeo-botanical information and advanced archeo-genetic
3. SHAI	Digitized information on rare and hard to find manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Five portals of importance have been launched by the Union Minister of Ayush.

- 1) **AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) Portal:** It has digitized information on rare and hard to find manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa in libraries or in individual collections across India or in other parts of the world.
- 2) **E-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession) Portal:** Online public access catalogue for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's e-granthalaya platform.
- 3) **SHAI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints) Portal:** It showcases inscriptions, archaeo-botanical information, sculptures, philological sources and advanced archaeo-genetic studies.
- 4) **CCRAS-Research Management Information System (RMIS):** RMIS is a one-stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda-based studies. The portal offers free reference material, research



tools, and guidance by scientists and clinicians. It was developed jointly by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

- 5) **Ayurveda Dataset on Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI):** CTRI is a primary Register of Clinical Trials under the WHO's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform. The creation of an Ayurveda Dataset in CTRI facilitates the usage of Ayurveda terminologies to record clinical study based on Ayurveda interventions. This will enhance worldwide visibility for Ayurveda-based clinical trials.

Q29. With reference to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. OPEC has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Venezuela is the only country from South America which is part of OPEC.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- OPEC is an acronym for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. It is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in September 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. Due to Switzerland not extending diplomatic assurances, this was moved to Vienna, Austria, in 1965.
- Venezuela is the only country from South America which is part of OPEC.

Q30. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2017)

1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of G20 group of countries.
2. The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydro fluorocarbons.

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: b

Explanation:

- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and six countries — Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States in 2012.
- Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) are agents that have a relatively short lifetime in the atmosphere – a few days to a few decades – and a warming influence on climate.
- The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydro fluorocarbons.

Q31. Which of the given statements with respect to Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is/are correct?

1. The dam when completed will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa.
2. It is being constructed on River Sobat, a tributary of River Nile.
3. It has become a matter of contention between Ethiopia and Egypt.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) when completed will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa. The dam is under construction since 2011.
- It is being constructed on River Blue Nile, in Ethiopia.
- The GERD has been a matter of contention between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan.

Q32. The term 'Safe harbour immunity' seen in news refers to:

- a) Agreement between India-Sri Lanka providing immunity to fishermen entering into each other's territorial waters.
- b) Immunity offered to social media intermediaries from criminal liability.
- c) Immunity from quarantine rules in the EU countries for the holders of Green pass.
- d) Governmental immunity from taxation by state governments in the areas of overlapping tax jurisdiction.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- 'Safe harbour immunity' is the immunity offered to social media intermediaries from criminal liability.
- The immunity of safe harbour is provided for under Section 79 (1) of the Information Technology Act.
  - Section 79 of the IT Act, states, "an intermediary shall not be liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by him," therefore providing Safe Harbour protection.
- So long as the platform acts just as the medium to carry out messages from users without interfering in any manner, it will be safe from criminal liability.

Q33. “Mazar-e-Sharif”, often in news is located in:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

“Mazar-e-Sharif” is a city in northern Afghanistan.

Q34. Which of the following Directive Principles of State Policy ensures Constitutional Privileges for women in India?

- a) Article 42
- b) Article 48
- c) Article 49
- d) Article 50

Answer: a

Explanation:

Article 42 of the Indian Constitution states “The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief”.

Q35. The term ‘Digital Single Market Strategy’ seen in the news refers to (UPSC 2017)

- a) ASEAN
- b) BRICS
- c) EU
- d) G20

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Digital Single Market strategy is a strategy of the European Union that aims to open up digital opportunities for people, business and enhance Europe’s position as a world leader in the digital economy.

Q36. With reference to Council of Ministers, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Parliament.
2. The nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President can be enquired by the courts.

3. President can remove a minister only on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of India.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- The nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President cannot be enquired by any court. This provision emphasizes the intimate and confidential relationship between the President and the ministers.
- President can remove a minister only on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of India.

Q37. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Gunboat Diplomacy – Use of Limited Naval Force as a threat to advance foreign policy.
- 2. Shuttle Diplomacy – Diplomatic negotiations conducted by an official intermediary who travels frequently between the nations involved.
- 3. Track-one Diplomacy – Formal methods of conflict resolution involving diplomats, ministers, heads of states and representatives of international organisations.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Types of diplomacy in international politics.

- Gunboat Diplomacy – Use of Limited Naval Force as a threat to advance foreign policy.
- Shuttle Diplomacy – Diplomatic negotiations conducted by an official intermediary who travels frequently between the nations involved.
- Track-one Diplomacy – Formal methods of conflict resolution involving diplomats, ministers, heads of states and representatives of international organisations.

Q38. Pegasus recently seen in news is a

- a) Theft tactic that allows hackers to create a fake credit card by stealing the information off an individual's actual card

- b) Malware that can initiate total surveillance on the targeted device
- c) Virus capable of slowing down internet traffic
- d) Ransomware attack which has hit hundreds of US companies

Answer: b

Explanation:

Pegasus is a spyware tool from Israeli firm NSO Group. It is a malware that can initiate total surveillance on the targeted device. Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the user's phone.

Q39. Consider the following statements:

1. This region is surrounded by the Gulf of Aqaba.
2. The Strait of Tiran connects two water bodies.
3. Its coastlines touch the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.

**The country in question is:**

- a) Jordan
- b) Egypt
- c) Syria
- d) Israel

Answer: b

Explanation:

The coastline of Egypt touched both the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea that is connected by the Strait of Tiran. Egypt is bordered by the Gulf of Aqaba.

### Strait of Tiran



Q40. Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991? (UPSC 2017)

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: b



Explanation:

- Post the liberalization of economic policies in 1991, the share of agriculture in GDP did not increase.
- Some of the positive impacts of LPG reforms are:
  - Increase in share of India's exports in world trade.
  - Increase in the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment.
  - Increase in India's foreign exchange reserves.

Q41. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the principle of protection against self-incrimination?

1. Giving voice sample is not a violation of the fundamental right against self-incrimination.
2. This principle can be used even at the time of police investigation when they are extracting information.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A person accused of any offence cannot be compelled to be a witness against himself/herself. That is, an accused cannot be compelled to state anything which goes against him/her. This gives rise to the principle of protection against self-incrimination.
- The principle of protection against self-incrimination is a fundamental principle of the British system of criminal jurisprudence.
- As per the principle of protection against self-incrimination, giving voice sample is not a violation of the fundamental right against self-incrimination.
- This principle can be used even at the time of police investigation when they are extracting information.

Q42. Consider the following statements about Planet Saturn:

1. It is the second-largest planet in our solar system.
2. It is the only planet with Rings.
3. Titan is the largest moon of Saturn.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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



Answer: a

Explanation:

- Planet Saturn is the second-largest planet in our solar system.
- Four of the planets in the Solar System have rings. They are the four giant gas planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.
- Titan is the largest moon of Saturn.

Q43. Which of the following incidents had occurred when Lord Reading was the Viceroy?

1. Dandi march
2. Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre
3. Establishment of Swaraj party
4. Kakori Train Robbery
5. Malabar rebellion

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Events that took place when Lord Reading was the Viceroy was the establishment of the Swaraj Party, the Kakori Train Robbery and the Malabar Rebellion.
- Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre took place when Lord Chelmsford was the viceroy.
- Dandi March took place when Lord Irwin was the viceroy.

Q44. Which Strait separates Malaysia from the Philippines?

- a) Sunda Strait
- b) Balabac Strait
- c) Strait of Malacca
- d) Strait of Makasar

Answer: b

Explanation:

Balabac Strait separates Malaysia from the Philippines.



