

UPSC Current Affairs Monthly Magazine Answer Key – September 2021

Q1. What best describes the term 'low base effect', with regard to GDP estimates?

- a) Extremely low GDP growth than anticipated due to abnormal market conditions
- b) A distortion in the GDP figures that results from abnormally low levels of growth in the corresponding period of the last year
- c) The base year taken for GDP calculation by accounting for inflationary trends
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The base effect refers to the effect that the choice of a basis of comparison or reference can have on the result of the comparison between data points.
- Example – Using the 2020-21 fiscal year as the base which had recorded a substantially low GDP, would invariably lead to very high growth rates for the 2021-22 fiscal year even if the absolute GDP were to reach only 2020-21 levels.

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

1. The Supreme Court's collegium has consistently provided for gender diversity and representation in its appointments to the higher judiciary.
2. Women's representation in the judiciary is much better at the Supreme Court and High Courts as compared to lower district courts.
3. India has had a woman Chief Justice of India.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court collegium's record of providing for gender diversity and representation in its appointments to the higher judiciary has been dismal. Only 10 women including the three recently appointed have become SC judges.
- Women's representation in the High Courts stands at a dismal 11%. The lower judiciary fares much better than the higher judiciary when it comes to women representation.
- India has never had a woman Chief Justice of India.

Q3. What is the role of the European Council, one of the principal organs of the European Union (EU)?

- a) Provides political direction to the European Union
- b) Acts as the legislature of the European Union
- c) Pass legislations and exercise control over the budget of the EU
- d) Settle legal disputes between EU member states

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The European Council is the body of the Heads of state or government of EU member states, President of the European Council and President of the European Commission.
- It is based in Brussels and is presided by the President of the European Council.
- The European Council gives the necessary political impetus for the development of the Union and sets its general objectives and priorities. It is to be noted that it does not legislate.

Q4. India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides for which of the following early warning & forecasting services?

1. Monsoon forecast
2. Tropical cyclones
3. Dust storms
4. Heavy rains and snow
5. Cold and heat waves

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations and weather forecasting.
- IMD provides early warning & forecasting services for the following:
 - Monsoon forecast
 - Tropical cyclones
 - Dust storms
 - Heavy rains and snow
 - Cold and heat waves

Q5. With reference to the Union Government consider the following statements. (UPSC-2015)

1. The Department of Revenue is responsible for the preparation of Union Budget that is presented to the parliament.
2. No amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without the authorization of Parliament of India.
3. All the disbursements made from Public Account also need the authorization from the Parliament of India.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Department of Economic Affairs is responsible for the preparation of the Union Budget that is presented to the parliament.
- No amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without authorization from the Parliament of India.

- Public Account of India accounts for flows for those transactions where the government is merely acting as a banker. This fund was constituted under Article 266 (2) of the Constitution.
- Examples of those are provident funds, small savings and so on. These funds do not belong to the government. They have to be paid back at some time to their rightful owners. Because of this nature of the fund, expenditures from it are not required to be approved by the Parliament.

Q6. Consider the following statements about the black-necked crane:

1. The black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh.
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: d

Explanation:

- Union Territory of Ladakh has declared the Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) as its state bird.
- Its IUCN status is Near Threatened.
- The great hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh

Q7. With reference to Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the President.
2. The Constitution sets a time limit for the process of these elections.

Options:

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

d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker.
- There is no time limit prescribed by the Indian Constitution with respect to the election of Deputy Speaker.
- Article 93 states that the House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof.

Q8. Which of the following reports is/are published by International Labour Organization (ILO)?

1. Global Wage Report
2. World Employment and Social Outlook
3. World Social Protection Report

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Reports that are published by International Labour Organization (ILO) are:

- Global Wage Report
- World Employment and Social Outlook
- World Social Protection Report

Q9. Consider the following statements:

1. Coal-fired power accounts for more than 90% of India's electricity generation.
2. China is the leading coal producer worldwide.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Coal-fired power accounts for more than 70% of India's electricity generation.
- China is the leading coal producer worldwide.

Q10. Consider the following: (UPSC - 2014)

1. Bats
2. Bears
3. Rodents

The phenomenon of hibernation can be observed in which of the above kinds of animals?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) Hibernation cannot be observed in any of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The phenomenon of hibernation can be observed in Bats, Bears and Rodents.

Q11. Which of the following statements with respect to Controller General of Accounts is/are correct?

1. CGA is an independent constitutional body that derives its mandate from the constitution of India.
2. CGA is the Principal Advisor on accounting matters to the Union Government.

3. CGA is responsible for the disbursement of Pension in respect of Central Civil Pensioners, Freedom Fighters, High Court Judges, Eg-M.P.s and Eg-Presidents.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Controller General of Accounts is not a Constitutional body. It comes under the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry.
- It is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.

Q12. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- 1. India accounts for over 50% of the global production of coconuts.
- 2. The World Coconut Germplasm Centre is located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 3. The secretariat of the International Coconut Community under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) is headquartered in Tamil Nadu in India.
- 4. De-husked coconut and Copra are covered under the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- India accounts for around 34% of the global production of coconuts.

- The secretariat of the International Coconut Community under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) is headquartered in Jakarta.

Q13. Which of the following are correctly matched?

Turtle

Conservation status

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Red-crowned roofed turtle | Endangered |
| 2. Northern River terrapin | Extinct in the Wild |
| 3. Black softshell turtle | Critically Endangered |

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Red-crowned roofed turtle, Northern River terrapin and Black softshell turtle are critically endangered as per IUCN classification.

Q14. Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

- 1. Durand Line is an important international boundary line, running between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- 2. The Durand line was slightly modified by the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919, meant to be for 100 years and was renewed in 1999.
- 3. Afghanistan was the only country to vote against Pakistan joining the United Nations in 1947.

Options:

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

d) None of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Durand line was slightly modified by the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919, meant to be for 100 years but was never renewed.

Q15. With reference to two non-conventional energy sources called 'coal bed methane' and 'shale gas', consider the following 'statements':

1. Coal bed methane is the pure methane gas extracted from coal seams, while shale gas is a mixture of propane and butane only that can be extracted from fine-grained sedimentary rocks.
2. In India abundant coal bed methane sources exist, but so far no shale gas sources have been found.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [UPSC 2014]

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Shale gas has some proportion of methane as well.
- In India, both coal bed methane and shale gas sources have been found.

