

## BYJU'S Monthly Magazine Answer Key – August 2021

Q1. Arrange the following in the correct Chronological order of their arrival in India:

1. Danes
2. Portuguese
3. English
4. French

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Portuguese-English-Danes-French
- In 1498, Vasco da Gama of Portugal discovered a new sea route from Europe to India. He reached Calicut by sailing around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. This was the first arrival of Europeans in India by sea route.
- The British East India Company was established in 1600.
- The Danish formed an East India Company and arrived in India in 1616.
- French East India Company was established in 1664.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Out of all the European colonial powers that came to India, it was the Dutch who had the shortest presence in comparison to the Portuguese and the English.
2. The first factory founded by the Dutch in India was at Masulipatanam.
3. The Battle of Colachel permanently ended Dutch presence in South India when the Travancore army defeated an army of the Dutch East India company.

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 Dutch East India Company was created in 1602 as “United East India Company” and in India, they established the first factory in Masulipatanam in 1605, followed by Pulicat in 1610, Surat in 1616, Bimilipatanam in 1641 and Chinsura in 1653.
- The Dutch had the shortest presence in India in comparison to the Portuguese and the English. Dutch presence on the Indian subcontinent lasted from 1605 to 1825.
- The Battle of Colachel was fought in 1741 between the Indian kingdom of Travancore and the Dutch East India Company. During the Travancore-Dutch War, King Marthanda Varma’s forces defeated the Dutch East India Company’s forces.

Q3. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Sun is the largest object in our solar system, comprising 99.8% of the system’s mass.

2. The diameter of the Sun is 190 times that of the Earth.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Sun is the largest object in our solar system, comprising 99.8% of the system's mass.
- The diameter of the Sun is 109 times that of the Earth.

Q4. With reference to the InSight mission, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- 1. It is part of NASA's Discovery Program.
- 2. InSight is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) mission is a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars. It is intended to study the interior structure and composition of Mars as well as to detect Marsquakes and other seismic activity, advancing understanding of the formation and evolution of terrestrial planets.
- It is part of NASA's Discovery Program.
  - The Discovery Program is a series of Solar System exploration missions funded by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through its Planetary Missions Program Office.
- As of June 2021, the most recently selected Discovery missions are VERITAS and DAVINCI+, the fifteenth and sixteenth missions in the program.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Rajya Sabha has no power either to reject or to amend a Money Bill.
- 2. The Rajya Sabha cannot vote on the Demands for Grants.
- 3. The Rajya Sabha cannot discuss the Annual Financial Statement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Though the Rajya Sabha has no power either to reject or to amend a Money Bill or vote on the Demands for Grants, it can discuss the Annual Financial Statement.

Q6. Who among the following are entitled to Free Legal Services?

1. BPL cardholders
2. A woman is entitled to free legal aid irrespective of her income or financial status
3. An industrial workman
4. A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Article 39 A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity.
- Article 14 and Article 22 (1), obligate the State to ensure equality before the law. To receive those services, the person acquiring them should fall under the following categories:

People with disability	Women and children
People who are members of SC & ST communities	Victims of poverty (beggars) and human trafficking
Industrial workmen	People under custody
People who are victims of natural disasters, caste or ethnic violence, etc.	People with an annual income lower than 1 lakh

Q7. Which of the following are the advantages of Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)?

1. It helps in saving irrigation water
2. Less labour required
3. Planting cost is saved
4. It will save energy

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:

- Direct seeding is the sowing of seeds directly in the soil, by-passing the need for nurseries and irrigation.

- Direct seeded crops require less labour and tend to mature faster than transplanted crops. In this method, plants are not subjected to stresses such as being pulled from the soil and re-establishing fine rootlets. It will save energy and planting cost is saved.
- It is an economical measure that helps in conserving water, nutrients, etc.

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21 and the State Governments will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
2. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21.
- Only the Central Governments will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- State governments must take measures to minimise the impact of disability.
- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.

Q9. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Halam Tribes are native to the state of Tripura, Assam and Sikkim.
2. Longai River is a trans-boundary river in India and Myanmar.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Halam Tribes are native to the state of Tripura, Assam and Mizoram.
- The name Halam was coined by the Tipra Maharaja. As per their oral tradition they called themselves "Riam".
- Longai River is a trans-boundary river in India and Bangladesh.

Q10. Which of the following parties were established by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar? (UPSC 2012)

1. The Peasants and Workers Party of India
2. All India Scheduled Castes Federation
3. The Independent Labour Party

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- All India Scheduled Castes Federation and The Independent Labour Party were established by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Q11. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the preventive detention as enshrined under Article 22, a person cannot be detained for more than three months.
2. The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu.
3. Both the Parliament and the State Legislature can make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, defence, maintenance of Public order.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Article 22 deals with the protection against arrest and detention in certain cases. This article is applicable to both citizens and non-citizens. This provision extends certain procedural safeguards for individuals in case of an arrest.
- Under the preventive detention as enshrined under Article 22, a person cannot be detained for more than three months.
- The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu.
- Both the Parliament and the State Legislature can make a law of Preventive Detention for reasons connected with the security of a state and maintenance of public order. For reasons connected to defence, only the parliament can make laws of preventive detention.

Q12. With reference to Zika virus disease, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.
2. Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Zika Virus infection is caused by the Zika Virus (ZIKV) belonging to the Flaviviridae family.
- It is an infection transmitted through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy results in birth defects in newborn babies, a condition called microcephaly and can also cause temporary paralysis in adults.

Q13. Which one among the following statements best describes the Copenhagen Consensus?

- a) It is a project that seeks to establish priorities for advancing global welfare using methodologies based on the theory of welfare economics
- b) It aims to catalyse rapid reductions in short-lived climate pollutants to protect human health, agriculture and the environment
- c) It refers to a set of free-market economic ideas
- d) It is an intergovernmental treaty concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Copenhagen Consensus is a project that seeks to establish priorities for advancing global welfare using methodologies based on the theory of welfare economics using cost-benefit analysis.
- The project considers possible solutions to a wide range of problems, presented by experts in each field. These are evaluated and ranked by a panel of economists.

Q14. Which of the following are the initiatives undertaken by the Government for the welfare and upliftment of the minority communities?

1. USTTAD
2. Hamari Darohar
3. Nai Manzil
4. Sakhi Scheme
5. Sanskritik Sadbhav Mandap

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- USTTAD Scheme aims at upgrading the Skills and Training of minority communities by the preservation of traditional ancestral Arts and Crafts. It also envisages boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.
- Hamari Dharohar is a scheme to preserve the rich heritage of minority communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.
- Nai Manzil Scheme aims to benefit the minority youths who do not have a formal school-leaving certificate in order to provide them with formal education and skills, and enable them to seek better employment and livelihoods in the organised sector.
- The Sakhi scheme aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services to women affected by violence.

- The “Sanskritik Sadbhav Mandap” is being constructed by Union Minority Affairs Ministry under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram (PMJKV). It is a community centre that will be utilized for various socio-economic-cultural activities, skill development training, coaching, different sports activities, relief activities during disasters such as Corona.

Q15. Consider the following pairs:

1. Radhakanta Deb — First President of the British Indian Association
2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty — Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
3. Surendranath Banerjee — Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched? [UPSC 2017]

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Radhakanta Deb was the first President of the British Indian Association.
- Madras Mahajana Sabha was established by M. Veeraraghavachariar, G. Subramania Iyer and P. Anandacharlu.
- Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian Association.

Q16. Which of the given statements with respect to project CHAMAN is/are correct?

1. It is a pioneer project to provide strategic development to the horticulture sector in order to increase farmer’s income.
2. Crops such as Rice, Wheat, Mustard and Jute are assessed under CHAMAN project using remote sensing technology and satellites.

Options

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-iNformatics (CHAMAN) is a pioneer project to provide strategic development to the horticulture sector in order to increase farmer’s income.
- The project was launched for crop production forecasting of horticulture crops.
- The seven crops assessed under the project are Potato, Onion, Tomato, Chilli, Mango, Banana and Citrus.

Q17. Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

1. The Battle of Pollilur and the Battle of Porto Novo were fought as a part of the Third Anglo-Mysore war.
2. As per the Treaty of Mangalore signed after the Third Anglo-Mysore War, Tipu Sultan had to surrender two of his sons as surety to the British till he paid his due.
3. Mysore entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British after the Third Anglo-Mysore War.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Battle of Pollilur and the Battle of Porto Novo were fought in 1781 as a part of the Second Anglo-Mysore War.
- It was as per the Treaty of Srirangapatnam signed after the Third Anglo-Mysore War that Tipu Sultan had to surrender two of his sons as surety to the British till he paid the war indemnity as agreed upon in the treaty.
- Mysore entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British after the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War.

Q18. Consider the following statements with respect to Saubhagya Scheme:

1. The scheme was launched to provide free electricity to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas.
2. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.
3. Beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme are identified using SECC 2011 data.

Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The scheme was launched to provide free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas.
- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.
- Beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme are identified using SECC 2011 data.

Q19. Which among the following are applications of Coir geo-textiles?

1. Rainwater Harvesting
2. Promoting quick vegetation
3. Improvement of sub-grade soil strength in road pavements
4. Stabilization of side slopes to check soil erosion
5. Construction of roads

Options:

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



d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d

Explanation:

- All of the given options are applications of Coir geo-textiles.

Q20. Consider the following pairs:

Community sometimes mentioned in the news: In the affairs of

1. Kurd: Bangladesh
2. Madhesi: Nepal
3. Rohingya: Myanmar

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Kurds are an Iranian ethnic group that is native to southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, northern Iraq, and northern Syria.
- The term Madhesi people is used for people of Indian ancestry residing in the Terai of Nepal.
- The Rohingya people predominantly follow Islam and reside in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Q21. What is 'Project Himank'?

- a) It is a high-altitude research station in Himalaya
- b) It is the country's first robotic telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh
- c) It is an initiative of the Indian Government to safeguard the Himalayan Quail
- d) It is a project of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the Ladakh region

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Project HIMANK is a project of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the Ladakh region that started in August 1985.
- Under the Himank project, BRO is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads and related infrastructure in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), including some of the world's highest motorable roads across the Khardung La, Tanglang La and Chang La passes.
- Now Umling La is the highest motorable road on Earth with a height of 19300 feet.
- Himank project ensures access to sensitive military areas including the world's highest battleground at the Siachen Glacier and Pangong Tso Lake whose waters span the de facto India-China border.

Q22. Consider the following statements with respect to Anaimalai flying frog:

1. It is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.

2. Its IUCN status is Endangered.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Anaimalai Flying Frog is found in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the Western Ghats of India in the tropical evergreen forests. It is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- It is also called the false Malabar gliding frog.
- As a semi-arboreal species of frog, the Anaimalai Flying Frog is found in the lower canopy and under story levels of the forests.
- Its IUCN status is Critically Endangered.

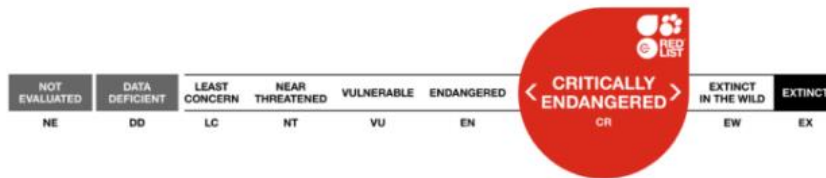


*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*

*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*

CITATION

S.D. Biju, Sushil Dutta, Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Chelmala Srinivasulu, S.P. Vijayakumar. 2004. *Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2004: e.T59016A11869234. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2004.RLTS.T59016A11869234.en>. Downloaded on 05 August 2021.