Q45. 'Basel III Accord' or simply 'Basel III', often seen in the news, seeks to (UPSC 2015)

- Develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial and economic stress and improve risk management
- Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions but places a heavier burden on developed countries
- Transfer technology from developed countries to poor countries to enable them to replace the use of chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration with harmless chemicals

Answer: b

Explanation:

Basel Norms are international banking regulations. Basel III Accord was developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) and was released in 2010. It sought to improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial and economic stress and improve risk management.

Q46. Consider the following statements about Speaker of Assembly:

1. He can summon, adjourn the assembly or suspend the meeting in the absence of a quorum.
2. He decides whether a bill is a Money Bill or not and his decision on this question is final.
3. He decides on the question of disqualification of members of the state legislature in consultation with the Election Commission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The speaker has the power to adjourn the assembly or suspend the meeting in the absence of a quorum.
- The power to summon the assembly is given to the Governor.
- The speaker decides whether a bill is a Money Bill or not and his decision on this question is final.
- Governor decides on the question of disqualification of members of the state legislature in consultation with the Election Commission. However, in case of disqualification of a member on the ground of defection under the anti-defection law, the power is with the speaker.

Q47. With reference to Lymphatic filariasis, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a neglected tropical disease.
2. It is spread from person to person by mosquitoes.
3. Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis was established by the WHO.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Lymphatic filariasis is a Neglected Tropical Disease.
- The causative organism for Filariasis is a roundworm of the Filarioidea type.
- Lymphatic Filariasis, also called elephantiasis, is a vector-borne disease, spread by the bite of mosquitoes and black flies.
- It is a parasitic disease caused by filial worms (parasitic worms).
- In the human body, the disease parasite is acquired during childhood causing gradual damage in the lymphatic system.
- Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis was established by the World Health Organisation.

Q48. Consider the following statements with respect to National Green Tribunal:

1. It has its presence in four zones only.
2. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.
3. Engaging an advocate is compulsory to approach the Tribunal.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- National Green Tribunal has five zones – North, south, east, west and central zones.
- The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone and is headquartered in Delhi.
- Engaging an advocate is not compulsory to approach the Tribunal. A party can fight his/her own case without an advocate, in the NGT.

Q49. Which of the following statements about Chandra Shekhar Azad is/are correct?

1. He was involved in the Kakori Conspiracy.
2. Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was formed by Ram Prasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Chandra Shekhar Azad.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was formed by Ram Prasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Sachindra Nath Bakshi in 1923.
- In 1928, it was restructured into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association by Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad.
- Chandrashekhar Azad was involved in the Kakori Conspiracy.

Q50. In the context of global oil prices, 'Brent crude oil' is frequently referred to in the news. What does this term imply? (2011)

1. It is a major classification of crude oil.

2. It is sourced from the North Sea.
3. It does not contain sulphur.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Brent crude oil is a major classification of crude oil. It is sourced from the North Sea. The Brent crude oil also contains sulphur.

Q51. Consider the following statements:

1. The largest component of natural gas is methane
2. Sour gas is natural gas containing Hydrogen Sulfide ( $H_2S$ )
3. Sweet gas is the natural gas that contains very little or no hydrogen sulfide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Natural gas is a combustible mixture of hydrocarbon gases. While natural gas is formed primarily of methane, it can also include ethane, propane, butane and pentane.
- Natural gas that contains larger amounts of hydrogen sulphide is termed sour gas. Before using it must be “sweetened” by removal of Hydrogen sulphide.

Q52. Which of the following Fundamental rights are available only to citizens and not to foreigners?

1. Article 15
2. Article 16
3. Article 19
4. Article 28
5. Article 30

Options:

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Under the Indian constitution, certain fundamental rights are available only to the citizens, namely: Right against discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15); right to equality of opportunity in matter of public employment (Article 16); freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19); cultural and educational rights (Article 29 and 30); and right to vote and become members of the union and state legislatures.
- Equality before the law or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India (Article 14) and protection of life or personal liberty (Article 21) are applicable to non-citizens as well. The right to freedom of religion (article 25-28) is available to both citizens and foreigners except enemy aliens.

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

1. Article 23 protects an individual not only against the State but also against private persons
2. India has signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution explicitly prohibits and criminalises human trafficking and forced labour. Apart from protecting an individual against the State it also protects against private persons
- India signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its three Protocols in 2002
  - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
  - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and
  - Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in firearms. Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Q54. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a country located at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
2. It is a part of the Caucasus region, bounded to the west by the Black Sea
3. It is bounded on the north and northeast by Russia

**The above statements best describe:**



- a) Turkey
- b) Azerbaijan
- c) Georgia
- d) Armenia

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Georgia is strategically located at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.



Q55. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organize a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda?

- 1. The administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought
- 2. The administration proposed to introduce permanent settlement in Gujarat

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:

- The Kheda Satyagraha of 1918 during the period of the British Raj, is a Satyagraha movement organized in support of peasants of the Kheda district as they were unable to pay high taxes levied by the British due to crop failure and an epidemic plague.

Q56. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chenab is the largest tributary of the Indus.
2. The Bari Doab lies between the Ravi and the Chenab rivers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Chenab is the largest tributary of the Indus.
- The area enclosed between Beas and Ravi rivers is called Bari doab.

Q57. With reference to Kesaria Stupa, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a Buddhist stupa in the State of Sikkim.
2. It is regarded as the largest Buddhist stupa in the world.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Kesaria stupa is a Buddhist stupa in the State of Bihar. The stupa is in the east Champaran district of Bihar.
- It is regarded as the largest Buddhist stupa in the world.

Q58. Which of the following statements about Hawa Mahal is/are correct?

1. It was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh
2. Mr. Lal Chand Usta was the architect.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Hawa Mahal, also known as the “Palace of Breeze”, was built in 1799 as an extension to the Royal City Palace of Jaipur.
- It was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh.
- Mr. Lal Chand Usta was the architect of Hawa Mahal.
- The five-storey palace was built in the form of Krishna’s crown because Sawai Pratap Singh was devoted to Krishna.

Q59. Consider the following statements about Lok Adalat:

1. It can deal with cases pending before a court and also with disputes at the pre-litigation stage.
2. It is one of the components of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system.
3. Lok Adalat shall have no jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to divorce or matters relating to an offence not compoundable under any law.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The establishment of the Lok Adalat system of dispute settlement system was brought about with the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 for expediting the system of dispute settlement.
- It can deal with cases pending before a court and also with disputes at the pre-litigation stage.
- It is one of the components of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system.
- Lok Adalat shall have no jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to divorce or matters relating to an offence not compoundable under any law.

Q60. Which of the following best describes/describe the aim of the ‘Green India Mission’ of the Government of India? (2016)

1. Incorporating environmental benefits and costs into the Union and State Budgets thereby implementing the 'green accounting'.
2. Launching the second green revolution to enhance agricultural output so as to ensure food security to one and all in the future.
3. Restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Green India Mission comes under the umbrella of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It was launched in 2014.
- Its aim is restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

Q61. Consider the following statements about Contempt of Court:

1. There is no limit on the time period for initiating contempt.
2. The Supreme Court can take the cognizance of criminal contempt on its own motion or on a motion made by the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General.
3. Truth can be a valid defence in any contempt proceedings if such a defence is in the public interest and the request for invoking the defence is bona fide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Contempt of court is the offence of being defiant or disrespectful to the court.
- Section 20 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 states that "No court shall initiate any proceedings of contempt, either on its own motion or otherwise, after the expiry of a period of one year from the date on which the contempt is alleged to have been committed".
- The Supreme Court or High Court can take the cognizance of criminal contempt on its own motion or on a motion made by the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General.

- Truth can be a valid defence in any contempt proceedings if such a defence is in the public interest and the request for invoking the defence is bona fide.