Q16. Consider the following statements with respect to IUCN "Red List of Threatened Species":

1. It is a comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of animal, fungus and plant species.
2. It defines the extinction risk of species assessed classified into seven categories.
3. Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with global extinction.

Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- IUCN "Red List of Threatened Species" is a comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of animal, fungus and plant species.
- It defines the extinction risk of species assessed classified into nine categories.
- Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with global extinction.

Q17. Which of the following is/are the likely impacts of an increase in atmospheric aerosols?

1. Destruction of stratospheric ozone
2. Affect the rainfall patterns
3. Reduce solar energy generation from photovoltaic and rooftop solar installations

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Aerosols are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere.
- Aerosols also can act as sites for chemical reactions to take place. These reactions can lead to the destruction of stratospheric ozone.
- Aerosols serve as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) and thus have a substantial effect on cloud properties and the initiation of precipitation. Large concentrations of human-

made aerosols have been reported to impact rainfall as a result of their radiative and CCN activities.

- Aerosols reduce the speed of winds near the earth's surface, thus leading to a reduction in rainfall. The more is the aerosol pollution, the greater the reduction in rainfall.
- Recently, a team of Indian and international researchers have found that aerosols, dust, and clouds reduce solar energy generation from photovoltaic and rooftop solar installations resulting in substantial economic impact through financial losses.

Q18. Which of the following statements with respect to the SAMARTH Scheme is/are correct?

1. It intends to provide skill development and placement-oriented training across the entire textiles value chain including spinning and weaving in the organised sector.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Samarth Scheme – Scheme For Capacity Building In Textile Sector (SCBTS)
- It intends to provide skill development and placement-oriented training across the entire textiles value chain excluding spinning and weaving in the organised sector.
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.

Q19. Which of the given statements with respect to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body set up for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
2. The Council is chaired by NITI Aayog Chairman.
3. RBI Governor and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman are among its members.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- It is an apex-level body that was constituted through an executive order in 2010 and works under the Ministry of Finance.
- It is not a statutory body.
- It was set up for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
- The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- Its members are the Governor of Reserve Bank of India; Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance; Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India; Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. It also includes the chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board (IBBI).

Q20. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication? [UPSC 2020]

- a) A license is required to cultivate that plant.
- b) Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances.
- c) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.
- d) Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the ecosystem.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Indian Parliament enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 1972, which provides for the safeguard and protection of the wildlife (flora and fauna) in the country.
- Schedule VI of WPA 1972 contains the plants which are prohibited from cultivation and planting. Cultivation of specified plants without a licence is prohibited.

Q21. With reference to Bye-elections, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It should be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy
2. Elections need not be conducted if the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A bye-election is an election used to fill an office that has become vacant between general elections.
 - A vacancy may arise as a result of an incumbent dying or resigning, or when the incumbent becomes ineligible to continue in office or when an election is invalidated by voting irregularities.
- In the Indian context, bye-election should be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy of a MLA/MP.
- Elections need not be conducted if the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year

Q22. Which one among the following statements best describes the Hycean planet?

- a) It is a dwarf planet recently discovered by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)
- b) It is a minor planet between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter
- c) It is a habitable planet described as a hot, water-covered planet with a hydrogen-rich atmosphere
- d) It is a new exotic planet outside our solar system in the constellation Cassiopeia

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A study published in The Astrophysical Journal identifies a new class of exoplanets termed Hycean worlds.
 - Exoplanets are planets that orbit other stars. These exoplanets are a prime target for the search for life beyond Earth.
- The Hycean worlds have planet-wide oceans and have temperatures as high as 200 degrees Celsius. These planets have a hydrogen-rich atmosphere.
- These exoplanets could support microbial underwater life.

Q23. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Mutualism- Both species benefit
2. Amensalism- One species benefits, the other is unaffected
3. Commensalism- One species is harmed, the other is unaffected

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Amensalism- One species is harmed, the other is unaffected
- Commensalism- One species benefits, the other is unaffected

Types of Interaction			
Mutualism	Both species (A & B) benefit from the association	Species A	Species B
Commensalism	One species benefits while the other species is not itself affected.	Not affected	Benefits
Amensalism	One species is harmed while the other species is not itself affected.	Not affected	Harmed
Exploitation	One species benefits at the expense of the other species.	Harmed	Benefits
Antibiosis	One species (A) produces a compound that inhibits the other species (B). Species A is unaffected or may benefit.	Benefits	Harmed
Competition	Both species are harmed from the association	Harmed	Harmed

Q24. Consider the following statements with respect to Komodo dragon:

1. It is the largest living lizard species in the world
2. It is endemic to the Amazon forest
3. Komodo National Park was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

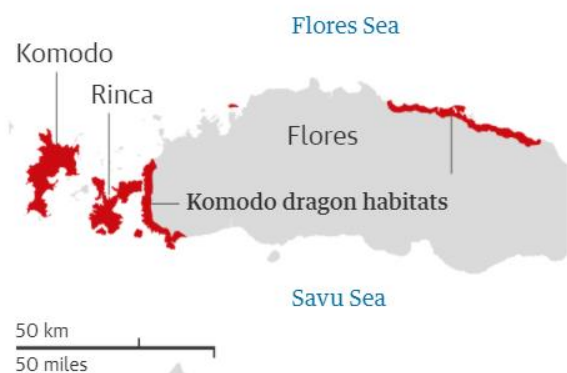
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

- It is the largest extant species of lizard.

- The Komodo dragon is a member of the monitor lizard family Varanidae that is endemic to some Indonesian islands.
- Found only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores they are listed as "endangered" under IUCN classification.
 - Komodo National Park was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991



Q25. The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from

- a) Katha Upanishad
- b) Chandogya Upanishad
- c) Aitareya Upanishad
- d) Mundaka Upanishad

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Satyameva Jayate is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad.

- Following the independence of India, it was adopted as the national motto of India. It is inscribed in the Devanagari script at the base of the Lion Capital of Ashoka and forms an integral part of the Indian national emblem.