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

1. Sand is a minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.
2. The Act empowers the State Governments to make rules for regulating the grant of minor mineral concessions.
3. Central Government is the owner of the minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Sand is a minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.
- The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers the State Governments to make rules for regulating the grant of minor mineral concessions.
- Central Government is the owner of the minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone of India

Q24. With reference to Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC), which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.
2. ISRO has built a total of eight satellites in the IRNSS series; of which seven are currently in orbit, three of these satellites are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO) while the remaining in Geosynchronous Orbits (GSO).

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC) is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.
- It was developed in India by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its commercial wing ANTRIX.
- ISRO has built a total of nine satellites in the IRNSS series; of which eight are currently in orbit, three of these satellites are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO) while the remaining in Geosynchronous Orbits (GSO).

Q25. In India, which of the following have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities? (2011)

- a) Commercial Banks
- b) Cooperative Banks
- c) Regional Rural Banks
- d) Microfinance Institutions

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In India, commercial banks have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities.

Q26. With reference to EOS-03 satellite, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the first military communication satellite developed by the ISRO for the Indian defense forces.
2. It provides real-time inputs to naval warships, submarines and maritime aircraft and networking capabilities to its naval assets on the high seas.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The EOS-03 is a state-of-the-art agile satellite that will enable real-time monitoring of natural disasters, water bodies, crops, forest cover changes, among others.

Context:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch an Earth Observation Satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, at Sriharikota.

Q27. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Islands

1. Assumption Island
2. Agalega Islands
3. Gaadhoo Island

Country

- Seychelles  
Maldives  
Mauritius

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Agalega Island is a remote Mauritian island in the south-western Indian Ocean.
- Gaadhoo is one of the inhabited islands of Laamu Atoll in the Maldives.

Q28. Consider the following statements about Surendranath Banerji:

1. Banerji was the founder of one of India's first political organizations, the Indian National Association.
2. Banerji published the newspaper 'The Bengalee'.
3. Banerji supported the Morley-Minto reforms (1909) but was a critic of the proposed method of civil disobedience advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

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:

- Banerji was the founder of one of India's first political organizations, the Indian National Association in 1876 in association with Anandmohan Bose.
- Banerji published the newspaper 'The Bengalee'.
- Banerji supported the Morley-Minto reforms in 1909 but was a critic of the proposed method of civil disobedience advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Q29. Consider the following pairs:

Festivals in News

1. Sangai Festival
2. Behdienkhlam Festival
3. Hornbill Festival

State

- Manipur  
Mizoram  
Nagaland

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

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The most popular festival of the Jaintia tribe, Behdienkhlam is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest in Meghalaya. Although Behdienkhlam is celebrated all over the Jaintia hills, the main spectacle happens in the town of Jowai.

Q30. 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-2015)

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:

- Introducing new welfare schemes will entail additional expenditure for the government.
- Reducing import duty will result in the reduction of revenue inflow for the government.
- Hence these two measures will only increase the deficit for the government and not decrease it.

Q31. Which of the given statements with respect to the UN World Food Programme is/are correct?

1. It was founded at the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).
2. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
3. It has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice.
4. Its priority is to achieve SDG-2 by 2030.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is an international organization that works in the field of hunger alleviation and food security.

- UN World Food Programme was launched in 1961.
- It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
- It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.
- Its priority is to achieve Sustainable Development Goal -2 i.e, Zero Hunger by 2030.

Q32. Consider the following statements with respect to Abanindranath Tagore:

1. He founded the 'Indian Society of Oriental Art'.
2. Victory of Buddha is among his famous paintings.
3. He wrote 'Amar Shonar Bangla' which helped ignite a feeling of nationalism amongst people.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Abanindranath Tagore and Gaganendranath Tagore founded the 'Indian Society of Oriental Art'.
- Victory of Buddha, My Mother, Bharatmata are among his famous paintings.
- 'Amar Shonar Bangla' was written by Abanindranath Tagore's uncle Rabindranath Tagore during the partition of Bengal in 1905.

Q33. The "Tigray Region" recently in news, borders which of these countries?

1. Eritrea
2. South Sudan
3. Sudan
4. Djibouti

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Tigray Region in Ethiopia borders Sudan and Eritrea.



Q34. Which of the given statements with respect to PMGDISHA Scheme is/are correct?

1. Its objective is to enhance institutional mechanisms for skills development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for the work force.
2. The scheme is applicable only for rural areas of the country.
3. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
4. All households where none of the family member is digitally literate will be considered as eligible households under the Scheme.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), initiated under Digital India Programme, would cover 6 crore households in rural areas to make them digitally literate.
- This would empower the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers/digital access devices.
- The scheme is applicable only for rural areas of the country.
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology.
- All households where none of the family members is digitally literate will be considered eligible households under the Scheme. One member in the age group between 14-60 years from such a household can enroll himself/herself as a beneficiary under the scheme.

Q35. The terms 'Wanna Cry, Petya and Eternal Blue' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to

- a) Exo-planets
- b) Crypto-currency
- c) Cyber attacks
- d) Mini satellites



Answer: c

Explanation:

- Wanna Cry, Petya and Eternal Blue are related to cyber-attacks.

Q36. Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

1. Dara Shikoh translated Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads into Persian.
2. He is the author of Alamgirnama.
3. His book “Majma-ul-Bahrain” is a comparative study of Vedanta and Sufism.
4. Italian traveller Niccolao Manucci’s ‘Travels of Manucci’ has a graphic description of Dara Shikoh’s burial.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Dara Shikoh was the eldest son and heir-apparent of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- Dara Shikoh was known for his tolerance and academic aspects.
  - He authored the work The Confluence of the Two Seas (Majma-ul-Bahrain), which is a comparative study of Vedanta and Sufism and he argues for the harmony of Sufi philosophy in Islam and Vedanta philosophy in Hinduism.
  - He completed the translation of Upanishads from their original Sanskrit into Persian in 1657 so that they could be studied by Muslim scholars. His translation is often called Surr-i-Akbar.
  - Dara Shikoh also translated Bhagavad-gita into Persian.
- Italian traveller Niccolao Manucci’s ‘Travels of Manucci’ has a graphic description of Dara Shikoh’s burial.
- Alamgirnama is the court history of Emperor Aurangzeb (1658-1707) written by Mirza Muhammad Qazim.

Q37. Which of the given statements with respect to the twin Keck Observatory telescopes is/are correct?

1. They are the world’s most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes.
2. They are located in Atacama Desert of northern Chile.
3. The project is funded by scientific organisations of Canada, China, India, Japan and USA.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The twin Keck Observatory telescopes sit atop Maunakea on Hawai'i, and are the world's most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes. Each telescope weighs 300 tons and operates with nanometer precision.
- The W. M. Keck Foundation (U.S. based) funded both the original Keck I telescope and six years later, its twin, Keck II.

Q38. Which of the given statements with respect to PM-DAKSH Yojana is/are correct?

1. It is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, Sanitation workers.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
3. Its components include up-skilling/reskilling, short term training programme, long term training programme and entrepreneurship development program.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The PM-DAKSH Yojana is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, Sanitation workers. It includes up-skilling/reskilling, short term training programme, long term training programme and entrepreneurship development program.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Q39. Which of the given pairs is/are correctly matched?

GI Tagged product	State
1. Puanchei shawl	Assam
2. Ilkal Sarees	Andhra Pradesh
3. Tangaliya Shawl	Gujarat
4. Chakhesang Shawls	Nagaland

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Puanchei shawl- Mizoram
- Ilkal Sarees- Karnataka

Q40. In India, cluster bean (Guar) is traditionally used as a vegetable or animal feed, but recently the cultivation of this has assumed significance. Which one of the following statements is correct in this context?

- The oil extracted from seeds is used in the manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- The gum made from its seeds is used in the extraction of shale gas
- The leaf extract of this plant has the properties of anti-histamines
- It is a source of high quality biodiesel

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Guar gum is derived from guar seeds, a legume crop that grows in semi-arid regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana. Drilling companies use it to thicken water that is mixed with sand and pumped through shale rock cracks to extract gas.

Q41. Consider the following pairs:

City in News	Country
1. Kunduz	Afghanistan
2. Taloqan	Pakistan
3. Sar-e-Pul	Iran

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Kunduz, Sar-e-pul and Taloqan are all provincial capital cities in Afghanistan.

Context:

- After having taken over the provincial capitals of Zaranj and Sheberghan, the Taliban have captured three more provincial capitals in Afghanistan – Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul and Taloqan in North Afghanistan.

Q42. Which of the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is/are correct?

- It is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- The Scheme provides financial support for each LPG connection to the BPL households, interest-free loan to purchase stoves and refills by Oil Marketing Companies.

Options:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both
- None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. Identification of the BPL families will be done through Socio-Economic Caste Census Data.
- The Scheme provides financial support for each LPG connection to the BPL households, interest-free loan to purchase stoves and refills by Oil Marketing Companies.

Q43. With reference to 8888 Uprising, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was a series of protests and marches in Hong Kong.
2. It was against mainland China's proposal to introduce a new National Security Law.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Also referred to as the 8888 Uprising, the 1988 pro-democracy uprising was a series of nationwide protests and marches in Myanmar that peaked in August 1988.

Context:

- Myanmar marked the anniversary of a 1988 pro-democracy uprising.

Q44. Island of Evia recently seen in news is part of which country?

- a) Italy
- b) Greece
- c) Turkey
- d) France

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Evia is an island in Greece.



Context:

- Wildfire in the island of Evia.

Q45. Consider the following statements:

The parliamentary Committee on public accounts

1. Consists of not more than 25 members of the Lok Sabha.
2. Scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the Government.
3. Examines the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

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 Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the audit reports submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India before the President who lays it before each house of the Indian Parliament.
- The Public Accounts Committee scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the Government. That public expenditure is not only examined from a legal and formal point of view to discover technical irregularities but also from the point of view of the economy, prudence, wisdom, and propriety.
- The committee has 22 members, 15 from Lok Sabha (Lower House) and 7 members from Rajya Sabha.
- The members of PAC are elected from the Parliament every year with proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The Speaker appoints the chairperson from amongst the members. As a convention, the chairperson has been from the opposition party.

Q46. The grouping “extended troika” is seen in news in which of the following contexts?

- a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.
- b) Afghanistan peace process.
- c) The Israeli–Palestinian peace process.
- d) Abraham Accords.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Extended troika consisting of Russia, China, the United States and Pakistan is scheduled to meet soon in Doha on the Afghanistan peace process.

Q47. Consider the following statements:

1. The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines and includes not only the surface but also the airspace.
2. Only civilian foreign ships are allowed innocent passage through the territorial waters.
3. The U.S. has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- As per the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the sovereignty of a coastal State extends beyond its land territory and internal waters to an adjacent belt of sea, described as the territorial sea.
- The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines and includes not only the surface but also the airspace over the territorial sea as well as to its bed and subsoil.
- As per the UNCLOS, all ships, including warships, regardless of cargo, armament or means of propulsion, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.
- Foreign ships exercising the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea shall comply with all such laws and regulations and all generally accepted international regulations relating to the prevention of collisions at sea and in a manner not prejudicial to its peace, good order, or security.
- The U.S. has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Q48. Marburg virus belongs to which of the following categories?