Q62. With reference to Red sanders, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is endemic to the Western Ghats.
2. It is put under the category of endangered species in the IUCN Red List due to overexploitation.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

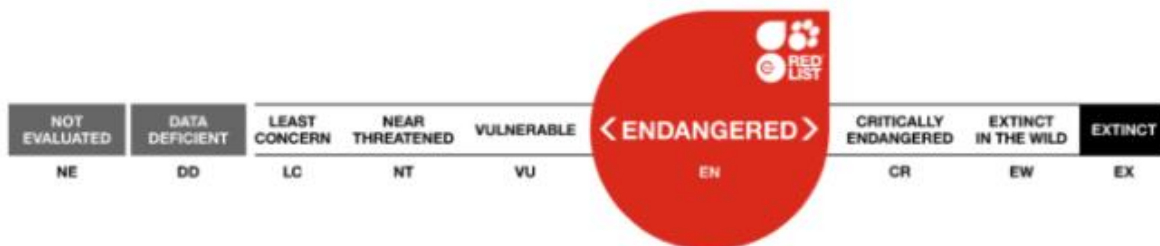
- Red Sanders is a tree endemic to South India.
- They are found in the Tropical Dry Deciduous forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- IUCN has classified red sanders as endangered (Assessment year: 2020).

# Red Sanders

*Pterocarpus santalinus*

## CITATION

Ahmedullah, M. 2021. *Pterocarpus santalinus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2021*: e.T32104A187622484. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2021-1.RLTS.T32104A187622484.en>. Downloaded on 13 July 2021.



Q63. Consider the following statements:

1. Cloudburst is extreme precipitation, which lasts only for a short period of time and is extremely local in nature.
2. Cloudbursts usually occur in connection with a thunderstorm.
3. Cloudbursts happen only in the mountains and hilly areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Cloudburst is extreme precipitation, which lasts only for a short period of time and is extremely local in nature.
- Cloudbursts usually occur in connection with a thunderstorm.
- While there is a greater probability of cloudbursts occurring in the mountains and hilly areas, cloudbursts can also occur in plains.

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

1. The Cool Temperate Continental (Siberian) Climate is experienced only in the northern hemisphere.
2. The Cool Temperate Western Margin (British Type) regions are under the influence of Westerlies all-round the year.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Cool Temperate Continental (Siberian) Climate is experienced only in the northern hemisphere. Southern Hemisphere is typically more temperate and warmer than the various landmasses in the Northern Hemisphere because of the effect of the oceans. Oceans absorb and store huge amounts of energy.
- The Cool Temperate Western Margin regions are under the influence of Westerlies all-round the year. They are also regions of much cyclonic activity, typical of Britain, and therefore, they are said to experience the British type of climate.

Q65. Kalamkari painting refers to (UPSC 2015)

- a) A hand-painted cotton textile in South India
- b) A handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
- c) A block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- d) A hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

Answer: a

Explanation:

Kalamkari is a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile produced in Andhra Pradesh. Only natural dyes are used in Kalamkari.

Q66. "Cairo Consensus" deals with:

- a) Population dynamics, family planning and reproductive health
- b) Exploration and use of outer space
- c) Navigational rights and freedoms
- d) Special use airspace

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Cairo Consensus adopted in the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 called for the promotion of reproductive rights, empowering women, universal education, maternal and infant health to tackle the challenge of poverty and high fertility.

Q67. Pulichintala project has been a source of interstate water dispute between which of these states?

- a) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- d) Odisha and Chhattisgarh

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Pulichintala Project is a multipurpose project serving irrigation needs, hydropower generation and flood control. It is constructed across river Krishna near Pulichinta Village.
- It has been a source of interstate water dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Q68. Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

1. India has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022.
2. India's renewable energy target includes installing 100 GW of solar power.
3. India's largest floating solar project has been commissioned at Chennai.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- India's largest floating solar project has been commissioned at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Its capacity is 10 MW.

Q69. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. Satras are monastic institutions created as part of the Neo-Vaishnavite reformist movement started by Srimanta Sankaradeva.
2. Satras propagate the 'worship through art' approach.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Satras are institutional centres associated with the Ekasarana tradition of Vaishnavism, largely found in the Indian state of Assam.
- These monastic institutions were created as part of the Neo-Vaishnavite reformist movement by Srimanta Sankaradeva.
- Satras were established as centres of religious, social and cultural reforms. Satras promulgate Sankaradeva's unique "worship through art" approach with music (borgeet), dance (sattriya) and theatre (bhauna).

Q70. In the context of which one of the following are the terms pyrolysis and plasma gasification mentioned? [UPSC 2019]

- a) Extraction of earth element
- b) Natural gas extractions technologies
- c) Hydrogen fuel based automobiles
- d) Waste to energy technologies

Answer: d

Explanation:



- Pyrolysis and Plasma gasification are associated with waste to energy technologies.
- Pyrolysis is the heating of an organic material, such as biomass, in the absence of oxygen. Because no oxygen is present the material does not combust but the chemical compounds (i.e. cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin) that make up that material thermally decompose into combustible gases and charcoal.
- Plasma gasification is an extreme thermal process using plasma which converts organic matter into a syngas which is primarily made up of hydrogen and carbon monoxide. A plasma torch powered by an electric arc is used to ionize gas and catalyze organic matter into syngas, with slag remaining as a byproduct. Plasma gasification is an emerging technology which can process landfill waste to extract commodity recyclables and convert carbon-based materials into fuels.

Q71. Consider the following statements about Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

1. It covers both the goods and the services.
2. It does not include taxes in order to remove the impact of fiscal policy.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Wholesale Price Index covers only goods.
- The Wholesale price Index calculated with 2011-12 base year does not include taxes in order to remove the impact of fiscal policy. This also brings the new WPI series closer to the Producer Price Index and is in consonance with the global practices.

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

1. Contribution of any amount directly or indirectly to any political party shall be considered as CSR activity.
2. Expenses incurred by companies for the fulfillment of any Act/Statute of regulations would count as CSR expenditure under the Companies Act.
3. India is the first country in the world to make CSR mandatory.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- On April 1, 2014, India became the first country to legally mandate corporate social responsibility. The new rules in Section 135 of India's Companies Act make it mandatory for companies of a certain turnover and profitability to spend two percent of their average net profit for the past three years on CSR.
- As per Section 135 of the Act and rules issued thereunder, CSR norms are applicable on companies that has –
  - net worth of Rs 500 Crore or more;
  - turnover of Rs 1000 Crore or more; or
  - net profit of Rs 5 Crore or more.
- Contribution of any amount directly or indirectly to any political party under section 182 of the Act shall not be considered as CSR activity.
- Also, expenses incurred by companies for the fulfillment of any Act/Statute of regulations would not count as CSR expenditure under the Companies Act.

Q73. Which of the following are Percussion Instruments?

1. Tabla
2. Mridangam
3. Ghatam
4. Kanjira

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:

- Tabla, Mridangam, Ghatam and Kanjira are all percussion instruments.
- The Kanjira is a South Indian frame drum. As a folk and bhajan instrument, it has been used in India for many centuries.

Q74. Consider the following statements:

1. Almost the whole of South Africa is a high plateau sloping towards the west.
2. The Orange and Vaal Rivers flow from the Drakensberg mountains eastward to the Indian Ocean.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Almost the whole of South Africa is a high plateau sloping towards the west.
- The Orange River flows westward into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Vaal River is the largest tributary of the Orange River in South Africa.



Q75. What are the significances of a practical approach to sugarcane production known as ‘Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative’?

1. Seed cost is very low in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.
2. Drip irrigation can be practised very effectively in this.

3. There is no application of chemical/inorganic fertilizers at all in this.
4. The scope for intercropping is more in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Conventional sugarcane cultivation is found to be seed, water, and space intensive. Issues like high input costs, disease infestation, low yields, varietal degeneration, drought and waterlogging are the major limiting factors for achieving optimum profits.
- Thus the conventional method of sugarcane cultivation has become unviable for small and marginal farmers.