Q26. Consider the following statements:

1. The Khilafat movement was launched under the leadership of the Ali Brothers.
2. Treaty of Versailles was a treaty signed between the Allies of World War I and the Ottoman Empire.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Khilafat movement was initiated under the leadership of the two Ali brothers namely Mohammed Ali and Shaukat Ali, Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani. The movement was started to support the Sultan of Turkey whom the Muslim population in India considered their religious head.
- The Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in Paris at the end of World War I, codified peace terms between the victorious Allies and Germany.
- The Treaty of Sèvres was a 1920 treaty signed between the Allies of World War I and the Ottoman Empire.

Q27. Which of the following is/are the applications of Doppler radar?

1. Radiology and healthcare
2. Weather Forecasting
3. Submarines
4. Aviation

Options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Doppler weather radars are remote sensing instruments and are capable of detecting particle type (rain, snow, hail, insects, etc), intensity, and motion. Radar data can be used to determine the structure of storms and to help with predicting the severity of storms.
- Doppler radars also find usage in the radiology and healthcare sector as well as the aviation sector.
- Submarines use Sonar (based on sound waves).

Q28. Consider the following statements:

1. He founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC) in 1906 to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company.
2. He was a great believer in the Swadeshi movement.
3. He is sometimes called 'Kappalottiya Tamilar'.

The above statements best describe:

- a) Subramanya Bharathi
- b) Chidambaram Pillai
- c) Rajagopalachari
- d) E.V.Ramasamy

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Valliyappan Ulaganathan Chidambaram Pillai, popularly known by his initials, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (also known as Kappalottiya Tamizhan or "The Tamil Helmsman"), was an Indian freedom fighter and leader of the Indian National Congress.
- He was a great believer in the Swadeshi movement.
- He founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company. He launched the first

indigenous Indian shipping service between Tuticorin and Colombo with the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC), competing against British ships.

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

1. The University Education Commission was set up in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S Radhakrishnan.
2. It recommended the establishment of the University Grants Commission along similar lines to the University Grants Committee of the United Kingdom.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Government of India appointed a University Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. S Radhakrishnan in November 1948. The Commission made a number of significant recommendations on various aspects of higher education and submitted its report in August 1949.
- It recommended the establishment of the University Grants Commission along similar lines to the University Grants Committee of the United Kingdom.

Q30. Which of the following is/are the function/functions of the Cabinet Secretariat?

1. Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
2. Secretarial assistance to Cabinet Committees
3. Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat under Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 includes Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees.
- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/Departments.
- The Secretariat assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ad hoc Committees of Secretaries.
- Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.
- Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries is not a function of the Cabinet Secretariat.

Q31. Which is the best description of NAMASYA Mobile App?

- a) It is an app developed exclusively for the benefit of NALCO's MSE Vendors
- b) It is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and the buyers.
- c) It is an app to log in and track the grievances of the consular services offered by the Indian embassies in foreign locations.
- d) It is an app where citizens can pay homage and contribute financially to the bereaved families of soldiers

Answer: a

Explanation:

- National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) is a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines.

- It has been playing a key role in empowering the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by providing a modern & innovative platform 'NALCO Micro and Small enterprise Yogayog Application' (NAMASYA).
- It is a bi-lingual App developed exclusively for the benefit of the Company's MSE Vendors.
 - The NAMASYA App provides a platform to highlight the Company's efforts towards the development of MSEs.
 - The App empowers MSEs with required information about the vendor registration process, items that can be supplied by them with technical specifications, vendor development and training programmes of NALCO.

Q32. Consider the following pairs:

Operation

Objective

1. Samudra Setu – national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Pawan – military operation undertaken by the IPKF to take control of the Jaffna Peninsula
3. Maitri – rescue and relief mission in quake-hit Nepal

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

Q33. With reference to Manda buffalo, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are found in the Western Ghats.
2. The Manda are resistant to parasitic infections and are less prone to diseases.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute, has recognised the Manda buffalo, as one of the unique breeds of buffaloes found in India.
- It is found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of the Koraput region of Odisha.

INDIGENOUS BREED		
Mandas are less prone to diseases and used for ploughing in southern Odisha	They give birth to a calf every 1.5 or 2 years for up to 20 years	Average milk yield of these buffaloes is 2 to 2.5 litre at a time
Buffalos can live, produce and reproduce at low or no input system		

Q34. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a landlocked country.
2. It is bordered by Russia to the east and northeast, and by Ukraine to the south.
3. It is not a member of the European Union.

The above statements describe:

- a) Poland
- b) Slovenia
- c) Belarus
- d) Lithuania

Answer: c

Explanation:



Q35. Consider the following pairs:

Region	Well-known for the production of
--------	----------------------------------

Kinnaur:	Areca nut
Mewat:	Mango
Coromandel:	Soya bean

Which of the above pairs is/ are correctly matched? (UPSC 2014)

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Kinnaur is known for Apples. It is in Himachal Pradesh.
- Mewat in Haryana is not known for Mangoes.
- Coromandel in Tamil Nadu is known for many agricultural crops but not Soya Bean.

- The production of soybean in India is dominated by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Q36. Which of the following are the applications of Turmeric?

1. Food colouring agent
2. Flavouring agent
3. Dyeing agent
4. Traditional medicine

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Turmeric has a warm, bitter taste and is frequently used to flavour or colour curry powders, mustards, butters, and cheeses.
- Turmeric provides a natural dye to colour cloth, leather, silk, palm fibre, wool and cotton.
- Because curcumin and other chemicals in turmeric might decrease swelling, it is often used to treat conditions that involve pain and inflammation. Turmeric is used as a herbal medicine for rheumatoid arthritis, chronic anterior uveitis, conjunctivitis, skin cancer, small pox, chicken pox, wound healing, urinary tract infections, and liver ailments.

Q37. Which of the following statements are incorrect?

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people.
2. It was created in 1950 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II.
3. The 1951 Refugee Convention established the scope and legal framework of the agency's work, which initially focused on Europeans uprooted by the war.
4. India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Established in 1950 after the end of WWII, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a UN agency mandated to help and protect refugees, internally displaced and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- It was created in 1950 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II.
- The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of UNHCR work. With 149 State parties to either or both, they define the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them.
- India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework. However, it continues to grant asylum to a large number of refugees from neighbouring States and respects UNHCR's mandate for other nationals, mainly from Afghanistan and Myanmar.

Q38. Which constitutional provision provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats?

- a) Article 15
- b) Article 239A
- c) Article 243D
- d) Article 280

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Article 243D of the Indian Constitution deals with the reservation of seats in Panchayats.
- It lays down provisions for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women.