- a) Coronaviruses
- b) Togaviruses
- c) Paramyxoviruses
- d) Filoviruses

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Marburg virus is a hemorrhagic fever virus of the Filoviridae family of viruses.

- Marburg virus causes Marburg virus disease in humans and other primates, a form of viral hemorrhagic fever.

Q49. Consider the following statements with respect to ISHAAN UDAY Scheme:

1. It is a scheme launched for the financial turnaround of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) owned by the North-Eastern states.
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

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:

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission has taken special interest with regard to the promotion of higher education in the NER.
- For improving the GER, promoting higher education and encouraging children belonging to the economically weaker sections of the NE region, the UGC has launched the “Ishaan Uday” Special Scholarship Scheme for North Eastern Region.
- Only first-year undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Q50. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct? [UPSC 2017]

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- TRAFFIC is a leading NGO working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- Established in 1976 by IUCN and WWF to respond to the growing threats posed by unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade, TRAFFIC plays a leading role as a global wildlife trade specialist.

Q51. Consider the following statements with respect to International Seabed Authority (ISA):

1. It is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

2. It makes binding recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of outer limits of the continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines.
3. All mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction are regulated by ISA.
4. ISA is committed to contributing to the timely and effective implementation of SDG-6 in particular.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) based in Kingston, Jamaica is an intergovernmental body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- It was established to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf deals with the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. Under the UNCLOS, the coastal State shall establish the outer limits of its continental shelf where it extends beyond 200 M on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission.
- ISA is committed to contributing to the timely and effective implementation of the SDGs, in particular, SDG14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Q52. Global Environment Facility functions as a financial mechanism for which of the following convention/s?

1. Minamata Convention on Mercury
2. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
3. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
4. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
5. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The GEF serves as a “financial mechanism” to five conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and Minamata Convention on Mercury.



Q53. He started a movement in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt in the 19th century under British colonial rule. As a result of his struggle, the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was passed in 1908. He is also known as 'Dharti Abba'. The tribal leader being talked about is:

- Kanhu Murmu
- Birsa Munda
- Tirut Singh
- Bar-Manik

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Birsa Munda was a tribal freedom fighter hailing from the Munda tribe. He was also known as 'Dharti Abba' or the Earth Father.
- He was a spearhead behind the Millenarian movement that arose in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt in the early 19th century under British colonial rule.
- Birsa started a movement called 'Ulgulan', or 'The Great Tumult'. His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to a big hit against the British government in the form of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908. The act restricted the passing on of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

Q54. Which of these mountain passes is/are located in Ladakh?

- Zoji La
- Nathu La
- Bomdi La
- Muling La

Option:

- 1 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 only
- 1, 3 and 4

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Nathu La: Sikkim
- Bomdi La: Arunachal Pradesh
- Muling La: Uttarakhand

Q55. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by: (UPSC-2018)

- The Intergovernmental Panel on climate change
- The UNEP Secretariat
- The UNFCCC Secretariat
- The World Meteorological Organization

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The UNFCCC Secretariat launched its Climate Neutral Now initiative in 2015. The following year, the secretariat launched a new pillar under its Momentum for Change initiative focused on Climate Neutral Now, as part of larger efforts to showcase successful climate action around the world.

Q56. Which of the given statements with respect to Quality of Life for Elderly Index is/are correct?

1. The Index was created by NITI Aayog to shed light on problems faced by elderly citizens in India.
2. Its framework includes four pillars of Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Quality of Life for Elderly Index has been created by the Institute for Competitiveness at the request of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The index designed to shed light on problems faced by elderly citizens in India, includes four pillars of Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security.

Q57. Which among the following is/are Earth Observation Satellites?

1. Megha-Tropiques
2. SARAL
3. OCEANSAT
4. IRNSS-1A
5. Bhaskara-I

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- IRNSS-1A is the first navigational satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System series of satellites.
- The other four satellites mentioned are all earth observation satellites.
  - Megha-Tropiques is an Indo-French Joint Satellite Mission for studying the water cycle and energy exchanges in the tropics.
  - The Satellite with ARGOS and ALTIKA (SARAL) is a joint Indo-French satellite mission for oceanographic studies.
  - Oceansat-1 or IRS-P4 was the first Indian satellite built primarily for ocean applications. It was a part of the Indian Remote Sensing Programme satellite series.
  - Bhaskara-I was India's first low orbit Earth Observation Satellite.

Q58. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential resulting out of changing population age structure in a country.
2. When the dependency ratio is minimum and the age pyramid shows a bulge in the middle portion, a country is said to be in the 'demographic dividend' phase.
3. In India, the year 2018 is known as the year of the demographic divide.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The year 1921 is known as the demographic divide for India for the reason that before this year, the population was not constant, sometimes it increased and at other times it decreased.
- The growth scale of the population was usually low before 1921. But after this year, there has been a considerable and constant increase in the population.

Q59. Which of the given pairs is/are correctly matched?

Centres of the Revolt of 1857

British Generals who suppressed the Revolt

1. Jhansi

Sir Colin Campbell

2. Lucknow

Sir Hugh Rose

3. Delhi

John Nicholson

Options

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Sir Hugh Rose was the British officer who suppressed the 1857 revolt in Jhansi, while in Lucknow it was Sir Colin Campbell.

Q60. 'Doctors without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres)', often in the news, is [UPSC 2015]

- a) a division of World Health Organization
- b) a non-governmental international organization
- c) an inter-governmental agency sponsored by European Union
- d) a specialized agency of the United Nations

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Médecins Sans Frontières, sometimes rendered in English as Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian medical non-governmental organisation of French origin best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

Q61. Which of the given statements with respect to Central Vigilance Commission is/are correct?

1. The CVC was established as a statutory body on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee.
2. The Central Vigilance Commission is controlled by the Home Ministry.
3. The Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Central Vigilance Commission was set up by the Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance. Pursuant to the Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003, CVC became a Statutory Body.
- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body that is only responsible to the Parliament.
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Q62. “Global Stringency Index”, in news, is:

- a) A qualitative measure of the regulations in place for businesses and protections of property rights in a country.
- b) An annual assessment of the countries’ press freedom records.
- c) A measure introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to evaluate how strict a country’s policies & curbs were, and at what stage of the pandemic spread it enforced these.
- d) A measure evaluating the level of liberalization of a country’s economy.

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Stringency Index is a composite measure of nine of the response metrics: school closures; workplace closures; cancellation of public events; restrictions on public gatherings; closures of public transport; stay-at-home requirements; public information campaigns; restrictions on internal movements; and international travel controls.
- It evaluates how strict a country’s policies & curbs were, and at what stage of the pandemic spread it enforced these.
- It’s important to note that this index simply records the strictness of government policies. It does not measure or imply the appropriateness or effectiveness of a country’s response.

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

1. The Constitution of India gives the government the right to levy taxes on individuals and organisations.
2. Seventh Schedule of the Constitution puts separate heads of taxation under the Union, State and the Concurrent list.
3. Union and the states do not have concurrent power of taxation.
4. A State Legislature may by law authorise a Municipality to levy and collect taxes.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Constitution of India gives the government the right to levy taxes on individuals and organizations. An important restriction on this power is Article 265 of the Constitution which states that “No tax shall be levied or collected except by the authority of law.” This means that no tax can be levied if it is not backed by a legislation passed by either Parliament or the State Legislature.
- Seventh Schedule of the Constitution puts separate heads of taxation under the Union and State list. Union and the states do not have concurrent power of taxation.
- A State Legislature may by law authorise a Municipality to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, etc. The law may lay down the limits and prescribe the procedure to be followed. It can also assign to a Municipality various taxes, duties, etc. collected by the State Government.

Q64. Which of the given statements best describes the “Monroe Doctrine”?

- a) A revenue rule introduced by Sir Thomas Monroe as the Governor of Madras in 1820.
- b) A U.S Foreign Policy regarding domination of the American continent in 1823.
- c) US military doctrine towards China and East Asia, crafted in 2018.
- d) Annexation policy applied by the British East India Company in India until 1859.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Monroe Doctrine was a key part of U.S. foreign policy issued in 1823 by President James Monroe. It stated that North and South America were no longer open to colonization.
- It also declared that the United States would not allow European countries to interfere with independent governments in the Americas and it treated any such intervention by external powers in the politics of the Americas as a potentially hostile act against the US.

Q65. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

- a) Liberty of thought
- b) Economic liberty
- c) Liberty of expression
- d) Liberty of belief

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A preamble is an introductory statement in a document that explains the document's philosophy and objectives. In a Constitution, it presents the intention of its framers, the history behind its creation, and the core values and principles of the nation.

Preamble of the Indian Constitution:

We, the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens:

Justice, social, economic and political;

Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

Equality of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all,

Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

In our Constituent assembly this 26th day of November 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution.

Q66. Consider the following statements regarding Competition Commission of India (CCI):

1. It is an extra-constitutional body established via a Central Govt. notification.
2. It consists of a chairperson and 4 Members appointed by the Central Government.
3. It is the duty of the Commission to protect the interests of consumers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body. The Commission was established under the provisions of the Competition Act 2002.
- The members of the CCI are appointed by the Central Government.
- It consists of a chairperson and three members.
- Earlier, the Commission used to consist of one chairperson and a minimum of two members and a maximum of six members.
- It is the duty of the Commission to protect the interests of consumers.

Q67. Which of the following is/are the objectives of 'Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Programme'?

1. creation of a viable circular economy.
2. minimising the use of resources, generation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions.

Select the option from below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme is aimed at encouraging people to scrap their old vehicles and replace them with modern, more fuel-efficient and less-polluting ones.
- Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme (V-VMP) policy has proposed to push 28 million decade-old vehicles off the roads.
- The Government's aim is to create a viable circular economy and bring value for all stakeholders while being environmentally responsible.
- It aims at minimising the use of resources, generation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions.

Q68. 'Brasilia Declaration' led to the establishment of:

- a) IBSA
- b) BRICS
- c) SAARC
- d) SCO

Answer: a

Explanation:

- IBSA brings together India, Brazil and South Africa.
- In 2003, the foreign ministers of these three countries met at Brasilia and issued the Brasilia Declaration which led to the establishment of IBSA.

Q69. Which of the following is/are part of India's investments in Afghanistan?

1. Salma Dam
2. Zaranj-Delaram highway
3. The Afghan Parliament in Kabul
4. Restoration of the Stor Palace project

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Salma Dam is currently known as the Afghan-India Friendship Dam.
- Zaranj-Delaram highway project also known as Route 606 was totally financed by India.
- In 2016, the Afghanistan's parliament relocated to a new building of Indian construction in Kabul.
- Stor Palace (also known as the Qasre Storay) was restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in collaboration with the governments of Afghanistan and India.

Q70. With reference to India's biodiversity, Ceylon frogmouth, Coppersmith barbet, Gray-chinned minivet and White-throated redstart are (UPSC 2020)

- a) Birds
- b) Primates
- c) Reptiles

d) Amphibians

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Ceylon Frogmouth also known as Sri Lanka Frogmouth is a nocturnal Small Bird from Sri Lanka.
- Coppersmith Barbet is an Asian barbet.
- Gray-Chinned Minivet is a bird from the Campephagidae family.
- White throated redstart is a species of bird in the family Muscicapidae. It is found in Nepal, Bhutan, central China and far northern areas of Myanmar and Northeast India.