**Major principles of SSI:**

- The farmers are also being encouraged under the programme to practice inter-cropping of soybean and groundnut with sugarcane cultivation. This would help ensure the effective utilization of land.
- Installing a drip irrigation system is a major component of the Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI).
- The SSI emphasizes the in-house preparation of seedlings. This would help cut the seed costing.
- SSI does not rule out the usage of chemical fertilizers but emphasizes optimal usage of such fertilizers.

Q76. Consider the following pairs:

<b>Amendment Act</b>	<b>Provisions</b>
1. 1st Amendment Act	Ninth Schedule
2. 25th Amendment Act	Abolished the Privy purses
3. 42nd Amendment Act	Fundamental Duties added
4. 62nd Amendment Act	Voting age was decreased from 21 to 18

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Privy Purses abolished – 26th Amendment
- Voting age decreased from 21 to 18 – 61st Amendment

Q77. With reference to Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Interest is paid on PPI balances.
2. Semi-closed PPIs permit cash withdrawal.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- PPIs are instruments that facilitate (a) purchase of goods and services, including financial services, (b) remittances, (c) funds transfers, etc., against the value stored in/on such instruments.
- Interest is not paid on PPI balances.
- Semi-closed System PPIs do not permit cash withdrawal, irrespective of whether they are issued by banks or non-banks.

Q78. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Adjournment Motion?

1. Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.
2. It should not discuss a matter that has already been discussed in the same session.
3. It requires one-tenth of the total number of members of the house to support the motion.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The primary object of an adjournment motion is to draw the attention of the House to a recent matter of urgent public importance having serious consequences.
- It is an extraordinary device, needs the support of 50 members and can only be initiated in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.

Q79. 'Fit for 55' recently seen in news is a/an

- a) Program by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices
- b) European Commission proposal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions



- c) Plan developed by developed countries to discourage multinational companies from shifting profits – and tax revenues – to low-tax countries
- d) Supply chain pact initiated by India-Japan-Australia to counter China

Answer: b

Explanation:

- It is a proposal made by European Commission to reduce the EU's carbon emissions by 55% compared with 1990 levels by 2030.
- According to the proposals, dependence on fossil fuel-run cars would be reduced and zero-emission cars such as electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles would be permitted to be manufactured.
- It is an ambitious plan to tackle climate change.

Q80. The annual range of temperature in the interior of the continents is high as compared to coastal areas. What is/are the reason/reasons? PYQ (2013)

1. Thermal difference between land and water
2. Variation in altitude between continents and oceans
3. Presence of strong winds in the interior
4. Heavy rains in the interior as compared to coasts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Radiation from the sun heats up Earth's landmasses and oceans.
  - The heating and cooling differences of land and water affect the temperature and movement of air masses above the land and water.
  - Because water has a much higher heat capacity, or specific heat, than sands, soils or other materials, for a given amount of solar irradiation (insolation), water temperature will increase less than land temperature.

Q81. With reference to Dowry, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act applies to persons of all religions in India.
2. The Dowry Prohibition Act prohibits both the giving and receiving of a dowry.

Options:

- a) 1 only



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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In this act, 'dowry' means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly:
  - by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or
  - by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person; at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of said parties but does not include dower or mahr in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies.
- The Dowry Prohibition Act prohibits the giving or taking of the dowry.

Q82. Which of the following authorities/institutions fall under the definition of 'Public Authority' in the Right to Information act?

1. Office of Attorney General
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India
3. Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
4. Office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Delhi High Court has clarified that the office of the attorney general would not be a public authority within the ambit of the Right to Information Act (RTI).
- "Public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted—
  - by or under the Constitution;
  - by any other law made by Parliament;
  - by any other law made by State Legislature;
  - by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any—
    - body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
    - non-Government organisation substantially financed,
- directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government;
- Therefore only those NGOs substantially financed by the Government come under the ambit of Public Authority, not all.

Q83. Consider the following statements:

1. Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in a Rajya Sabha election.
2. Vacancies that arise due to resignation, death or disqualification are filled up through by-polls after which those elected serve out the remainder of their predecessor's term.
3. The Rajya Sabha polls have a system of open ballot.

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: d

Explanation:

- Lok Sabha members are elected directly by the voters, Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the people, that is, by the MLAs.
  - Every Rajya Sabha MP has a tenure of six years.
- The election held to fill a vacancy arising otherwise than by retirement of a member on the expiration of his term of office is called 'Bye-election'. A member elected in a bye-election remains member for the remainder of the term of the member who had resigned or died or disqualified to be member of the House under the Tenth Schedule.
- Article 80(4) of the Constitution of India provides that members of Rajya Sabha shall be elected by the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies through the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Q84. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Bio-Toilets?

1. Bio toilets use anaerobic bacteria for converting human waste to gas.
2. Bacteria can decompose plastic and cloth materials dumped into toilets.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Bio-toilet is a dry toilet that treats human waste by a biological process called composting.
- It decomposes human excretory waste in a digester tank using specific high graded bacteria (aerobic or anaerobic), further converting it into methane gas, carbon dioxide gas and water.
- It treats human waste at the source. A collection of anaerobic bacteria that have been adapted to work at temperatures as low as -5 degree C and as high as 50 degree C as inocula (seed material) to the bio-digesters convert the organic human waste into water, methane and carbon dioxide gases.

- The anaerobic process inactivates the pathogens responsible for water-borne diseases and treats the excreta without the use of an external energy source.
- However, sometimes, bio-toilets are choked as passengers dump cigarette butts, gutka pouches, plastic water bottles, plastic covers, liquor bottles, and food waste into it.

Q85. Both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) are related to investment in a country. Which one of the following statements best represents an important difference between the two? (PYQ-2011)

- a) FII helps bring better management skills and technology, while FDI only brings in capital
- b) FII helps in increasing capital availability in general, while FDI only targets specific sectors
- c) FDI flows only into the secondary market while FII targets primary market
- d) FII is considered to be more stable than FDI

Answer: b

Q86. Which of the given statement/s with respect to pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is/are incorrect?

1. It is a process that separates single gases from a gas mixture through a cryogenic air separation process.
2. It takes place at very low temperatures.
3. It is mostly used in the chemical industry and the petrochemical industry.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is a process that separates single gases from a gas mixture through a non-cryogenic air separation process.
- It takes place at near ambient temperatures.
- It is mostly used in the chemical industry and the petrochemical industry.

Q87. Which of the given statements with respect to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is/are correct?

1. The fund comes from the Universal Service Levy (USL) charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
2. The fund is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. USOF is funding the Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects.

Options:

- a) 3 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was established in 2002.
- The fund comes from the Universal Service Levy (USL) charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.
- USOF is funding the BharatNet project.

Q88. Which of the following dam/s is/are built/being built in Afghanistan in partnership with India?

1. Salma Dam
2. Sokhtuk Dam
3. Shahtoot Dam
4. Band-e Sardeh Dam

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Salma Dam (Afghan-India Friendship Dam) inaugurated in 2016 was built in partnership with India.
- Shahtoot dam is another major dam being built by India in Afghanistan.

Q89. Consider the following statements:

1. The cores of Mercury, Venus and Earth are about one-third of their mass.
2. Both Mercury and Venus do not have moon or rings.
3. Mercury is the hottest planet in the solar system due to its proximity to the Sun.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- While the cores of Venus and Earth are about one-third of their mass Mercury's core is 85 percent by volume.
- Both Mercury and Venus do not have a moon. Both the planets do not have rings because the powerful solar wind blasts destroy icy rings around the planets.
- Despite being further from the Sun than Mercury, Venus experiences higher temperatures. Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system.