Q39. What does the 'Vidyanjali 2.0 portal' provide for?

- a) Online learning support and study resources to adults and illiterates
- b) Scholarships for Indian students studying in elite universities abroad
- c) Facilitates private donors, CSR contributions and volunteering activities for school development
- d) Creates a platform for teachers to form a community and share best practices

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The recently launched Vidyanjali 2.0 portal will help facilitate private donors, corporate social responsibility contributions and volunteering activities towards school education in India. Thus the portal would help coordinate private contributions for school development.
- The increased private sector participation will help increase the quality of education in government schools.

Q40. The term 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of (UPSC-2016)

- a) mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich but backward areas
- b) curbing of tax evasion by multinational companies
- c) exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies
- d) lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to tax planning strategies used by multinational enterprises that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to avoid paying tax.

Q41. With reference to Minimum Support Price (MSP), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Minimum Support Price was introduced by the Centre for the first time in the year 1991 to reduce the impact on farming because of LPG reforms.

2. The government announces the MSP at the start of each cropping season.
3. MSP doesn't have any legal stature.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- MSP for the first time was introduced in the 1960s to incentivise the farmers and boost production.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- There is no statutory backing for these prices or any law mandating their implementation.

Q42. Therukoothu, a street theatre form, is practised in the State of

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: d

Explanation:

- It is a street theatre form practised in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- The stories are derived from the Puranas, the Mahabharata, and the Ramayana.

Q43. Which of the following pollutants is/are emitted from cement industries?

1. Particulate Matter
2. Carbon Monoxide
3. Sulphur Dioxide

4. Nitrogen Dioxide

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:

- The cement industry has been categorized as a highly polluting industry by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The main pollutants emitted from cement industries include Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).

Q44. Consider the following statements with respect to PMGDISHA Scheme:

1. It is applicable only to rural areas of the country.
2. The implementation of the Scheme would be carried out under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In order to impart digital literacy to the people in the rural areas free of cost, a digital literacy programme named Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan was launched by the Government of India. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan is also popularly known as PMGDisha.

- Under the programme, the citizens in rural areas would be taught to operate a computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. The knowledge of accessing the government services with the help of the internet, undertaking digital payments, writing and receiving emails, browsing the internet, searching for information, etc. would be imparted to the rural citizens.
- PMGDisha is being implemented under the Digital India Programme.
- It is one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world.

Q45. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to (2014)

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The main shrine is built on a rectangular plinth with four subsidiary shrines that are smaller and at the 4 corners.
- There are a total of five shrines and hence the name, Panchayatana.

Q46. A parliamentary system of government is one in which [UPSC 2020]

- a) All political parties in the Parliament are represented in the Government
- b) The Government is responsible to the Parliament and can be removed by it
- c) The Government is elected by the people and can be removed by them
- d) The Government is chosen by the Parliament but cannot be removed by it before completion of a fixed term

Answer: b

Q47. With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events? [UPSC 2020]

- a) The Revolt of 1857
- b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60
- d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899 – 1900

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Munda Ulgulan was a revolt against British rule led by the Munda leader Birsa Munda.

Q48. Siachen Glacier is situated to the [UPSC 2020]

- a) East of Aksai Chin
- b) East of Leh
- c) North of Gilgit
- d) North of Nubra Valley

Answer: d

Explanation:



Image source: <https://www.spslandforces.com/>

Q49. With reference to Foreign Direct Investment in India, which one of the following is considered its major characteristics? [UPSC 2020]

- a) It is the investment through capital instruments essentially in a listed company
- b) It is a largely non-debt creating capital flow
- c) It is the investment which involves debt-servicing
- d) It is the investment made by foreign institutional investors in the Government securities

Answer: b

Q50. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead and mercury.
- 2. Coal-fired power plants release sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen into the environment.
- 3. High ash content is observed in Indian coal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [UPSC 2020]

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

Q51. With reference to National Commission for Minorities (NCM), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The Constitution of India defines the word 'Minority' on the basis of religion
- 2. Five religious communities are notified as minority communities
- 3. Each Member of the commission holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Constitution of India uses the word 'minority' or its plural form in some Articles viz Article 20 to 30 and 350 A to 350 B, but does not define the word 'minority'.
- The Constitution recognises religious and linguistic minorities.
- Six religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by the Union Government all over India.
- National Commission for Minorities consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities. Total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government should be from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity.
- Each Member holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office.

Q52. Which of the following statements about Rice Fortification is/are correct?

1. The cooking of fortified rice does not require any special procedure.
2. Rice Fortification process increases the cost

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Food fortification or enrichment is the process of adding micronutrients (essential trace elements and vitamins) to food. It can be carried out by food manufacturers, or by

governments as a public health policy which aims to reduce the number of people with dietary deficiencies within a population.

- Fortifying rice makes it more nutritious by adding vitamins and minerals in the post – harvest phase; many of which are lost during the milling and polishing process. Rice fortification may be considered as having the highest potential to fill the gap in current staple food fortification programs as it is the staple food of 65 percent of the Indian population and reaches the most vulnerable and poorer section – with the highest uptake in the government safety net programmes .
- Notably, the cooking of fortified rice does not require any special procedure which will help increase its uptake.
- However, rice Fortification process increases the cost of such rice. Hence the government intervention is essential to make it accessible for poorer sections of the society.

Q53. With respect to India's military exercises with the Central Asian Countries, which of the following is/are incorrectly matched?

Military Exercise	Country
1. KAZIND	Kazakhstan
2. Prabal Dostyk	Kyrgyzstan
3. Khanjar	Turkmenistan

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- 'PRABAL DOSTYK' is a joint training exercise between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army.
- Khanjar is a military exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan

Q54. Consider the following statements with respect to ATL Space Challenge 2021:

1. It is an initiative of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), ISRO, NASA and ESA.
2. The challenge will allow private players to focus on building new technologies for the space sector

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation and Central Board of Secondary Education successfully launched the ATL Space Challenge 2021 for all school students across the country.
- This is to ensure that students of classes 6 to 12 are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve digital age space technology problems.
- The challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Laboratories but for all the non ATL schools as well.