Q71. 'Khyber Pass' is a mountain pass between:

- a) Pakistan & Afghanistan
- b) Afghanistan & Uzbekistan
- c) Afghanistan & Tajikistan
- d) Afghanistan & Turkmenistan

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Khyber Pass is a mountain pass in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, on the border with Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province.



Q72. Which of the following is/are likely reasons for judicial delays?

1. Ambiguity in laws
2. Low judges to population ratio
3. Judicial vacancies



4. Parliamentary democracy

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Ambiguity in the laws triggers litigation – causing inconvenience to citizens, courts and other stakeholders. This not only leads to increased litigations but also delays in the judicial process.
- Inadequate number of judges is one reason behind delay in judicial process. With low judges to population ration, the system would not be able to keep pace with new cases.
- Unfilled judicial vacancies lead to mounting arrears of cases pending in the various courts leading to judicial delays.
- A parliamentary democracy is a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to a legislative parliament to make the necessary legislations and decisions for the country. This does not have any direct link to the delay in judicial processes.

Q73. 'Operation Meghdoot' was an:

- a) Operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier
- b) Operation to end the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad
- c) Indian operation to push back the infiltrators from the Kargil Sector
- d) Indian Army-led rescue and relief mission in quake-hit Nepal

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Operation Meghdoot was the codename for an Indian military operation to take control over the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.

Q74. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Water Disputes

States Concerned

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Vansadhara Water Dispute  | A. Andhra Pradesh, Odisha      |
| 2. Ravi & Beas Water Dispute | B. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan  |
| 3. Mahadayi Water Dispute    | C. Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra |
| 4. Mahanadi Water Dispute    | D. Chhattisgarh, Odisha        |

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- River Vamsadhara is an important east flowing river between Rushikulya and Godavari, in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states in India. Vansadhara Water Dispute Tribunal (VWDT) was set up in 2010 to look into the dispute between the two states.
- Ravi and Beas Waters have been a source of Inter-state river water dispute between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan regarding their shares in the remaining waters.
- The dispute over the sharing of the water of the Mahadayi river involves the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa.
- The conflict over the Mahanadi involves the governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Q75. In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around (UPSC 2020)

1. women's right to gain education
2. age of consent
3. restitution of conjugal rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around: age of consent and restitution of conjugal rights.
- She was the first practising female doctor in colonial India. She was involved in the case that contributed to the enactment of the Age of Consent Act, 1891.
- Long back, the concept of restitution of conjugal rights faced its first legal test in 1885 in the case of Dadaji Bhikaji vs Rakhmabai.
- Rakhmabai Raut was married to Dadaji Bhikaji at the age of 11. However, she stayed at the house of her widowed mother after her marriage.
- Rakhmabai's step-father supported her when she refused to stay with Bhikaji and his family at his house. This led to Dadaji Bhikaji vs Rakhmabai case in 1885.
- Bhikaji asked for "restitution of conjugal rights".
  - Justice Pinhey gave judgment in favour of Rukhmabai and said, "Rakhmabai was a young woman and was married off in helpless infancy and therefore cannot be forced".
- After many criticised the judgment as diminishing Hindu customs, the case came up for retrial.
- There were debates around internal reforms vs external reforms, Hindu vs English law and respecting ancient customs and traditions.
- The final judgment in 1887 had asked Rakhmabai to live with her husband or face imprisonment for six months instead.
- Finally, Queen Victoria settled the matter by overruling the court order and dissolved her marriage.

Q76. Which of the given statements with respect to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is/are INCORRECT?

1. It is an annual index designed and published by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
2. It assesses national performances based on GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy.

3. India is among the top 10 countries in CCPI 2021.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is published by Germanwatch in cooperation with the NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network International.
- The CCPI evaluates 57 countries and the European Union, which together generate 90%+ of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Using standardised criteria, the CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%).
- The CCPI's unique climate policy section evaluates countries' progress in implementing policies working towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals. It creates transparency in climate policy, makes it possible to compare climate protection efforts, and lets evaluate progress and setbacks. Thus as an independent monitoring tool, the CCPI has a leading role in informing on the Paris Agreement's implementation phase.
- India remains in the top 10 for the second year in a row in CCPI 2021, occupying rank 10.

Q77. Which of the given statements with respect to Visceral Leishmaniasis is/are INCORRECT?

1. It is one of the neglected tropical diseases caused by a protozoan parasite.
2. It is transmitted by the bite of female *Phlebotomine* sandflies.
3. It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
4. In India, humans are the only known reservoirs of the infection.

Options:

- a. 2 and 4 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar, is the most severe form of leishmaniasis and is associated with high fatality.
  - It is the second most parasitic killer after malaria.
- Leishmaniasis is caused by protozoan parasites which are transmitted by the bite of infected female phlebotomine sandflies.
- It is one of the neglected tropical diseases. The disease affects some of the poorest people and is associated with malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and lack of financial resources.
- It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- In India, humans are the only known reservoirs of the infection.

Q78. Which of the given statements with respect to National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is/are correct?

1. It had its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau.
2. It is the nodal agency in India for the surveillance, prevention and control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.
3. World Health Organization funded Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is a unit under the NCDC.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), formerly the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), had its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau in 1909. NICD was transformed into the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) with a larger mandate of controlling emerging and re-emerging diseases in 2009.
- The Institute is under the administrative control of the Director-General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The institute has its headquarters in Delhi.
- It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a nationwide disease surveillance system in India incorporating both the state and central governments aimed at early detection and long term monitoring of diseases for enabling efficient policy decisions. It was started in 2004 with the assistance of the World Bank. A central surveillance unit has been set up at the National Centre for Disease Control in Delhi. All states, union territories, and district headquarters of India have established surveillance units.

Q79. Who among the following cannot receive foreign contribution as per the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA)?

1. Political party
2. A candidate for election
3. Publisher of a registered Newspaper
4. Member of any legislature
5. Editor or correspondent of a registered Newspaper

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- As per Section 3(1) of the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, foreign contribution cannot be accepted by any:
  - Candidate for election
  - Correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper

- Judge, government servant or employee of any Corporation or any other body controlled or owned by the Government
- Member of any legislature
- Political party or office bearer thereof
- Organization of a political nature as may be specified by the Central Government
- Association or company engaged in the production or broadcast of audio news or audio-visual news or current affairs programmes through any electronic mode, or any other electronic form
- Correspondent or columnist, cartoonist, editor

Q80. Consider the following pairs (UPSC-2019):

Movement:	Organization Leader
1. All India Anti-Untouchability League:	Mahatma Gandhi
2. All India Kisan Sabha:	Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
3. Self-Respect Movement:	E.V. Ramaswami Naicker

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Mahatma Gandhi founded the All India Anti Untouchability League in 1932, to remove untouchability in the society, which was later renamed as Harijan Sevak Sangh (“Servants of Harijan Society”).
- All India Kisan Sabha was a peasant movement formed by Sahajanand Saraswati in 1936.
- The Self-Respect Movement had the aim of achieving a society in which backward castes have equal human rights. It was founded in 1925 by S. Ramanathan who invited E. V. Ramasamy (also known as Periyar by his followers) to head the movement in Tamil Nadu. The movement was extremely influential not just in Tamil Nadu, but also overseas in countries with large Tamil populations, such as Malaysia and Singapore.

Q81. Which of the given statements with respect to Financial Inclusion (FI) Index is/are correct?

- 1. It is an index launched by RBI incorporating the details of banking, investments, insurance, postal and the pension sector.
- 2. It comprises three broad parameters – Access, Usage and Quality with the highest weightage to Access.
- 3. The base year for FI-Index would be FY 2020-21.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index):

- The Reserve Bank of India’s composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) would help capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.

- The FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as pension sectors in consultation with the Government and respective sectoral regulators.
- The FI-Index will be published annually in July every year.
- The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- The FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters viz., Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%). The Index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services, comprising, in all, 97 indicators.
- A unique feature of the Index is the Quality parameter which captures the quality aspect of financial inclusion as reflected by financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities and deficiencies in services.
- The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.

Q82. Which of the given statements with respect to the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is/are correct?

1. It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It has the dual objective of Entrepreneurship promotion and Innovation promotion.
3. ARISE-ANIC was launched under the mission to promote a creative, innovative mindset in schools by setting up dedicated innovation workspaces.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the NITI Aayog.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) envisions the creation and promotion of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.
- The Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC program is a national initiative to promote research & innovation and increase the competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs.
- Atal Tinkering Labs aim to promote a creative, innovative mindset in schools. These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces of 1200-1500 square feet where do-it-yourself (DIY) kits on latest technologies like 3D Printers, Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Miniaturized electronics are installed using a grant of Rs 20 Lakhs from the government so that students from Grade VI to Grade XII can tinker with these technologies and learn to create innovative solutions using these technologies. This will enable create a problem solving, innovative mindset within millions of students across the country.

Q83. Shishu, Kishore, Tarun - 3 categories of intervention are linked with which of the following government schemes/programs?

- a. Mission Indradhanush
- b. PM Janani Suraksha yojana
- c. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

d. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) has created products/schemes. The interventions have been named 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth/development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation/growth to look forward to:
  - Shishu: covering loans up to 50,000/-
  - Kishor: covering loans above 50,000/- and up to 5 lakh
  - Tarun: covering loans above 5 lakh and up to 10 lakh

Q84. Which of the given statements best describes the Indian Army's 'Operation Sadbhavana'?

- a. Humanitarian assistance that supplied relief packages to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- b. Civilian outreach program in Jammu and Kashmir aimed at winning the hearts and minds of residents of the two Union Territories.
- c. Civic action programs for people in the North Eastern states of India for developing harmonious feelings and positive attitude towards the army.
- d. Evacuation operation launched to bring back diplomats and security personnel stranded in the Indian Embassy in Kabul in the wake of intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban militants.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill) is a unique initiative undertaken by the Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism.
- The focus of Operation Sadbhavana is to improve the overall core social indices of Education, Women & Youth Empowerment, and Healthcare with simultaneous thrust on capacity building through the implementation of community/infrastructure development projects.

Context:

- The Army will sponsor 110 students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to its residential public schools and higher education institutions across the country from the current academic year as part of Operation Sadbhavana (operation goodwill), which aims to win the hearts and minds of residents of the Union Territories.

Q85. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term 'paramitas'? [UPSC 2020]

- a. The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (sutra) style.
- b. Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas.
- c. Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path
- d. Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India.

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Paramitas is a Buddhist term often translated as "perfection". It is described in Buddhist commentaries as noble character qualities generally associated with enlightened beings or the attainment of the Bodhisattva path.

Q86. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. The main objective of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol is the protection of the ozone layer.
2. Under the Kigali Amendment, Parties to the Montreal Protocol will phase down the production and consumption of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons.
3. Hydrofluorocarbons are massively potent greenhouse gases that cause the massive destruction of stratospheric ozone.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Vienna Convention, concluded in 1985, is a framework agreement in which States agree to cooperate in relevant research and scientific assessments of the ozone problem, to exchange information, and to adopt “appropriate measures” to prevent activities that harm the ozone layer.
- The objective of the 1985 Vienna Convention is to preserve human health, and to protect the environment from any harmful effects of the depletion of the ozone layer.
- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) is an international agreement designed to stop the production and import of ozone-depleting substances and reduce their concentration in the atmosphere to help protect the earth’s ozone layer.
- Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol envisages phasing out of Hydro Fluoro Carbons (HFC) by 80-85% of present levels by 2040 in a phased manner. India has committed to phasing down HFC in four steps from 2032 with a 10% reduction in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 80% in 2047.
- Hydrofluorocarbons were introduced as a non-ozone-depleting alternative to Hydrochlorofluorocarbons. Hydrofluorocarbons are potent greenhouse gases but are not ozone destructive.