Q90. Which one of the following is not the most likely measure the Government/RBI takes to stop the slide of Indian rupee? (UPSC 2019)

- a) Curbing imports of non-essential goods and promoting exports
- b) Encouraging Indian borrowers to issue rupee denominated Masala bonds
- c) Easing conditions relating to external commercial borrowing
- d) Following an expansionary monetary policy

Answer: d

Explanation:

An expansionary monetary policy results in increased money supply in the economy resulting in stronger dollar. Such a policy might lead to a fall in the value of Indian Rupee.

Q91. Consider the following statements with respect to Lokpal:

1. The administrative expenses of the Lokpal shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. The salary, allowances of the Chairperson shall be the same as those of the Chief Justice of India.
3. There is a limitation period of 7 years to file complaints.
4. It can initiate a probe suo motu into any corruption case against any Public Servant.
5. Anonymous complaints can be accepted.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The administrative expenses (salaries, allowances, pensions, etc.) of the Lokpal shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.
- The salary, allowances of the Chairperson shall be the same as those of the Chief Justice of India. The salaries and allowances of the other members of the Lokpal are equal to that of a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- There is a limitation period of 7 years from the date of occurrence of the crime to file complaints.
- Lokpal cannot take up a probe suo motu into any corruption case against any Public Servant, neither can it accept anonymous complaints.

Q92. With reference to Tipu Sultan, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He took the help of the French to set up an arms factory at Dindigul.
2. The Third Anglo-Mysore War fought by Tipu ended with the Treaty of Madras.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan's father took the help of the French to set up an arms factory at Dindigul.
- The Third Anglo-Mysore War fought by Tipu ended with the Treaty of Seringapatnam.

Q93. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system located in the Gulf of Carpentaria.
2. Australia is the world's largest coral reef nation.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system located in the Coral Sea on the North-Eastern side of Australia.
- Indonesia is the world's largest coral reef nation.

Q94. Which one of the following statements best describes Moon Wobble?

- a) It is an intense geological activity on the largest moon in the solar system
- b) When there are two full moons within a month, the second full moon is called a Moon Wobble
- c) It is a cyclical shift in the moon's orbit that happens every 18.6 years
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:



- The moon wobble is a regular swaying/cyclical shift in the moon's orbit. It was first documented in 1728.
- This wobble takes over an 18.6-year period to complete and continues to occur in a cyclic fashion.
- One half of the 18.6-year cycle suppresses the tides, which means that the high tides get lower, while the low tides get higher than normal. Once this cycle completes, the situation flips with high tides getting higher and low tides, lower.

Q95. The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following? (UPSC 2017)

- a) The Preamble
- b) The Fundamental Rights
- c) The Directive Principles of State Policy
- d) The Fundamental Duties

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The mind of the makers of the Constitution is reflected in the Preamble. It contains a summary or the essence of the Constitution. The Preamble to the Constitution of India comprises the aims and vision of the Constituent Assembly as well as makes a mention of the source of authority of the Constitution.

Q96. A Living Root Bridge, a type of simple suspension bridge built by manipulating the roots of the trees, is usually seen in the state of

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Odisha

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The trees in Meghalaya not only develop the conventional rooting system but also develop aerial rooting system. Aerial roots are roots that grow on the above-ground parts of a plant. Therefore, people in the region make use of Living Root Bridges.
- A living root bridge is a type of simple suspension bridge formed of living plant roots by tree shaping. They are common in the southern part of the Northeast Indian state of Meghalaya.
- They are handmade from the aerial roots of rubber fig trees (*Ficus elastica*) by the Khasi and Jaintia people.

Q97. Which of the following are the primary sources of vegetable oils in India?

1. Cottonseed
2. Groundnut
3. Rice Bran
4. Soybean
5. Sunflower

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Primary sources of vegetable oil: Soybean, Rapeseed & Mustard, Groundnut, Sunflower, Safflower & Niger.
- Secondary sources of vegetable oil: Oil palm, Coconut, Rice Bran, Cotton seeds & Tree Borne Oilseeds.

Q98. Consider the following statements:

1. Switzerland and Austria have a warmer climate due to the Föhn, as moist winds off the Mediterranean Sea blow over the Alps.
2. Föhn is responsible for rapid temperature rise, melting snowfall and the avalanche risk.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A föhn or foehn is a type of dry, warm, down-slope wind that occurs in the lee (downwind side) of a mountain range.
- Foehn is a hot wind of local importance in the Alps. With the arrival of these winds, there is a rapid rise in temperature.
- Switzerland and Austria have a warmer climate due to the Föhn, as moist winds off the Mediterranean Sea blow over the Alps.
- Föhn is responsible for rapid temperature rise, melting snowfall and the avalanche risk.

Q99. Twin Deficit is a condition where a nation has both

- a) Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit
- b) Current Account Deficit and Revenue Deficit
- c) Primary Deficit and Revenue Deficit
- d) Fiscal Deficit and Hyperinflation

Answer: a

Explanation:

- A twin deficit economy is one that has both fiscal and current account deficits.
- A twin deficit occurs when a nation's government has both a trade deficit and a budget deficit.
- A trade deficit, also known as a current account deficit, occurs when a nation imports more than it exports.
- Fiscal deficit is a condition where the government is spending more money than it takes in from taxes and other revenues excluding debt.

Q100. With reference to a grouping of countries known as BRICS, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2014)

1. The First Summit of BRICS was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2009.
2. South Africa was the last to join the BRICS grouping.

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: b

Explanation:

- The First Summit of BRICS was held in Yekaterinburg in Russia in 2009.
- South Africa was the last to join the BRICS grouping.
- BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- South Africa was invited to join the bloc (BRIC) in December 2010, resulting in BRICS.

Q101. Which of the given statements with respect to Asian Development Bank (ADB) is/are correct?

1. Asian Development Outlook is an annual publication of ADB.
2. Under its voting system, each member nation has a single vote irrespective of its capital subscriptions.
3. The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Asian Development Outlook is annually published by the Asian Development Bank.
- In ADB, the votes are distributed among the member nations in proportion to their capital subscriptions.
- The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries.

Q102. e-SANTA is an electronic marketplace providing a platform:

- a) Connecting the farmers, traders and buyers of GI tagged agricultural produce across the country.
- b) Connecting aqua farmers and buyers across the country.
- c) Facilitating grading, packing, providing logistic support to organic farmers to sell their agriculture produce directly to end customers.
- d) Connecting all the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- e-SANTA is an electronic marketplace providing a platform connecting aqua farmers and buyers across the country.

Q103. Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

1. Varkari is a religious movement within the Bhakti tradition geographically associated with the Mathura region.
2. Gnanadeva, Namadeva and Tukaram of the Varkari tradition were contemporaries.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Varkari is a religious movement within the Bhakti tradition geographically associated with Maharashtra and North Karnataka.
- Gnanadeva was the founder of the Bhakti Movement in Maharashtra in the 13th century.
- Namadeva belonged to the 13th century. He opposed idol worship and the dominance of priests. He criticized the caste system.
- Tukaram was another Bhakti saint of Maharashtra and said to be a contemporary of Shivaji. He was a 17th-century poet-saint of the Bhakti movement.

Q104. Johads and Khadins refer to:

- a) Rainfed storage structures built in Rajasthan.
- b) Inundation channels developed by people in the flood plains of Bengal to irrigate their fields.
- c) Traditional floodwater harvesting systems indigenous to South Bihar.
- d) Community-managed irrigation systems unique to Maharashtra.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Johads and Khadins refer to rainfed storage structures built in Rajasthan.

Q105. With reference to an initiative called ‘The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)’, which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC 2016)

1. It is an initiative hosted by UNEP, IMF and World Economic Forum.
2. It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
3. It presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

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: c

Explanation:

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) was launched at the G8 meeting of environment ministers in Potsdam, Germany, in 2007.
- It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
- It presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Q106. Which of the given statements best describes the “Kafala System”?