Q55. Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State? (UPSC-2014)

1. Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule
2. Appointing the Ministers
3. Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India
4. Making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Governor appoints the Ministers based and distributes portfolios to them on the advice of the chief minister.
- Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule and reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State

Q56. Consider the following statements about the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER):

1. It is one of India's oldest economic and social research institutes formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet.
2. National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) established under NCAER represents India in Global Economic Forums.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) is one of India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic and social research institutes. It was not formed by a resolution of the Union Cabinet. It was set up by funding from the Ford Foundation, the Finance Ministry and Tata Sons.
- It engages in economic research.
- NCAER has set up a National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) to serve as a laboratory for experiments in data collection, interfacing with partners in think tanks, Indian and international universities, and government. NDIC forms an important core of NCAER's long-standing data collection activities.

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

1. NATGRID as an idea was mooted after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
2. Initially, State agencies won't have direct access to NATGRID.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- NATGRID or the National Intelligence Grid is a part of the radical revamp of the intelligence and security framework of India.
- NATGRID as an idea was mooted after the 2008 – 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- Initially, State agencies won't have direct access to NATGRID. 10 Central agencies will be able to access the information gathered by NATGRID. They are Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Directorate General of Central Excise and Intelligence (DGCEI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- However, the state agencies can extract the information by contacting these 10 central agencies that have direct access to NATGRID.

Q58. Which of the following statements about National Commission for Women is/are correct?

1. National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body during the emergency period.
2. The Chairperson, Members and Member Secretary nominated by the Central Government should only be women.

Options:

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

d) None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body in 1992.
- The Chairperson, Members and Member Secretary nominated by the Central Government are not necessarily women.
 - Chairperson: The central government should nominate the chairperson.
 - Five members: The five members are also to be nominated by the central government from amongst the person of ability, integrity, and standing. They should possess experience in various fields like law or legislation, trade unionism, management of industry potential of women, women's voluntary organization, education, administration, economic development, and social good-being.
 - Member Secretary: The Central Government also nominates member secretary. He/ she should be either an expert in the field of management, an organization, or an officer who is a member.

Q59. Which of the following schemes will be implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana?

1. Mega Food Parks
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
3. Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
4. Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
5. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Component Schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana are:

1. Mega Food Park
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
3. Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities
4. Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters
5. Creation of Backward & Forward linkages
6. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
7. Operation Greens

Q60. With reference to the Neem tree, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2014)

1. Neem oil can be used as a pesticide to control the proliferation of some species of insects and mites.
2. Neem seeds are used in the manufacture of biofuels and hospital detergents.
3. Neem oil has applications in the pharmaceutical industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Neem oil can be used as a pesticide to control the proliferation of some species of insects and mites.
- Neem seeds are used in the manufacture of biofuels and hospital detergents.
- Neem oil has applications in the pharmaceutical industry.

Q61. With reference to Siachen Glacier, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Siachen Glacier is located in the eastern Karakoram Range in the Himalayas.
2. It is the longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas.
3. Operation Vijay was the codename for the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Siachen Glacier is located in the Eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas, just northeast of Point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- It is the second-longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas.
- Operation Meghdoot was the codename for the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier.

Q62. Consider the following statements:

1. Office of Economic Advisor (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry calculates the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
2. The Base Year of the CPI is 2012.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India comprises multiple series classified based on different economic groups. T

Types of CPI

CPI for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It tries to measure the alterations over a time period on the prices of a fixed basket of goods and services utilised by Industrial Workers. The target group would be an average working-class family from any of these seven sectors of the economy ranging from factories, mines, plantation, motor transport, port, railways to electricity generation and distribution. Compiled by the Labour Bureau.
CPI for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Labour Bureau compiles this data to revise minimum wages for agricultural labour in different States.
CPI for Rural Labourer (CPI-RL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also compiled by the Labour Bureau.
CPI (Urban Non-Manual Employees) (CPI-UNME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Central Statistics Office (CSO)</i> which is now the <i>National Statistical Office (NSO)</i> compiles this data <p>CSO is under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation</p>

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has revised the Base Year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2010 to 2012 with effect from the month of January 2015.

Q63. Which of the following statements about SVAMITVA Scheme is/are incorrect?

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for creating accurate land records.

Options:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both
- None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- The scheme is a reformative step towards the establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) areas, by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing 'Record of Rights' to village household owners with the issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners.

Q64. Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) recently seen in news, was launched by India and

- a) UK
- b) France
- c) Germany
- d) USA

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) which is one of the main tracks of the U.S.-India Agenda 2030 Partnership, was initiated during the recently concluded official visit of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate to India.
- Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) would be based on the following three pillars.
 - Climate action: It would consist of joint proposals looking at ways to reduce greenhouse gases emissions in the next decade.
 - Renewable energy: It would set out a roadmap to achieve the 450GW renewable energy target in transportation, buildings and industry.
 - Finance: This would involve collaborating on attracting finance for renewable energy projects. It will focus on delivering climate finances primarily as grants and concessional finance as envisaged under the Paris Agreement.

Q65. Who of the following founded a new city on the south bank of a tributary to river Krishna and undertook to rule his new kingdom as the agent of a deity to whom all the land south of the river Krishna was supposed to belong? (UPSC- 2015)

- a) Amoghavarsha I
- b) Ballala II
- c) Harihara I
- d) Prataparudra II

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Harihara I was the founder of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- He founded a new city on the south bank of a tributary to river Krishna and undertook to rule his new kingdom as the agent of a deity to whom all the land south of the river Krishna was supposed to belong.
- He initially established his control over the valley of Tungabhadra River and gradually he expanded his control to certain regions of Konkan and Malabar Coast.

Q66. Aedes aegypti mosquito transmits which of the following viral disease/s?

1. Malaria
2. Dengue
3. Zika
4. Lymphatic filariasis
5. Yellow Fever

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Aedes aegypti is known to transmit the dengue virus, yellow fever virus, chikungunya virus, and Zika virus.
- Malaria is transmitted to humans by female mosquitoes of the genus Anopheles.
- Lymphatic filariasis, considered globally as a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD), is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic, thread-like worms. The adult worms only live in the human lymph system. Lymphatic filariasis is spread by infected mosquitoes.
 - A wide range of mosquitoes can transmit the parasite, depending on the geographic area. In Africa, the most common vector is Anopheles and in the

Americas, it is *Culex quinquefasciatus*. *Aedes* and *Mansonia* can transmit the infection in the Pacific and in Asia.