Q87. Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT w.r.t Speaker of the Lok Sabha:

1. It is mandatory for the Speaker to resign from the political party soon after he/she is elected in order to honour the constitutional obligation of independence and impartiality.
2. The Speaker is empowered to order the suspension of a member from the house and revoke such an order.
3. When the Lok Sabha is dissolved the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In India, it is not mandatory for the Speaker to resign from the political party soon after he/she is elected.
- While the Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in the speaker.
- Whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the Assembly after the dissolution.



Q88. Which of the given statements with respect to Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is/are correct?

1. It was formed by an initiative of India and South Africa.
2. All the QUAD members are among its member nations.
3. Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) is a flagship initiative of IORA.
4. It has set up the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organisation consisting of 23 states bordering the Indian Ocean. It was formed by an initiative of India and South Africa.
- Not all QUAD members are among the IORA member nations.
- The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), with its origins in the 13th Council of Ministers meeting, held in November 2013 in Perth, Australia.
- The IORA is tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting cooperation and closer interaction among them.
- The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram is a domestic initiative of India and has nothing to do with the IORA. The IFC-IOR was set up in 2018 to coordinate with regional countries on maritime issues and act as a regional repository of maritime data. It presently has linkages with 21 partner countries and 22 multi-national agencies across the globe.

Q89. Consider the following pairs:

Festivals	Tribes
1. Wanchuwa	Tiwa
2. Nyokum	Nyishi
3. Myoko	Lushai

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Wanchuwa festival is celebrated by Tiwa tribesmen of Karbi Anglong district of Assam. The festival is celebrated to mark a good harvest and involves prayers for protection from pests and natural calamities. It involves songs, dances and a bunch of rituals performed by people clad in their native attires.
- Nyokum is a festival celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The festival is commonly celebrated by people from all classes and walks of life for better productivity, prosperity and happiness of all human beings.
- The Myoko Festival is an annual celebration in Ziro Valley, by the Apatani tribes.

Q90. 'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

- European Union
- Gulf Cooperation Council
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) is a proposed treaty between India and the EU.
- Through this agreement, India and the EU expect to promote bilateral trade by removing barriers to trade in goods and services and investment across all sectors of the economy.

Q91. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- In India, sugarcane is grown as a Kharif Crop.
- Sugarcane prices are determined by both the Centre as well as States.
- The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane is approved by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- India produces more sugar than it consumes.

Options:

- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In India, sugarcane is grown as a Kharif Crop. A hot and humid climate is favourable for sugarcane cultivation.
- Sugarcane prices are determined by the Centre as well as States.
  - The Centre announces Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) which are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by the Prime Minister.
  - The State Advised Prices (SAP) are announced by key sugarcane producing states which are generally higher than FRP.
- India is a sugar surplus nation i.e., it produces more sugar than it consumes.

Q92. Which of the following is/are the schemes launched under National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)?

- Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP)
- Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT)
- Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)
- Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE)
- Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEEED)

Options:

- 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change taken by the Indian government to promote the market for energy efficiency by fostering innovative policies and effective market instruments.
- NMEEE includes the following four specific energy efficiency initiatives.
  - Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT): Assigning energy reduction targets to large energy-intensive industries and distributing Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) on achievement of the targets. These ESCerts can then be traded.
  - Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE): Promoting the adoption of energy-efficient equipment and appliances through innovative business models.
  - Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP): Increasing the confidence of financial institutions and investors to support energy efficiency initiatives.
  - Framework for Energy Efficiency Economic Development (FEEED): Promoting energy efficiency initiatives by hedging against investment risks.

Q93. The Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with

- a. Saudi Arabia
- b. United Arab Emirates
- c. Qatar
- d. Bahrain

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Indian Navy recently undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

Q94. This port is strategically located on South Eastern coastline of Oman. It straddles along critical sea lanes in Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden. In 2018, India secured access to this Port for military use and logistical support. The port being talked about is:

- a. Port of Khasab
- b. Chabahar Port
- c. Duqm Port
- d. Bandar Abbas Port

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Al Duqm Port is a seaport located in Oman. The Port of Duqm is situated on the southeastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.



- In a strategic move to expand its footprint in the Indian Ocean region, India has secured access to the key Port of Duqm in Oman for military use and logistical support. This is part of India's maritime strategy to counter Chinese influence and activities in the region.
- With the Assumption Island being developed in Seychelles and Agalega in Mauritius, Duqm fits into India's proactive maritime security roadmap.

Q95. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarakantak
3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below: [UPSC 2017]

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Arasavalli in the Srikakulam district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh is famous for its Suryanarayana temple dedicated to Lord Surya (sun god).
- Amarkantak is a well-frequented Hindu pilgrimage centre that is popularly known as "Teerthraj" – "the king of pilgrimages". It is popular for its ancient temples of Kalachuri and the Sarvodaya Jain temple. Three rivers – the holy Narmada, the Sone and the Johila emerge here from the womb of Amarkantak. A rising stream of Narmada can be seen at the Narmada Udgam Temple which is the most visited place in Amarkantak.
- Omkareshwar is a Hindu temple dedicated to God Shiva.

Q96. Which of the given statement/s with respect to Green Hydrogen is/are INCORRECT?

1. Hydrogen is labelled Green Hydrogen when the carbon emission generated from the production process is captured and stored.
2. Pyrolysis is the process followed for its production.
3. This is the cleanest form of hydrogen generation since the by-products are just water and water vapour.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Green hydrogen – also referred to as “clean hydrogen” – is produced by using clean energy from surplus renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, to split water into two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom through a process called electrolysis.
- This is the cleanest form of hydrogen generation since the by-products are just water and water vapour.
- Green hydrogen is produced in a climate-neutral manner and it could play a vital role in global efforts to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.
- Pyrolysis process is the thermal decomposition of materials at elevated temperatures in an inert atmosphere (absence of Oxygen)

Q97. Which of these UNESCO World Heritage Sites in are known for the Stone Chariots?

1. Mahabalipuram
2. Konark Sun Temple
3. Pattadakal
4. Hampi

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Mahabalipuram, Konark Sun Temple and Hampi are known for the stone chariots.
- Pattadakal, is a complex of 7th and 8th century CE Hindu and Jain temples in northern Karnataka. Pattadakal represents the high point of an eclectic art which, in the 7th and 8th centuries under the Chalukya dynasty, achieved a harmonious blend of architectural forms from northern and southern India.

Q98. Which of the following steps have been taken by the Government to promote indigenization in the defence sector?

1. Up to 51% FDI is allowed through the Automatic Route in the Defence Sector.
2. Up to 100% FDI is allowed by Government Route in the Defence Sector.
3. Setting up of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework.
4. Notifying positive indigenisation list.

Options:

- a. 3 and 4 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Central government has increased the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the defence sector from 49 to 74 per cent under automatic route and beyond 74 per cent through the government route
- In order to promote indigenization in the defence sector, the government has also introduced the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework and also come out with a positive indigenisation list for defence products.
  - The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework aims at the creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia.
  - It provides them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
  - iDEX will be funded and managed by the 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)'.

Q99. Which of the given statements with respect to Majuli island is/are correct?

1. It is the nerve centre of neo-Vaishnavite spiritualism.
2. It is the only geo-heritage site in Assam.
3. It is one of the smallest inhabited islands in the Brahmaputra and a floating wildlife habitat.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Majuli is a river island in the Brahmaputra River, Assam and in 2016 it became the first island to be made a district in India.
- It is among the world's largest. The island is also the hub of spiritualism in Assam because of a number of 'satras' or Vaishnav monasteries established by the 15th-16th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva and his disciples.
- There are two geo heritage sites in Assam. Other than Majuli it includes the Umananda Island. It is one of the smallest inhabited islands in the Brahmaputra. The island is actually an inselberg, composed of the rocks of the Assam-Meghalaya gneissic complex.

Q100. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

Q101. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act?

1. NDPS Act views drug offences very seriously and penalties are uniform irrespective of the quantity
2. It is only the central government which can add or omit from the list of psychotropic substances

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act views drug offences very seriously and penalties are stiff. The quantum of sentence and fine varies with the offence. For many offences, the penalty depends on the quantity of drug involved – small quantity, more than small but less than commercial quantity or commercial quantity of drugs. Small and Commercial quantities are notified for each drug.
- Power to add to or omit from the list of psychotropic substance is available only with the Central Government.

Q102. With reference to Madurkathi mats, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. They are woven in Bihar
2. Women of the households are involved in weaving

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Madur mats are unique to West Bengal.
- 'Masland' a fine quality madur mat.
- Madur mats are made of natural fibres. Madurkathi is a rhizome-based plant (*Cyperus tegetum* or *Cyperus pangorei*) found abundantly in the alluvial tracts of Purba and Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal.
- Madurkathi was awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry in April 2018.
- About 80% to 90% of the entire workforce engaged in this traditional craft comprise of women.

Context:

- Two women from Sabang in West Bengal have been given the National Handicraft Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the development of crafts.

Q103. Which of the following is/are Erosional landforms due to Glaciers?

1. Cirque
2. Esker
3. Moraine

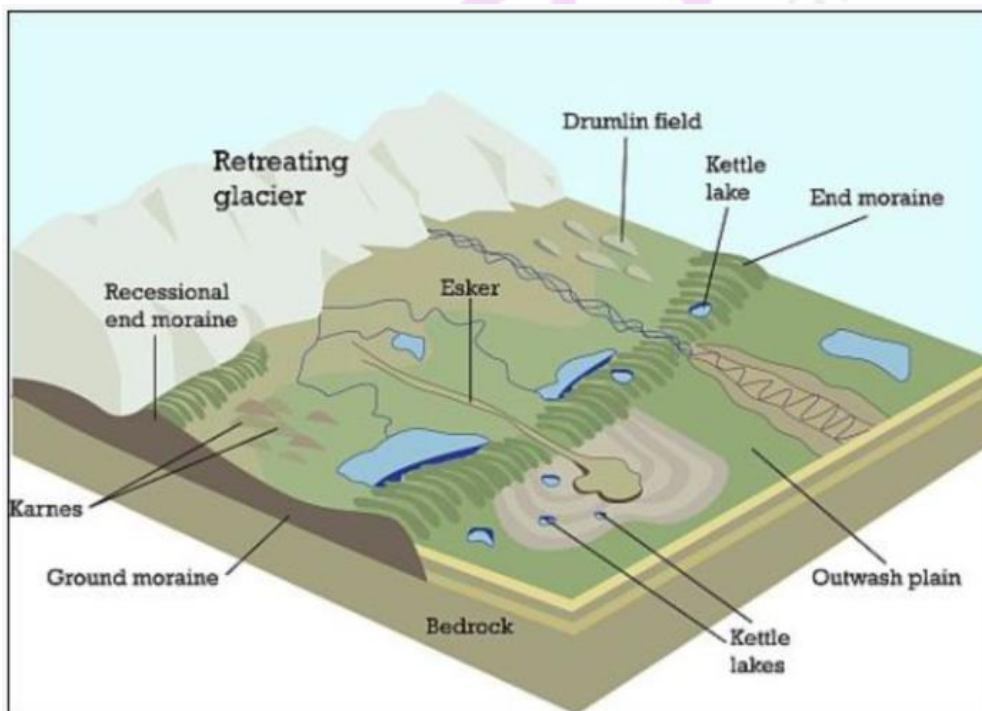
Options:

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

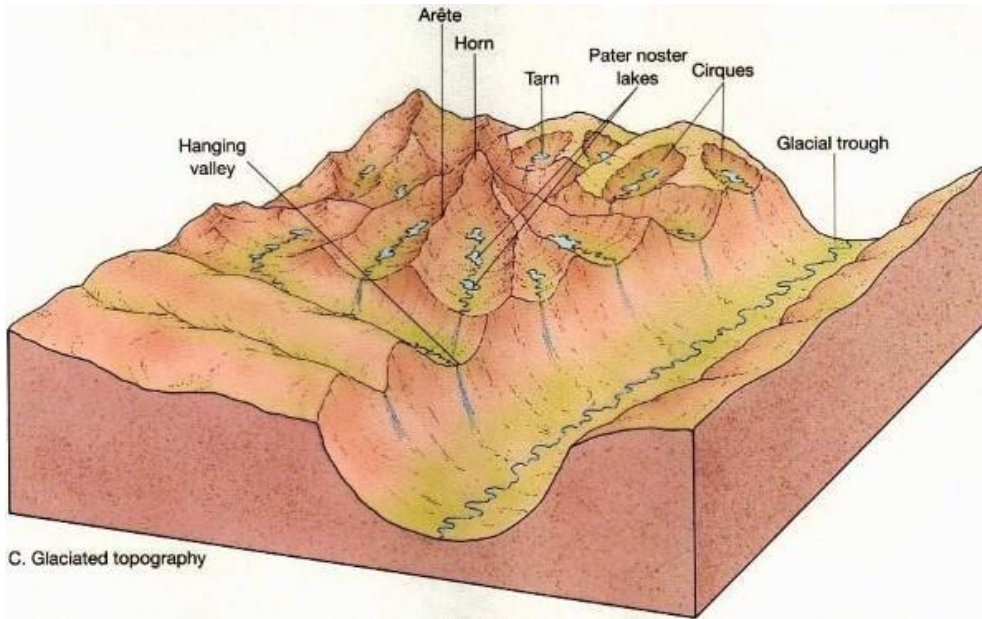
Answer: a

Explanation:

- Cirque is an erosional landform formed by the action of glaciers. Cirques are bowl-shaped depressions that glaciers carve into mountains and valley sidewalls at high elevations.
- Eskers and moraines are depositional landforms created by glacial action.
  - Eskers are ridges made of sands and gravels, deposited by glacial meltwater flowing through tunnels within and underneath glaciers, or through meltwater channels on top of glaciers.
  - Moraines are accumulations of dirt and rocks that have fallen onto the glacier surface or have been pushed along by the glacier as it moves. The dirt and rocks composing moraines can range in size from powdery silt to large rocks and boulders







Q104. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a region in the North-central Afghanistan near the Hindu Kush mountain range.
2. It is Afghanistan's last remaining holdout where anti-Taliban forces seem to be working on forming a guerrilla movement

The above statements best describes:

- a. Spin Boldak
- b. Panjshir Valley
- c. Mazar-i-Sharif
- d. Kunduz

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Panjshir valley is located in North-central Afghanistan, 150 kilometres (93 mi) north of Kabul, near the Hindu Kush mountain range.
- The Panjshir Valley is Afghanistan's last remaining holdout where anti-Taliban forces seem to be working on forming a guerrilla movement to fight against the Taliban.

Q105. Consider the following statements:

1. The Legislative Council of a State in India can be larger in size than half of the Legislative Assembly of that particular State
2. The Governor of a State nominates the Chairman of Legislative Council of that particular State.

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:

- Strength of the legislative council is from 40 to one third that of the legislative assembly. The constitution has fixed the maximum and minimum limits but actual strength is fixed by parliament.
- The legislative Council elects its Chairman, who plays the role of presiding officer and Deputy Chairman from amongst its members.

Q106. Consider the following statements:

1. Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes.
2. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India which come under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes.
- Census till 1931 published the caste data.
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Q107. Which of the following was/were the objectives of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011?

1. To enable households to be ranked based on their Socio-Economic status.
2. To make available authentic information that will enable caste-wise population enumeration of the country.
3. To make available authentic information regarding the socio-economic condition, and education status of various castes and sections of the population.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Rural Development commenced the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, in rural areas and in urban areas it was carried out by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.
- Its objectives were:
  - To enable households to be ranked based on their Socio-Economic status.
  - To make available authentic information that will enable caste-wise population enumeration of the country.
  - To make available authentic information regarding the socio-economic condition, and education status of various castes and sections of the population.

Q108. Which of the following statements regarding Malabar Naval Exercise is/are correct?

1. It focuses on Passage Exercises amongst the 4 Quad countries.
2. It started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the Indian and US navies.
3. Japan joined the exercise in 2015.

Select the correct option from below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Malabar Exercise involves simulated war games.
- It includes diverse activities, ranging from fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers through maritime interdiction operations, anti-submarine warfare, diving salvage operations, amphibious operations, counter-piracy operations, cross-deck helicopter landings and anti-air warfare operations.
- Malabar Exercise started off in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between Indian and US navies.
- In 2015, Japan joined the exercise Malabar making it a trilateral naval exercise.
- In 2020, the Australian Navy joined the Malabar Exercise making it a quadrilateral naval exercise. Earlier, Australia joined the exercise in 2007.

Q109. Consider the following statements regarding the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:

1. The Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950.
2. The High Commissioner reports annually to the General Assembly.
3. The work of the High Commissioner shall be of an entirely non-political character.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is an international organisation working for saving lives, safeguarding the rights and providing a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.
- The Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950 in the wake of the mass displacements caused due to the Second World War in Europe.
- The High Commissioner reports annually to the General Assembly.
- The work of the High Commissioner shall be of an entirely non-political character.

Q110. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following? (UPSC-2020)

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Gandhi-Irwin Pact was concluded on 5th March 1931 and is also known as the Delhi Pact.
- Solution by Viceroy Irwin – proposed Congress to suspend civil disobedience movement and participate in the Second Round Table Conference.
- It included the withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Gandhiji demanded the release of political prisoners not convicted of violence from jails.

Q111. Which of the given statements best describes the recently launched “Yuktdhara” portal?

- a. A portal launched for planning, coordination, execution and monitoring of Skill Development Initiatives.
- b. An online repository of assets created under various national rural development programmes such as MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme etc.
- c. A platform for effective enforcement of the no child labour policy.
- d. A data repository for all the meteorological missions of ISRO and deals with weather-related information, oceanography, and tropical water cycles.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Yuktdhara portal is an online repository of assets created under various national rural development programmes such as MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, etc.

Q112. Consider the following statements with respect to Chakmas and Hajongs:

- 1. They came to India from Bhutan after being displaced due to the submergence of their land due to the construction of the Kaptai dam.
- 2. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists and Hajongs are Hindus.
- 3. They are both identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Chakmas and Hajongs came to India in the 1960s from Bangladesh (East Pakistan) after being displaced due to the submergence of their land due to the construction of the Kaptai dam.
- Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists and Hajongs are Hindus.
- They are both not identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Q113. “SARTHAQ” often in news is:

- a. An initiative launched to improve the proficiency in reading and numeracy among children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- b. An implementation plan for school education launched in pursuance of the goals of National Education Policy 2020.
- c. National teachers' platform built to host Open Educational Resources (OER) and tools for teachers in schools, teacher educators in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) and student teachers.
- d. An initiative to provide skills and right competencies to women so that they can take up gainful employment.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- SARTHAQ, developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, is an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education. It will help in the implementation of the National Education Policy in the country.

Q114. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. India has signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement with Russia for the supply of Krivak stealth frigates.
2. Two Krivak class stealth ships are being built with technology transfer from Russia by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) under 'Make in India'.
3. Krivak class frigates have been inducted into the Indian Navy under the Talwar class and the Teg class.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- India signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement with Russia for the supply of Krivak stealth frigates in 2016.
- Two Krivak class stealth ships are being built with technology transfer from Russia by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) under 'Make in India'.
- 6 Krivak class frigates have been inducted into the Indian Navy under the Talwar class and the Teg class.

Q115. With reference to 'Financial Stability and Development Council', consider the following statements:

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
3. It monitors macroprudential supervision of the economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Financial Stability and Development Council was set up in 2010.

- It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
- It falls under the Department of Economic Affairs.
- It monitors macroprudential supervision of the economy.

Q116. In the efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, the 'Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue' (CAFMD) is a part of the partnership between India and

- a. European Union
- b. United Kingdom
- c. United States of America
- d. Australia

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Union Minister of Environment of India recently held a conversation with U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC), Mr. John Kerry, to discuss Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) Track under India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership.
- This partnership is expected to mobilize finance and speed clean energy deployment.

Q117. Which of the given statements with respect to Global Manufacturing Risk Index is/are correct?

1. It is published annually by the World Bank.
2. India has become the second most desired manufacturing destination according to the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021.
3. The Index ranks 190 countries against each other assessing costs, risks and conditions impacting manufacturing.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Global Manufacturing Risk Index, 2021 brought out by real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield has ranked India as the second-most sought-after manufacturing destination globally.
  - The first spot is occupied by China.
- The index assessed the most advantageous locations for manufacturing among 47 countries.
- The rankings are determined based on four parameters: the country's capability to restart manufacturing, business environment, operating costs, and the risks.
  - Operating cost competitiveness has been India's biggest strength in the assessment.

Q118. Consider the following statements with respect to Nidhi companies:

1. It is a type of company in the Indian non-banking finance sector, recognized under section 406 of the Companies Act, 2013.
2. Its core business involves lending and borrowing money between its members or shareholders.
3. Nidhi Company does not require a license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Nidhi Company is a type of company in the Indian non-banking finance sector, recognized under section 406 of the Companies Act, 2013. They are also known as Permanent Fund, Benefit Funds, Mutual Benefit Funds and Mutual Benefit Company.
- Its core business involves lending and borrowing money between its members or shareholders.
- Nidhi companies are governed by Nidhi Rules, 2014. They are incorporated in the nature of Public Limited Company.
- No RBI approval is necessary to register the company, as RBI has specifically exempted this category of NBFC in India to comply with its core provisions such as registration with RBI, etc. Hence, Nidhi Company does not require a license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate.

Q119. Which of the given statements with respect to Lebanon is/are INCORRECT?

1. It opens out to the Mediterranean Sea to the West.
2. It borders Israel, Syria and Jordan.
3. It touches the West Bank area.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Lebanon opens out to the Mediterranean Sea to the West.
- It borders Israel and Syria and not Jordan. It does not border the West Bank area, it is Jordan that borders the West Bank area.



Q120. In the context of the developments in Bioinformatics, the term ‘transcriptome’, sometimes seen in the news, refers to [UPSC 2016]

- a range of enzymes used in genome editing
- the full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism
- the description of the mechanism of gene expression
- a mechanism of genetic mutations taking place in cells

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A transcriptome is the full range of messenger RNA or mRNA molecules expressed by an organism. The term “transcriptome” can also be used to describe the array of mRNA transcripts produced in a particular cell or tissue type.

Q121. Which of the following is/are correct regarding e-Shram?

- It is a database of unorganised sector workers.
- e-Shram card contains a 12 digit unique number which will help the card holders access social security schemes.
- It was launched in 2020.