- a) A system for monitoring the migrant labourers followed in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- b) An informal and illegal method of transferring money without any physical money actually moving.
- c) The common systematic law on the administrative procedure adopted by governments of Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- d) Sharia-compliant interest-free banking system.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Kafala System is a system used to monitor migrant labourers, working primarily in the construction and domestic sectors in Gulf Cooperation Council member states and a few neighbouring countries, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The system requires all unskilled labourers to have an in-country sponsor, usually their employer, who is responsible for their visa and legal status.

Q107. Which of the given statements with respect to Nehru-Liaquat Pact is/are correct?

1. It was a bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan in 1950.
2. Its aim was to resolve the issue of protection of the minorities.
3. It did not recognise forced conversions in the respective countries.
4. It is also known as the Lahore Declaration.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Nehru-Liaquat Pact (Delhi Pact) was a bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan in 1950 to resolve the issue of protection of the minorities in the backdrop of communal violence during the partition.
- It did not recognise forced conversions in the respective countries.

Q108. The unique alder-based Jhum cultivation is practised in which of these states?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Angami tribes from village Khonoma of Kohima district in Nagaland devised Alder based Jhum cultivation which is sustainable and eco-friendly.
- Alder-based Jhum cultivation is unique to Nagaland.

Q109. Which of the given pairs is/are correctly matched?

<b>Missile</b>	<b>Type</b>
1. Akash	Surface to surface
2. Barak-8	Surface to Air
3. ASTRA	Air to Air



Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Akash is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- Barak 8 is an Indo-Israeli surface-to-air missile (SAM).
- ASTRA is an Indian all weather beyond-visual-range active radar homing air-to-air missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Q110. Mycorrhizal biotechnology has been used in rehabilitating degraded sites because mycorrhiza enables the plants to (UPSC 2013)

- 1. resist drought and increase absorptive area
- 2. tolerate extremes of PH
- 3. Resist disease infestation

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: d

Explanation:

- Mycorrhiza refers to the role of the fungus in the host plant's root system. It is a symbiotic relationship between the two.
- Mycorrhizal fungi help the host plant to resist drought and increase its absorptive area, tolerate extreme levels of PH in the soil, protects it from root diseases.

Q111. PRAGYATA guidelines issued by the government of India refer to a set of guidelines issued for:

- a) Protection of women at workplace.
- b) Provision of shelter, rehabilitation and care to children orphaned due to COVID-19.
- c) Promotion of traditional indigenous practices in agriculture.
- d) Planning and implementation of Digital Education.

Answer: d

Explanation:

PRAGYATA guidelines issued by the government of India refer to a set of guidelines issued for the planning and implementation of Digital Education.

Q112. Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

1. The 97th Constitutional amendment act dealt with the issues related to the effective management of co-operative societies in the country.
2. The Parliament alone can enact laws with regard to cooperative societies including multi-State co-operative societies.
3. The subject “co-operative societies” falls in the concurrent list.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The 97th Constitutional amendment act dealt with the issues related to the effective management of co-operative societies in the country.
- Only the states can enact laws with regard to cooperative societies.
- The subject “co-operative societies” is enumerated in Entry 32 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Q113. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. As money supply in the economy falls the interest rate also has the tendency to fall.
2. An expansionary monetary policy is implemented by lowering key interest rates.
3. The policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target is decided by the Reserve Bank of India.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- As money supply in the economy falls the interest rate also has the tendency to rise.
- An expansionary monetary policy is implemented by lowering key interest rates.

- The policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee.

Q114. The Democracy Index is published by

- a) World Bank
- b) Reporters Without Borders
- c) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- d) Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Democracy Index is published by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- There is a range of 60 indicators within the five categories on which the Democracy Index is based. Five indicators:
  - Electoral Process and Pluralism
  - The Functioning of the Government
  - Political Participation
  - Political Culture
  - Civil Liberties

Q115. Consider the following pairs of Terms sometimes seen in news vs Context/Topic: (UPSC 2018)

1. Belle II experiment: Artificial Intelligence
2. Blockchain technology: Digital/ Cryptocurrency
3. CRISPR — Cas9: Particle Physics

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Belle II experiment conducted in Japan dealt with particle physics.
- Digital/Cryptocurrency is based on blockchain technology.
- CRISPR-Cas9 is a genome-editing tool.

Q116. Consider the following statements:

1. Privilege motion can be moved only against the ministers.
2. The Speaker/RS chairperson can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Members of Parliament are granted certain privileges individually and collectively so as to perform their duties properly. But if any of the members disregards or misuses any of these privileges or rights, it is considered as a breach of the privilege motion and is liable for punishment under the parliamentary laws.
- Privilege motion can be moved against any member of the parliament.
- The Speaker/RS chairperson can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.

Q117. Consider the following pairs:

**Storm Centres**

- 1. Kanpur
- 2. Jhansi
- 3. Lucknow
- 4. Faizabad
- 5. Bihar

**Leaders of the 1857 Revolt**

- Nana Sahib
- Rani Laxmibai
- Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Maulvi Ahmadullah
- Jaidayal Singh

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

**Storm Centres**

- Kanpur
- Jhansi
- Lucknow
- Faizabad
- Rajasthan

**Leaders of the 1857 Revolt**

- Nana Sahib
- Rani Laxmibai
- Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Maulvi Ahmadullah
- Jaidayal Singh/Hardayal Singh

- Bihar

Kunwar Singh/Amar Singh

Q118. With reference to Madhubani Paintings, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It has its origins in the Maithili village of Bihar.
2. Madhubani paintings bear the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Madhubani painting has its origins in the Maithili village of Bihar.
- Madhubani paintings bear the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Q119. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Biosimilars have a simple structure, while chemical drugs have a complex structure relatively.
2. Biosimilars are sensitive to storage and handling, while chemical drugs are stable.

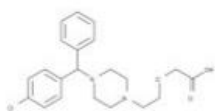
Options:

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

Answer: b

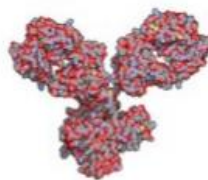
Explanation:

- A biosimilar is a biological medical product highly similar to another already approved biological medicine.
- Chemical drugs have a simple structure whereas biosimilars have a relatively complex structure.
- Biosimilars are sensitive to storage and handling, while chemical drugs are stable.



#### Chemical drugs/Generics

- Low Molecular weight
- Simple structure
- Chemically produced
- Standardized manufacturing process
- Possible to obtain exactly the same molecule
- Stable
- Non immunogenic
- Bioequivalence



#### Biologics/Biosimilars

- High molecular weight
- Complex structure
- Produced by living cells
- Specialized manufacturing process
- Possible variability among different batches (as for biologics)
- Sensitive to storage and handling
- Immunogenic
- Complex comparability exercise

Q120. Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Service': [UPSC 2017]

1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

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: d

Explanation:

- National Career Service (NCS) project is a Mission Mode Project launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
- It was launched for establishing quick and efficient career-related services across the country by revamping the existing nationwide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

Q121. The term "core accretion" seen in News relates to:

- a) Mechanism relating to the formation of a planet
- b) Tectonic earthquake
- c) Inflation trends in the economy



d) Formation of tropical cyclones

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The dominant mechanism thought to underpin planet formation is called “core accretion”.
  - As per this mechanism, material spinning around a newly formed star coalesces into planets. The small dust grains, coated in ice, gradually grow to larger and larger sizes through successive collisions with other grains. This continues until the grains have grown to a size of a planetary core, at which point the young planet has a strong enough gravitational potential to accrete gas which will form its atmosphere.
- The circumplanetary discs surrounding some planets similarly yield moons.

Context:

- Scientists for the first time have spotted a moon-forming region around an exoplanet.

Q122. In which of these sites can the sculpture of the Reclining Buddha be found?