Q67. Which of the given statements with respect to Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) is/are correct?

1. It is an association of Micro Finance Institutions operating as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
2. It is recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. It is the first association in the business of micro-lending to be given the self-regulatory organization (SRO) status by RBI.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) is a self-regulatory organization of NBFC MFIs that aims to work with regulators to promote microfinance to achieve larger financial inclusion goals.
- It is recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It is the first association in the business of micro-lending to be given the self-regulatory organization (SRO) status by RBI.

Q68. He established a "Provisional Government of India" in Kabul in the middle of World War I in 1915, which served as the Indian Government in exile. He is popularly known as "Aryan Peshwa". He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932.

The Indian freedom fighter being talked about is:

- a) Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III of Baroda
- b) Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh
- c) Shyamji Krishna Varma
- d) Manabendra Nath Roy

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh was an Indian freedom fighter, journalist, writer, revolutionary, President in the Provisional Government of India, which served as the Indian Government in exile during World War I from Kabul in 1915.
- He is popularly known as "Aryan Peshwa".
- He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932.

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

1. India and United Kingdom have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a zero-tariff regime.
2. The countries recently signed Mutual Recognition Agreements in selective services like nursing and architecture services.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Union government has announced that formal negotiations for a proposed India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will begin on November 1, 2021.
- India and the U.K. are still exploring signing a few mutual recognition agreements in selective services like nursing and architecture services

Q70. The Vital-Vidhvansak, the first monthly journal to have the untouchable people as its target audience was published by: (UPSC-2014)

- a) Gopal Baba Walangkar
- b) Jyotiba Phule
- c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
- d) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In 1888, Gopal Baba Walangkar began publishing the monthly journal titled Vital-Vidhvansak (Destroyer of Brahmanical or Ceremonial Pollution), which was the first to have the untouchable people as its target audience.

Q71. Which of the following statements about Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is/are correct?

1. It is a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Any Rural poor who is willing to be entrepreneurial and self-reliant is eligible to be part of this programme.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is implemented by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, as a sub-scheme since 2016.
- With an objective to support the rural poor come out of poverty, supporting them set up enterprises and provide support till the enterprises stabilize, SVEP focusses on providing self-employment opportunities with financial assistance and training in business management and soft skills while creating local community cadres for promotion of enterprises.
- SVEP addresses three major pillars of rural start-ups namely – finances, incubation and skill ecosystems.
- Any rural poor who is willing to be entrepreneurial and self-reliant is eligible to be part of this programme.

Q72. Consider the following statements about Geological Survey of India (GSI):

1. It is headquartered in Mumbai.
2. It is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
3. Geological Survey of India has been the sole custodian for all meteorite "falls" or "finds" within Indian Territory.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Geological Survey of India was founded in 1851 by the East India Company. Currently, it functions as an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Geological Survey of India has been the sole custodian for all meteorite "falls" or "finds" within Indian Territory.

Q73. With reference to Gold Monetization Scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. All Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding RRBs will be eligible to implement the Scheme.
2. Earnings under the Gold Monetisation Scheme are exempt from capital gains tax and income tax.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Investors can make term deposits of their idle gold under Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS), which provides them safety and interest earnings. With gold deposited in GMS, investors save the storage cost for keeping their precious metal safe, while still benefiting from its capital appreciation. Gold can be deposited in any form — gold bars, coins or jewellery, and the depositor also has the option to either take cash or gold on redemption. Another lucrative benefit comes with interest earned on the gold deposited by investors being exempt from capital gains tax and income tax.
- In the case of medium and long-term deposits, investors can earn up to 2.25 per cent per annum.
- All Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding RRBs will be eligible to implement the Scheme.
- The objective of the Scheme is to mobilise gold held by households and institutions of the country and facilitate its use for productive purposes, and in the long run, to reduce the country's reliance on the import of gold.

Q74. Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION is a joint military exercise conducted by

- a) BIMSTEC
- b) Commonwealth Countries
- c) NATO
- d) SCO

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Peaceful Mission Exercise is being held between the member-states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia in the Orenburg region.
- The joint counter-terrorism exercise 'Peaceful Mission' is a multilateral exercise, which is conducted biennially as part of military diplomacy between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

Q75. Who of the following organized a march on the Tanjore coast to break the Salt Law in April 1930? (UPSC-2015)

- a) V. O. Chidambaram Pillai

- b) C. Rajagopalachari
- c) K. Kamaraj
- d) Annie Besant

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha was a march started by Indian statesman C. Rajagopalachari, inspired by the Dandi March. C. Rajagopalachari, a close associate of Gandhi, led the march which had close to 150 volunteers.
- It began at Trichinopoly (now Tiruchirappalli) on 13 April 1930 and proceeded for about 150 miles towards the east before reaching Vedaranyam, a small coastal town in the then Tanjore District (Madras Presidency). By collecting salt directly from the sea the marchers broke the salt law.
- The march along with the ones at Dandi and Dharasana drew worldwide attention to the Indian independence movement.

Q76. Why are nuclear-powered submarines preferred over conventional diesel-electric submarines?

1. They can operate for long periods underwater as they need not surface frequently
2. They are harder to detect
3. They do not contribute to emissions
4. They have higher chances of surviving a first-nuclear strike

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Nuclear powered submarines can be deployed for longer periods and need to surface less frequently.
- They have longer ranges and are more capable compared to the conventional diesel-electric submarines. Unlike conventional submarines, which are generally considered

helpful for defensive purposes, the ability of a nuclear-powered submarine to go long distances, at a higher speed, without being detected gives a nation the ability to protect its interests far from its shores.

- Also given that they can stay put in deep waters for longer periods, they have higher chances of surviving a first nuclear strike.
- Given that they do not emit combustion products as in conventional diesel-based submarines during the surfacing phase, they have a low heat signature and hence are difficult to detect.
- Notably, the fact that nuclear-powered submarines do not give rise to emissions is not a reason for choosing them over conventional diesel-electric submarines.

Q77. The RS Virus primarily affects which function in humans?

- a) Reproduction
- b) RNA synthesis
- c) Ribosomal activity
- d) Respiration

Answer: d

Explanation:

- RS (Respiratory Syncytial) Virus primarily affects respiration function in humans.
- Respiratory syncytial virus, also called human respiratory syncytial virus and human orthopneumovirus, is a very common, contagious virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract.