Select the correct option from below:

- 1 & 2
- 1 & 3
- 2 & 3
- All of the Above

Answer: a



Explanation:

- The Union Ministry of Labour has launched the National Database of Unorganised workers (E-Shram) portal.
- The E-Shram portal will maintain a database of workers in the country's unorganised sector.
- Unorganised workers, BOCW Workers, SHG members, domestic workers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, street vendors, rickshaw-pullers, brick-kiln workers, agricultural labourers, MGNREGA workers, fishermen, shopkeepers and small retailers can register on the website.
- The new E-Shram portal will help in accessing social security schemes available for the unorganised workers.
- The workers who register on the portal will get an e-SHRAM card which will have a 12 digit unique number. This card is aimed at the integration of the Centre's social security schemes. The Universal Account Number on the e-Shram card will be acceptable across the country.

Q122. Which of the following statements regarding the Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for product Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH) is correct?

- a. It aims at allowing direct overseas listing of Indian start-ups.
- b. The programme aims to boost the start-up ecosystem in the country where 300 startups will be provided funding support of 40 Lakhs.
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. Neither (a) nor (b)

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the Startup Accelerator for Product Innovation, Development & Growth (SAMRIDH) programme, which aims to help growing startups in India.
- The SAMRIDH programme will focus on accelerating 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion in the next three years. Also, an investment of up to ₹ 40 lakh to the start-up based on the current valuation and growth stage of the Start-Up will be provided through selected startup accelerators. It will also facilitate equal matching investment by the accelerator/investor. The programme aims to further the Indian start-up growth which has seen the emergence of 63 Unicorns and is now the third-largest Unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of 168 Bn USD.

Q123. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Plant	Country
1. Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant	India
2. Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant	Japan
3. Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant	Iran
4. Kudankulam Nuclear plant	Armenia

Select the correct option from below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant is a nuclear power plant located in Armenia. It is one of the few remaining nuclear reactors of its kind that were built without primary containment structures.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Kudankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Q124. Consider the following statements:

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established in 1988 as a statutory body for regulating the securities market.
2. An appeal against the order of SEBI can be directly filed in the Supreme Court.
3. SEBI has no power to freeze the bank accounts of a violator.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was constituted on April 12, 1988, as a non-statutory body through an Administrative Resolution of the Government for dealing with all matters relating to the development and regulation of the securities market and investor protection and to advise the Government on all these matters. SEBI was given statutory status and powers through an Ordinance promulgated on January 30, 1992. SEBI was established as a statutory body on February 21, 1992. The Ordinance was replaced by an Act of Parliament on April 4, 1992.
- Persons aggrieved by an order of Adjudicating Officer passed under the SEBI Act cannot file an appeal directly at the Supreme Court but can prefer an appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). If not satisfied by the order of the SAT, he/she can approach the Supreme Court.
- SEBI has the power to freeze the bank accounts of a violator.

Q125. Which one of the following protected areas is well-known for the conservation of a sub-species of the Indian swamp deer (Barasingha) that thrives well on hard ground and is exclusively graminivorous? (UPSC 2020)

- a. Kanha National Park
- b. Manas National Park
- c. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The barasingha, also called swamp deer, is a deer species distributed in the Indian subcontinent.
- The swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), the state animal of Madhya Pradesh, is seeing a revival in the Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) after having been perilously close to extinction for a long time.

Q126. Right to privacy includes which of the following rights?

1. Right to be left alone
2. Right to be forgotten
3. Freedom of Silence

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The right to be left alone and the right to be forgotten are components of the right to privacy.
- The right to silence/freedom of silence is a legal principle that guarantees any individual the right to refuse to answer questions from law enforcement officers or court officials. This can be the right to avoid self-incrimination or the right to remain silent when questioned. Art 20(3) of the Indian Constitution provides the right against self-incrimination. It gives the accused the right to remain silent even during interrogation.

Q127. With reference to Sambhar Lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is India's largest inland salt lake in Rajasthan.
2. It is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.
3. Sambhar has been designated as a Ramsar site.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The world-famous Sambhar Salt Lake is located in the state of Rajasthan about 80 km southwest of Jaipur.
- The Sambhar Lake is the country's largest inland saline water body.
- It is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.
- Sambhar Lake is a wetland of 'international importance' under the Ramsar Convention.
- The lake is known for being a habitat for a large number of migratory species during the winter season. It includes species like flamingoes, pelicans and waterfowls among others.

Q128. Consider the following statements with respect to Universal Postal Union:

1. It is a United Nations specialized agency.
2. It was established by the Treaty of Rome.
3. It is the oldest international organization worldwide.
4. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Universal Postal Union is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.

- It was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874.
- UPU's headquarters is located in Bern, Switzerland.
- The International Telecommunication Union (founded in 1865) is the first and oldest international organization—being established employing a treaty, and creating a permanent secretariat, with global membership.

Q129. Which of the following statements is/are right about Drone Rules 2021?

1. The total number of forms that were to be filled has been reduced.
2. The government has done away with the need for a security clearance prior to the issuance of a registration or licence.
3. Foreign ownership has been discontinued.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- With a view to provide an impetus to the drone industry in India, the government has tried to simplify provisions related to drone manufacturing and operation in India. The recently published Drone Rules, 2021 introduces the following changes with the aim of facilitating a business-friendly regulatory regime.
  - The total number of forms that were to be filled has been reduced.
  - The need for a security clearance prior to issuance of a registration or licence has been done away with.
  - Foreign ownership of Indian drone related firms has been allowed.

Q130. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)?

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States.
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown.
3. To regulate East India Company's trade with India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- On November 1, 1858, Lord Canning announced Queen Victoria's proclamation to "the Princes, Chiefs and Peoples of India," which unveiled the future policy of the British Rule in India.
- It announced that the queen had assumed the government of India and henceforth the Indian administration would be under the British crown.
  - In the wake of the Indian rebellion of 1857, the British government effectively abolished the East India Company in 1858.
- It announced perpetual support for "native princes" and promised no further intention to annex Indian States. It also claimed non-intervention in matters of religious belief or worship within British India.

Q131. Consider the following statements:

1. Ten Degree Channel separates the Nicobar Islands from the Andaman Islands.
2. Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve is included in the list of Man and Biosphere Program of UNESCO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Ten Degree Channel separates the Nicobar Islands from the Andaman Islands.
- Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve is included in the list of Man and Biosphere Program of UNESCO.
- Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is an intergovernmental scientific program, launched in 1971 by UNESCO that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.

Q132. The Battle of Jamrud was fought between

- a. British Empire against the Konbaung Dynasty
- b. Timurids under Babur and the Afghans under Ibrahim Lodi
- c. Gorkhali army of the Kingdom of Nepal and the British forces of the East India Company
- d. Emirate of Afghanistan and the Sikh Empire

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Battle of Jamrud was fought between the Emirate of Afghanistan and the Sikh Empire in 1837.
- It was the last effort made by Emir Dost Mohammad Khan to recapture the former Afghan winter capital of Peshawar.

Q133. Consider the following statements:

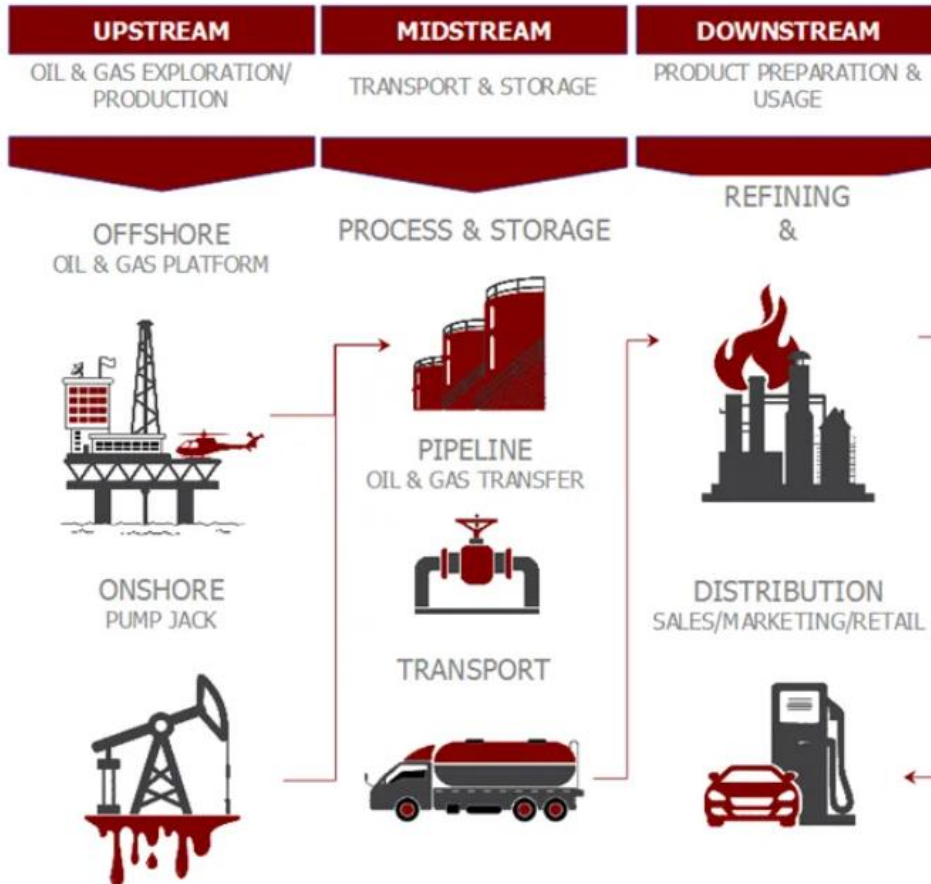
1. Upstream Oil and Gas Industry includes the searching for potential underground or underwater crude oil and natural gas fields.
2. Companies that handle operations in the Upstream oil and gas sector are closest to the customers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:



- The oil and gas industry is usually divided into three major components: upstream, midstream and downstream.
- The upstream industry includes searching for potential underground or underwater crude oil and natural gas fields, drilling exploratory wells, and subsequently drilling and operating the wells that recover and bring the crude oil or raw natural gas to the surface. The upstream is sometimes known as the exploration and production (E&P) sector.
- The midstream sector involves the transportation (by pipeline, rail, barge, oil tanker or truck), storage, and wholesale marketing of crude or refined petroleum products.
- Downstream operations are oil and gas processes that occur after the production phase to the point of sale. This sector of the oil and gas industry—the final step in the production process—is represented by refiners of petroleum crude oil and natural gas processors, who bring usable products to end-users and consumers. They are closest to the customers.

Q134. A 'black hole' is a body in space which does not allow any radiation to come out. This is due to its

- Large Size
- Small Size
- Low Density
- High Density

Answer: d

Explanation:

- A black hole is a celestial body of extreme density and high gravitational pull that does not reflect or emit radiation. It is a body in space that does not allow any radiation to come out. This is due to its High Density.

Q135. With reference to Balance of Payments, which of the following constitutes/constitute the Current Account? (UPSC 2014)

1. Balance of trade
2. Foreign assets
3. Balance of invisibles
4. Special Drawing Rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

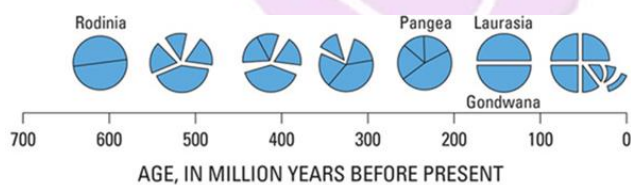
- The nation's current account is its imports, exports, net income, asset income, and direct transfers.
- It consists of Balance of Trade and Balance of Invisibles.