1. Ajanta caves
2. Sittanavasal caves
3. Kushinagar
4. Mahabodhi Temple

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Sittanavasal Cave is a 2nd-century Tamil Śramaṇa complex of caves in Sittanavasal village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu, India. It is dedicated mainly to Jainism.
- The Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a buddhist temple in Bodh Gaya, marking the location where the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment. It has no such sculpture of the reclining Buddha.
- Ajantha caves and Kushinagar have the reclining Buddha sculptures.

Q123. Which of these countries border Peru?

1. Brazil
2. Ecuador
3. Chile
4. Bolivia

5. Colombia

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:



Q124. Consider the following statements with respect to Maguri-Motapung wetland:

1. It is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
2. It is located close to the Keibul Lamjao National Park.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Maguri Motapung Beel is a wetland and lake located near Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Motapung Village of Tinsukia district in Assam.
- It is not a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- Keibul Lamjao National Park is located in the state of Manipur.

Q125. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to

- a) an assembly of village elders
- b) a religious sect
- c) a style of temple construction
- d) an administrative functionary

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Hindu temples are built in the Panchayatana layout wherein the main shrine is surrounded by four subsidiary shrines.
- Generally, Hindu temples are built along a west-east axis. So the four subsidiary shrines are at the north-east, south-east, south-west, north-west.

Q126. Which of the following bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President?

1. Bills that seek to alter the boundaries of any state under Article 3
2. Money Bill under Article 117
3. State bills that impose restrictions on the freedom of trade under Article 304
4. Bills affecting taxation in which states are interested under 274

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: c

Explanation:

Bills that can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President include:

- Bills that seek to alter the boundaries of any state under Article 3.
- Money bill under Article 110.
- State bills which impose restrictions on the freedom of trade under Article 304.
- Bills affecting taxation in which states are interested under 274.

Q127. Consider the following statements with respect to the Ramappa Temple:

1. It was constructed during the reign of the Kakatiyas, by Ramappa, the general of King Ganapathi Deva.
2. Ibn Battutah had remarked that the temple was the “brightest star in the galaxy of medieval temples of the Deccan.”

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Ramappa temple which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site is a temple that was built by Racherla Senapati Rudrayya, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapatideva, in the 13th century.
- Ramappa was the sculptor of the temple.
- Famous Italian merchant and explorer Marco Polo had visited the temple. Marco Polo, during his visit to the Kakatiya Empire, allegedly called the temple “the brightest star in the galaxy of temples”.

Q128. Which of the following statements best describes NASA’s Artemis?

- a) It is a supersonic parachute that will help NASA missions to land on Mars
- b) It is NASA’s program to return astronauts to the lunar surface.
- c) It is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emissions from very hot regions of the Universe
- d) It is a mission that will image regions beyond the Sun’s outer corona

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Artemis is NASA’s program to return astronauts to the lunar surface by 2024.
- NASA wants to send the first woman and the next man to the Moon by the year 2024, which it plans on doing through the Artemis lunar exploration program.

- ARTEMIS stands for Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of Moon's Interaction with the Sun.

Q129. With reference to the Quit India Movement, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Lord Linlithgow was the viceroy of India during Quit India Movement.
2. The communists did not join the movement.
3. 'Jatiya Sarkar' was formed in Satara during Quit India Movement.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Quit India movement was officially launched by the Indian National Congress (INC) led by Mahatma Gandhi on 9 August 1942. The movement gave the slogans 'Quit India' or 'Bharat Chodo'.
- Lord Linlithgow was the viceroy of India during Quit India Movement.
- Some parties did not support the movement. There was opposition from the Muslim League, the Communist Party of India and the Hindu Mahasabha.
- Independent parallel governments were established during the Quit India movement in different parts of the country.
- 'Jatiya Sarkar' was formed in Tamluk in West Bengal. It was called 'Prati Sarkar' in Satara.

Q130. The acidification of oceans is increasing. Why is this phenomenon a cause of concern?

1. The growth and survival of calcareous phytoplankton will be adversely affected.
2. The growth and survival of coral reefs will be adversely affected.
3. The survival of some animals that have phytoplanktonic larvae will be adversely affected.
4. The cloud seeding and formation of clouds will be adversely affected.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct? [UPSC 2012]

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide is occurring at a rate exceeding the natural buffering capacity of the oceans.

- Ocean acidification is the decrease in the pH of the Earth's oceans, caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. The following will be affected due to ocean acidification:
  - The growth and survival of calcareous phytoplankton will be adversely affected.
  - The growth and survival of coral reefs will be adversely affected.
  - The survival of some animals that have phytoplanktonic larvae will be adversely affected.

Q131. With reference to Bhagat Singh, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He was against the non-cooperation movement from the very beginning
2. He established the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev and Chandrashekhar Azad

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Bhagat Singh was not against the non-cooperation movement since the very beginning. He supported Mahatma Gandhi in the Non-cooperation movement.
- But when the movement was called off by Mahatma Gandhi after the Chauri-Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.
- In 1928 Bhagat Singh established the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and the others.

Q132. Which one among the following has recently received the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Green Cities Platinum Rating?

- a) Kandla Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
- b) Cochin Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
- c) Indore Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
- d) Noida Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Kandla SEZ (KASEZ) has become the First Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
- KASEZ earlier known as the Kandla Free Trade Zone, is located at the port town Gandhidham in Gujarat.
- It is the first in Asia and the largest multi-product Special Economic Zone in India.
- IGBC Green Cities (Existing Cities) rating system is a voluntary and consensus-based programme.

Q133. Consider the following Statements:



1. Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary is designated as a 'Ramsar site'.
2. Wetlands include lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, rice paddies, and salt pans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A proposal has been submitted to declare Thane creek Flamingo Sanctuary as a Ramsar site. It is not yet included in the Ramsar Convention.
- Wetlands include lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, rice paddies, and salt pans.

Q134. Which of the following countries border the Mediterranean Sea?

1. Lebanon
2. Syria
3. Jordan
4. Montenegro
5. Iraq

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Jordan and Iraq do not border the Mediterranean Sea.



Q135. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2013)

1. An amendment to the Constitution of India can be initiated by an introduction of a bill in the Lok Sabha only.
2. If such an amendment seeks to make changes in the federal character of the Constitution, the amendment also requires to be ratified by the legislature of all the States of 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: d

Explanation:

- An amendment to the Constitution of India can be initiated by an introduction of a bill in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- If such an amendment seeks to make changes in the federal character of the Constitution, the amendment also requires to be ratified by the legislature of all the 50% of the States of India (half of the total states). That is with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.

Q136. Consider the following statements with respect to the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952:

1. A commission set up under the Act shall have the powers of a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure.
2. Inquiry commissions set up by the central government can make an inquiry into the matters relatable to any of the entries in Union List or Concurrent List only.
3. If a state has appointed an Inquiry Commission, then the Centre cannot set up a parallel commission on the same subject matter.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- A commission set up under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 shall have the powers of a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure.
- Inquiry commissions set up by the central government can make an inquiry into the matters relatable to any of the entries in Union List, State List or Concurrent List.
- Inquiry commissions set up by the state government can make an inquiry into the matters relatable to any of the entries in Union List or State List only.
- If the Centre has appointed an Inquiry Commission, then the state government cannot set up a parallel commission on the same subject matter without the consent of the central government.
- If a state has appointed an Inquiry Commission, then the Centre can set up a parallel commission on the same subject if it believes that the scope of the inquiry can extend to other states.

Q137. Consider the following statements with respect to Dholavira:

1. It is in the Khadir Island in the Rann of Kutch and is located on the Tropic of Cancer.
2. Beads, terracotta, gold, ivory have been excavated from the site.
3. The city demonstrates a sophisticated water management system.
4. The first actual remains of horses were found in this region.

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Dholavira, inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list is in the Khadir Island in the Rann of Kutch and is located on the Tropic of Cancer.
- Beads, terracotta, gold, ivory have been excavated from the site.
- The city demonstrates a sophisticated water management system.
- The first actual remains of horses were found in Surkotada in Gujarat.

Q138. Which among the following is a U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) led, all-domain exercise in East African coastal regions and the West Indian Ocean?

- a) RIMPAC
- b) Exercise Cutlass Express
- c) Exercise Sea Breeze
- d) Exercise Cobra Gold

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Exercise Cutlass Express is a U.S. Naval Forces Africa led all-domain exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).
- It is an all-domain exercise in East African coastal regions and the West Indian Ocean.
- The 2021 edition of the exercise involves the participation of 12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and various international organisations like the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) and EUCAP Somalia.

Q139. “Nauka” recently seen in news is:

- a) A space laboratory launched by Russia to be integrated with the International Space Station.
- b) An orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope.
- c) A module on the International Space Station used as a docking port for spacecraft and as a door for cosmonauts to go out on spacewalks, launched by JAXA.
- d) India’s mission to explore the deep ocean with a focus on deep-sea mining and underwater robotics-related technologies.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Nauka is a space laboratory launched by Russia to be integrated with the International Space Station (ISS).
- It was launched by Russia and will serve as the country’s main research facility on the space station.
- Nauka will be attached to the critical Zvezda module on the ISS.

Q140. There has been a persistent deficit budget year after year. Which action/actions of the following can be taken by the Government to reduce the deficit? (UPSC 2016)

1. Reducing revenue expenditure

2. Introducing new welfare schemes
3. Rationalizing subsidies
4. Reducing import duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A budget deficit is when spending exceeds income.
- Reducing revenue expenditure, rationalizing subsidies will help in reducing the expenditure thereby reducing the deficit.
- Introducing new welfare schemes will lead to additional expenditure.
- Reducing import duty will reduce the income received by the government in the form of import duties.

Q141. Consider the following statements about Raja Mircha:

1. It is a variety of chilli from Andhra Pradesh considered as the world's hottest chilli.
2. It got GI certification in 2008.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- It is a variety of chilli from Nagaland and is one of the hottest chillies in the world.
- It is also known as ghost pepper and bhut jolokia.
- It got Geographical Indication certification in 2008.
- As per the Scoville scale, the unit used to measure spicy heat of chilli peppers, Bhut jolokia measures over a million units.

Q142. Which of the following is/are the String Puppets?

1. Kathputli
2. Tholu Bommalata
3. Tolpavakoothu
4. Putala Nach

Options

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Kathputli from Rajasthan and Putala Nach from Assam are forms of string puppets.
- Tholu Bommalata from Andhra Pradesh and Tolpavakoothu from Kerala are forms of shadow puppetry.

Q143. Arrange the following Capitals from West to East:

1. Astana
2. Bishkek
3. Ashgabat
4. Dushanbe

Options

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

West to East: Ashgabat-Dushanbe-Astana-Bishkek.





Q144. Which of the following has/have been accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

1. Kancheepuram Silk
2. Arani Silk
3. Baluchari Saree
4. Patan Patola
5. Venkatagiri Sarees

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

**Saree**

1. Kancheepuram Silk
2. Arani Silk
3. Baluchari Saree
4. Patan Patola

**GI Tag accorded to**

Tamil Nadu  
Tamil Nadu  
West Bengal  
Gujarat

5. Venkatagiri Sarees

Andhra Pradesh

Q145. In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to? (2011)

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority:

- It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
- It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.
- Prime Minister's 15 point Programme for minorities is a programme launched by the Indian government for the welfare of religious minorities.

Q146. Consider the following statements:

1. It was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2002.
2. Its fauna includes Indian python, king cobra, black ibis, darters.
3. It has one of the largest populations of saltwater crocodile.

The Ramsar Site being talked about is:

- a) Chilka lake
- b) Bhitarkanika Wetland
- c) Bhoj Wetland
- d) Harike Wetland

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Bhitarkanika Wetland was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2002.
- Its fauna includes Indian python, king cobra, black ibis, darters.
- It has one of the largest populations of the saltwater crocodile.
- It is located in the Kendrapara district of Odisha.

Q147. Which of the following can lead to 'crowding out' effect?

1. Overseas issue of sovereign bonds
2. Government increasing direct public sector expenditure
3. Government funding infrastructure development projects
4. Government selling new bonds in the money market

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The crowding-out effect is a theory that argues increased government spending reduces private spending in the economy. It refers to increased government borrowing and spending causing a reduction in private spending. Because government borrowing increases the cost of private loans and uses up capital that may have been deployed elsewhere, private sector investments go down.
- Borrowing overseas through the issue of sovereign bonds will not lead to crowding out effect.
- Government increasing direct public sector expenditure, government funding infrastructure development projects, government selling new bonds in the money market can lead to the crowding out of private investments.

Q148. Arrange the following Tiger Reserves from South to North:

1. Parambikulam
2. Dudhwa
3. Panna
4. Pench
5. Bandipur

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Parambikulam – Bandipur – Pench – Panna- Dudhwa.



Q149. Which of the given statements with respect to Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan is/are correct?

1. It is a programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 10.
2. It has subsumed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan is a programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
- It has subsumed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Teachers' Education.

Q150. What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project? (UPSC 2017)

- a) To detect neutrinos
- b) To detect gravitational waves
- c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
- d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

Answer: b

Explanation:

'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project helps in the detection of gravitational waves that are emitted by super-massive black holes.

Q151. Consider the following statements with respect to KUSUM Scheme:

1. The Ministry of Power launched the scheme with the aim of providing additional income to farmers.
2. The farmers will be provided assistance to install standalone solar pumps or solarise agricultural feeders.
3. The farmers have the option of selling additional power through solar power projects set up on their barren lands, to the grid.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched the scheme with the aim of providing additional income to farmers.
- The farmers will be provided assistance to install standalone solar pumps or solarise agricultural feeders.
- The farmers have the option of selling additional power through solar power projects set up on their barren lands, to the grid.

Q152. Which of the given statements with respect to tropospheric Ozone is/are correct?

1. It is a highly reactive oxidant that significantly reduces crop productivity, drastically increases plants' ability to sequester carbon and aggravates lung diseases.
2. It is the main ingredient of urban smog.
3. Most of the ultraviolet radiations from the Sun is absorbed by the tropospheric ozone.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Tropospheric Ozone (bad ozone) is a highly reactive oxidant that significantly reduces crop productivity, decreases the plants' ability to sequester carbon and aggravates lung diseases.
- It is the main component of urban smog.
- Most of the ultraviolet radiations from the Sun is absorbed by the stratospheric ozone also known as good ozone.

Q153. Which of these countries share border with the Baltic Sea and lie on its eastern coast?

1. Lithuania
2. Belarus
3. Sweden
4. Estonia
5. Latvia

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:





Q154. Consider the following statements:

1. Zoonotic infections can be bacterial, viral, or parasitic.
2. Scrub Typhus, Brucellosis, Anthrax are all zoonotic diseases.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Zoonosis is another name for zoonotic disease. This type of disease passes from an animal or insect to a human.
- Zoonotic infections can be bacterial, viral, or parasitic.

- Scrub Typhus, Brucellosis, Anthrax are all examples of zoonotic diseases.

Q155. In the Constitution of India, promotion of international peace and security is included in the:

- a) Preamble to the Constitution
- b) Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)
- c) Fundamental Duties
- d) Ninth Schedule

Answer: b

Explanation:

Article 51 of the Indian Constitution which is a Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), states the state shall endeavour to :

- 1) promote international peace and security and maintain just and honourable relations between nations,
- 2) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations,
- 3) and to encourage settlements of international disputes by arbitration.