Q136. Which one of the following supercontinent existed during the late Neoproterozoic era?

- a. Rodinia
- b. Vaalbara
- c. Panthalassa
- d. Pangaea

Answer: a

Explanation:



Schematic diagram of continental spreading from the Neoproterozoic era to the present time (Cenozoic era)

- The coalesced Rodinia supercontinent (Neoproterozoic era) was followed by the breakup of the Rodinia supercontinent (middle Paleozoic era), and the subsequent breakup of the Pangea supercontinent into Gondwana in the southern hemisphere and Laurasia in the Northern hemisphere during the late Paleozoic era.

Q137. Consider the following statements:

1. BCG vaccine is currently the only licensed vaccine for TB
2. Farther a country is from the equator, the higher is the efficacy of BCG Vaccine

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) is a vaccine against tuberculosis (TB) in humans.
  - TB continues to be a major public health problem in the world. According to the WHO's Global TB Report, 10 million people developed TB in 2019 with 1.4 million deaths. India accounts for 27% of these cases.
- Currently, BCG is the only licensed vaccine available for the prevention of TB. It is the world's most widely used vaccine with about 120 million doses every year and has an excellent safety record.
- One intriguing fact about BCG is that it works well in some geographic locations and not so well in others. Recent studies into the efficacy of the BCG vaccine have noted that farther a country is from the equator, the higher is the efficacy of BCG Vaccine. BCG has a high efficacy in the UK, Norway, Sweden and Denmark; and little or no efficacy in countries on or near the equator like India, Kenya and Malawi, where the burden of TB is higher. These regions also have a higher prevalence of environmental mycobacteria. It is believed that these may interfere with the protective effect against TB.

Q138. Oodaaq Island recently seen in news is part of

- a. Japan
- b. Indonesia
- c. Greenland
- d. Antarctica

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Oodaaq or Oodap Qeqertaa is a bank of gravel and silt northeast of Greenland that has been considered by some to be the most northerly point of land on Earth, though a number of other places have also been given that title since its discovery.
- Scientists have recently discovered what is believed to be the world's northernmost landmass — a yet-to-be-named island north of Greenland that could soon be swallowed up by seawaters. The new island is 780 m north of Oodaaq.

Q139. With reference to Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Under AFSPA the choice of declaring any area as 'disturbed' vests only with the Central Government.
2. The Act is not uniform in nature as it contains different sections as applicable to the situation in each state.
3. Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommended that AFSPA should be repealed

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- AFSPA, which was enacted in 1958 amid the nascent Naga insurgency, gives powers to the army and state and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property that is "likely" to be used by insurgents in areas declared as "disturbed" by the home ministry.



- Security forces can “arrest without warrant” a person, who has committed or even “about to commit a cognizable offence” even on “reasonable suspicion”. It also protects them from legal processes for actions taken under the act.
- The choice of declaring any area as ‘disturbed’ under AFSPA vests both with state and central government.
- In recent years, prominent Indian bodies have recognized the brutality of the AFSPA and echoed demands for repeal or amendment. The Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee set up by the Government of India to review the working of the AFSPA, has advocated its repeal. The Fifth Report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission seconded this recommendation.

Q140. Which of the following adds/add carbon dioxide to the carbon cycle on the planet Earth?

1. Volcanic action
2. Respiration
3. Photosynthesis
4. Decay of organic matter

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Photosynthesis is the process by which plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar. Thus photosynthesis removes carbon di oxide from the atmosphere from the atmosphere.
- Volcanic action, respiration and decaying of organic matter adds carbon to the carbon cycle.

Q141. POSHAN Abhiyaan is the Government of India’s flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for which of the following sections of the society?

1. Adolescent Girls
2. Children
3. Disabled
4. Pregnant women and lactating mothers
5. Senior Citizens

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission is the Government of India’s flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The POSHAN Abhiyaan directs the attention of the country towards the problem of malnutrition and addresses it in a mission mode.

Q142. India entered into Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) with which among the following countries?

- a. Japan
- b. Australia
- c. USA
- d. Russia

Answer: d

Explanation:

- As part of the efforts to further deepen the defence cooperation between India and Russia, India and Russia are expected to conclude the bilateral logistics agreement, Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) during the upcoming Russian Defence Minister's visit to India.
- This means Indian ships or aircraft can now use Russian ports or airfields without having to take permission or make immediate payments. India has already signed a similar agreement with the USA. The LEMOA or the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement between India and the United States was signed in 2016.

Q143. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

1. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. CBI derives power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
3. The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure, by the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.

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:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure in office by the CVC Act, 2003.

Q144. Consider the following statements with respect to the South China Sea:

1. It is the connecting link between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
2. It is connected by Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea.
3. The Scarborough Shoal is claimed by the Philippines, China, and Taiwan.

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

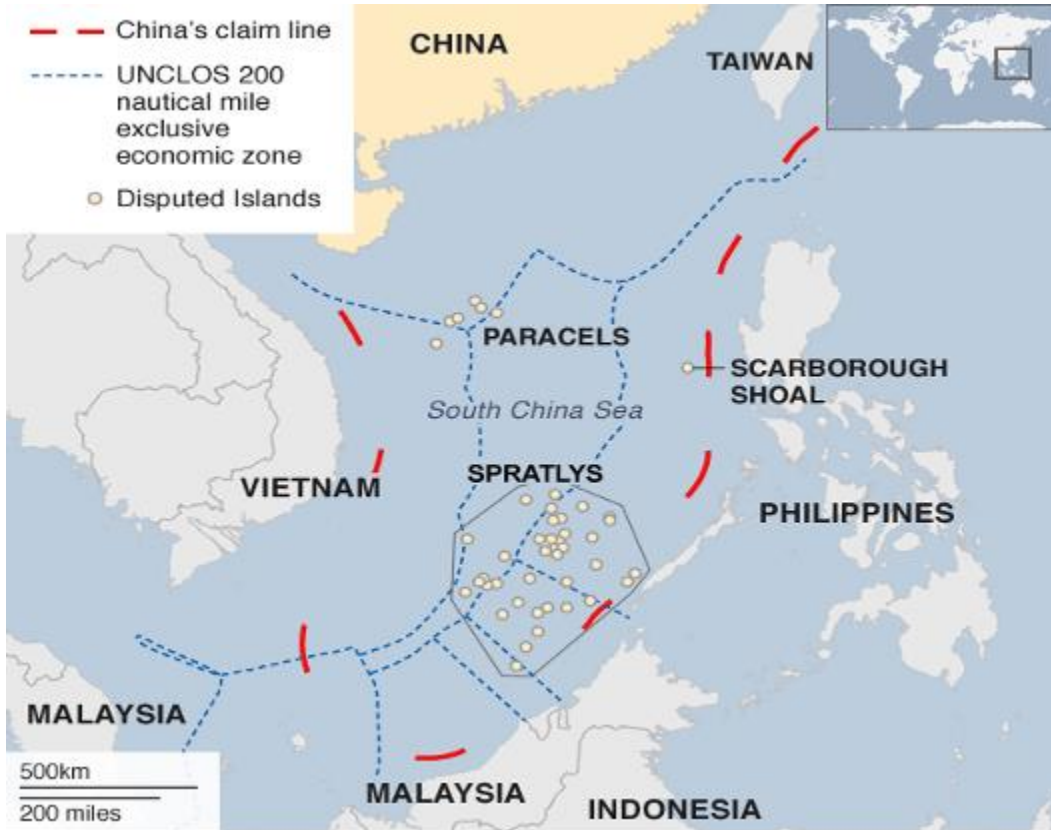
Answer: d

Explanation:

- The South China Sea is the connecting link between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- The South China Sea is connected by Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea.



- The Scarborough Shoal located in the disputed South China Sea is claimed by the Philippines, China, and Taiwan.



Q145. Who among the following Mughal emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to the album and individual portraits? [UPSC 2019]

- a. Humayun
- b. Akbar
- c. Jahangir
- d. Shah Jahan

Answer: c

Explanation:

- During Akbar's reign, many manuscripts were illustrated, the prominent being Razmnamah, the Persian translation of Mahabharata. It was during Jahangir's reign that manuscripts became less important and individual portraits became more prominent.
- Jahangir shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to the album and individual portraits.

Q146. Which of the following is/are the Mountain railways of India and are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- 1) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- 2) Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- 3) Kalka–Shimla Railway
- 4) Kangra Valley Railway
- 5) Matheran Light Railway

Options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Three railways, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and the Kalka–Shimla Railway, are collectively designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the name Mountain Railways of India.
- The fourth railway, the Matheran Hill Railway, is on the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The basis of UNESCO's designation of the Mountain Railways of India as a World Heritage Site is "outstanding examples of bold, ingenious engineering solutions for the problem of establishing an effective rail link through rugged, mountainous terrain."

Q147. Consider the following statements:

- 1) They are a fine variant of shawls spun from cashmere wools.
- 2) These shawls were indicators of wealth and part of a rich woman's dowry in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
- 3) It has been registered under Geographical Indications registry of India

The above statements best describe:

- a) Shahtoosh shawl
- b) Kani Shawl
- c) Pashmina shawl
- d) Paisley shawl

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Kashmir has been known for producing the most exclusive Pashmina Shawls in the world. Kashmir Pashmina Shawl making is rooted in the valley of Kashmir, where artisans follow age old processes and techniques.
- The name Pashmina has been derived from a Persian word "Pashm" meaning a weavable fiber precisely wool. The cashmere wool used for making Pashmina comes from a special breed of Kashmiri goat-Changthangi found in the high altitude regions of the Himalayas.
  - The fine variant of spun cashmere is derived from the animal-hair fibre forming the downy undercoat of the Changthangi goat.
- The Pashmina shawls were considered luxurious items and were indicators of wealth and part of a rich woman's dowry in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
- Kashmir Pashmina or Cashmere, has a unique geographical origin & unique methods of making. "Kashmir Pashmina" has been registered under Geographical Indications registry of India.

Q148. 38th parallel recently seen in news demarcates

- a) USA and Mexico
- b) Turkey and Syria
- c) North and South Korea
- d) Africa and Europe

Answer: c

Explanation:

- 38th parallel is the popular name given to the latitude line that roughly demarcates North Korea and South Korea.



Q149. With reference to Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) It is the European Union's (EU's) action to curb air pollution by cars
- 2) It is the only global-scale effort dedicated to cleaner air and lower greenhouse gas emissions from road transport through the introduction of cleaner fuels and vehicles

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) was set up in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the aim of eliminating leaded petrol globally. It was set up by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as part of its campaign to eliminate lead in petrol.
- UNEP hosts the Secretariat of PCFV
- The PCFV worked as a public-private partnership that brought all stakeholders together, providing technical assistance, raising awareness as well as investing in refinery upgrades.
- It is the only global-scale effort dedicated to cleaner air and lower greenhouse gas emissions from road transport through the introduction of cleaner fuels and vehicles

Q150. Brominated flame retardants are used in many household products like mattresses and upholstery. Why is there some concern about their use? (UPSC 2014)

1. They are highly resistant to degradation in the environment.
2. They are able to accumulate in humans and animals.

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:

- Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) are organobromine compounds that have an inhibitory effect on combustion chemistry and tend to reduce the flammability of products containing them. (Flame retardant)
- Some brominated flame retardants have been identified as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic to both humans and the environment and were suspected of causing neurobehavioral effects and endocrine disruption.
- Given the high resistance they offer to environmental degradation they persist in environment for long periods.