Q78. What best describes the term 'bad bank', seen recently in news?

- a) A bank used by those involved in money laundering and fraudulent activities
- b) A bank which is unable to honour its depositors
- c) A bank that takes over and resolves non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking system
- d) A bank which deliberately violates the regulations of the central bank

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A bad bank is a bank set up to buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of another financial institution. The entity holding significant nonperforming assets will sell these holdings to the bad bank at market price.
- It will then manage and dispose of the assets to potential investors for eventual value realization. In other words, it will hold problem loans for public sector banks which can then be sold on to investors at a reduced price. This will ultimately help clean up the balance sheets of banks.

Q79. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The 'Doing Business' report is brought out by the World Economic Forum.
2. Its publication has been recently discontinued due to data irregularities and ethical concerns.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The 'Doing Business' report is brought out by the World Bank.
- The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue publication of its 'Doing Business' rankings of country business climates after a review of data irregularities and ethical concerns in the 2018 and 2020 reports. The World Bank will work on a new approach to assessing countries' business and investment climates.

Q80. Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences? (UPSC-2017)

1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

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 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Butterflies pollinate plants and hence a fall in their population could result in a scenario where pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
- Fungi is one of the foods which butterflies consume. Similarly, a butterfly is one of the agents which helps in the distribution of fungi spores. If there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, the possibility of a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants is unlikely. "Drastic increase" and "some cultivated plants" are words that are vague and extreme and hence could be considered incorrect.
- Wasps, spiders and birds are predators of butterflies at some stage of their lifetime. The fall in the number of butterflies could reduce their number as well as forms a part of its food chain.

Q81. With reference to joint military exercises with India, which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Mitra Shakti – Nepal
2. Surya Kiran – Sri Lanka
3. Maitree – Thailand

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Mitra Shakti exercise is a bilateral joint military exercise between the armies of India and Sri Lanka. It is also called the India-Sri Lanka Joint Training exercise.
- Surya Kiran is a bilateral Joint Military Exercise between Indian and Nepal.

- Exercise Maitree is a bilateral exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army, started off in 2006. It is an annual event between the troops of the armies of both countries. It is also called Indo-Thailand Joint Exercise.

Q82. Which of the following is/are the advantages of millet production?

1. Millets are termed as the 'crops of the future' as they can not only grow under harsh circumstances but are drought-resistant crops.
2. Millets help in curbing obesity.
3. Millets contribute to mitigating climate change as it helps reduce the atmospheric carbon.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Millets are nutritionally superior to wheat and rice owing to their higher levels of protein with a more balanced amino acid profile, crude fibre and minerals such as Iron, Zinc, and Phosphorous.
- Millets provide nutritional security and act as a shield against nutritional deficiency, especially among children and women.
- Millets are termed as the 'crops of the future' as they can not only grow under harsh circumstances but are drought-resistant crops.
- Millets help in curbing obesity.
- Millets contribute to mitigating climate change as it helps reduce the atmospheric carbon.

Q83. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism is an organ of

- a) CSTO
- b) SCO
- c) African Union
- d) ASEAN

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Q84. Which of the following countries are part of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)?

1. Armenia
2. Belarus
3. Kazakhstan
4. Russian Federation
5. Tajikistan
6. Uzbekistan

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Country	Year of Entry into CSTO
Armenia	1994
Belarus	1994
Kazakhstan	1994
Kyrgyzstan	1994
Russia	1994
Tajikistan	1994

Uzbekistan was formerly a member of CSTO but withdrew in 2012.

Q85. With reference to Indian history, which of the following is/are the essential element/elements of the feudal system? (UPSC 2015)

1. A very strong centralized political authority and a very weak provincial or local political authority.
2. Emergence of administrative structure based on control and possession of land.
3. Creation of lord-vassal relationship between the feudal lord and his overlord.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Following are the essential elements of the feudal system:

- The emergence of an administrative structure based on control and possession of land.
- Creation of lord-vassal relationship between the feudal lord and his overlord.

Q86. Which of the following is/are the components of National Mission for Sustained Agriculture?

1. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
2. Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF)
3. National Bamboo Mission (NBM)
4. Soil Health Management (SHM)
5. Green India Mission (GIM)

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one of the major missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Components of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture:

- Soil Health Management (SHM)
- Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
- Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF)
- National Bamboo Mission (NBM)
- Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN)

Green India Mission:

- The National Mission for a Green India or the commonly called Green India Mission (GIM), is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It was launched in February, 2014 with the objective to safeguard the biological resources of our nation and associated livelihoods against the peril of adverse climate change and to recognise the vital impact of forestry on ecological sustainability, biodiversity conservation and food-, water- and livelihood-security.
- It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures. It envisages a holistic view of greening that extends beyond tree planting. GIM focusses on multiple ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, biomass, preserving mangroves, wetlands, critical habitats etc. along with carbon sequestration.

Q87. Which of the given statements with respect to Lala Lajpat Rai is/are INCORRECT?

1. He founded the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York City
2. He established the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore.
3. He authored the book 'Young India'.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Lala Lajpat Rai was an Indian independence activist who played a pivotal role in the Indian Independence movement. He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari.
- Some of his important contributions include the following:
 - He founded the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York City
 - He established the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore.
 - He authored the book 'Young India'.

Q88. Makemake, Eris and Haumea seen in News are:

- a) Supermassive black holes
- b) Dwarf Planets
- c) Asteroids
- d) Lunar Craters

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Makemake, Eris and Haumea are dwarf planets along with Pluto and Ceres.
 - Eris, the largest dwarf planet, is only slightly bigger than Pluto.
 - Haumea dwarf planet has an extremely elongated shape. Haumea rotates very rapidly and has the shortest day of all the dwarf planets.
 - Makemake, discovered in 2005, has no known moons
 - Ceres, first spotted by astronomers in 1801, was first called a planet and later an asteroid. In 2006 it was reclassified as a dwarf planet. Ceres is the closest dwarf planet to Earth.

Q89. Which of the given statements with respect to POSHAN Abhiyan is/are INCORRECT?

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing agency.

2. Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog is the Chairperson of the National Council on Nutrition set up under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
3. The goals of the mission are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under the age of 14 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children (0-6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing agency of the POSHAN Abhiyan
- Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog is the Chairperson of the National Council on Nutrition set up under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Q90. With reference to India's Desert National Park, which of the following statements are correct? (UPSC-2020)

1. It is spread over two districts.
2. There is no human habitation inside the Park.
3. It is one of the natural habitats of the Great Indian Bustard.

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: c

Explanation:

- Desert National Park is a national park situated in the Indian state of Rajasthan. This is one of the largest national parks. It is spread over the two districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer.
- The endangered great Indian bustard is found in this national park.
- The given statement that there is no human habitation inside the Desert National Park seems like an extreme statement and hence incorrect.

Q91. Which is the only country to have withdrawn from the Non-Proliferation Treaty?

- a) Iran
- b) North Korea
- c) Israel
- d) Pakistan

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
- Israel and Pakistan are non-signatories to the NPT.
- While North Korea acceded to the treaty in 1985, it gave notice of withdrawal from the treaty in 2003 following U.S. allegations that it had started an illegal enriched uranium weapons program.
- Iran is a party to the NPT since 1970 but was found in non-compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement, and the status of its nuclear program remains in dispute.

Q92. What best describes the term 'stablecoin', seen frequently in news?

- a) A new coin being minted by the RBI that uses a stable metal to prevent corrosion
- b) A debt instrument being introduced by the US Federal Reserve to help fund an economic stimulus package
- c) A type of cryptocurrency that is typically pegged to an existing government-backed currency
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:

- A stablecoin is a new class of crypto currencies that attempts to offer price stability and are backed by a reserve asset.
- Stablecoins have gained traction as they attempt to offer the best of both worlds—the instant processing and security or privacy of payments of crypto currencies, and the volatility-free stable valuations of fiat currencies.

Q93. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. In 2020, India established the world's first sea cucumber conservation area.
2. In India, the commercial harvesting and transportation of sea cucumbers is banned.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Sea cucumbers are echinoderms. They are marine animals with leathery skin and an elongated body containing a single, branched gonad. Sea cucumbers are found on the seafloor worldwide.
- In India, the commercial harvesting and transportation of sea cucumbers is banned.
- The Dr KK Mohammed Koya Sea Cucumber Conservation Reserve is the first sea cucumber conservation area in the world. It is located in the Cheriyanani Reef in the Indian Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It was formed in 2020. It covers an area of 239 km².

Q94. This migrant species of penguin is endemic to the Pacific coasts of Chile and Peru. It is named after a popular cold water oceanic current in the region. It grows to an average height of just over 2 feet and is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. This description refers to which species of Penguin?

- a) Magellanic Penguin
- b) Humboldt Penguin
- c) Emperor Penguin
- d) Galápagos Penguin

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Humboldt penguin is a South American penguin living mainly in the Humboldt National Reserve in the North of Chile, although its habitat comprises most of coastal Peru and Chile.
- In South America, the Humboldt penguin is found only along the Pacific coast.
- It is named after the Humboldt oceanic current.
 - The Humboldt Current is a cold water ocean current that flows north from Antarctica along the west coast of South America, bringing nutrient-rich water to the Galapagos Islands and helping to sustain the island's rich biodiversity.
- Humboldt penguins are medium-sized penguins.
- It is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.

Q95. If another global financial crisis happens in the near future, which of the following actions/policies are most likely to give some immunity to India? (UPSC-2020)

1. Not depending on the short term foreign borrowing
2. Opening up to more foreign banks
3. Maintaining full capital account convertibility

Select the correct answer using the given code below-

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Opening up to more of the volatile short term foreign borrowing, opening up to more foreign

banks or the full capital account convertibility will only increase India's vulnerability to any future global financial crisis as this will entail large scale withdrawal of foreign investments in India which will adversely impact its macro-economic stability.

Q96. Which of the following are the Arya Satyas in Buddhism?

1. Dukkha
2. Samudaya
3. Sangha
4. Nirodha
5. Magga

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

In Buddhism, the Four Noble Truths or the four Arya satyas are the truths or realities for the spiritually worthy ones. The truths are:

- Dukkha – The truth of suffering
- Samudaya – The truth of origin of suffering
- Nirodha – The truth of the end of suffering
- Magga – The truth of the path to the end of suffering

Q97. SAMUDRA SHAKTI is a Naval Bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and

- a) Thailand
- b) Indonesia
- c) South Africa
- d) Maldives

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Indonesia.
- The maritime exercise was conceived in pursuance of India's Act East Policy.

Q98. With respect to Global Innovation Index, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is published by World Economic Forum.
2. GII was published for the first time in 2007. The Index is published biennially ever since.
3. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII).

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation.
- GII was published for the first time in 2007. It is published annually.
- It is published by INSEAD, Cornell University and World Intellectual Property Organization.
- India has been ranked 46th in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings. It has improved by 2 spots from the last ranking. India was ranked 81 in 2015. It has consistently been on a rising trajectory in the GII rankings.

Q99. Consider the following pairs:

Species	Recently discovered in
1. Musa pradhanii	Darjeeling
2. Sygygium anamalaianum	Coimbatore
3. Selaginella odishana	Kandhamal

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Plant Discoveries 2020 by the Botanical Survey of India has added 267 new taxa/species to India's flora. Among the new discoveries this year are:

- *Musa pradhanii* from Darjeeling, which is a species of wild banana.
- *Syzygium anamalaianum*, a species of wild jamun from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
- *Selaginella odishana* from Kandhamal in Odisha.

Q100. Consider the following pairs:

Place of Pilgrimage	Location
1. Srisailem	Nallamala Hills
2. Omkareshwar	Satmala Hills
3. Pushkar	Mahadeo Hills

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The holy town of Srisailem is located on top of Nallamala Hills.

- Omkareshwar is located on the island of Mandhata, next to the banks of the Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh.
- Pushkar temple is located atop Ratnagiri hill in Rajasthan.

Q101. Consider the following statements:

1. E V Ramaswami was never part of the Indian National Congress as he felt it served the interests of a few elite sections of society.
2. E V Ramaswami came from Tamil Nadu to support the Vaikom Satyagraha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Periyar E. V. Ramasamy was a Dravidian social reformer and politician from India, who founded the Self-Respect Movement and Dravidar Kazhagam.
- In 1919 Periyar Ramaswamy joined the Indian National Congress. In 1922, Periyar was elected the President of the Madras Presidency Congress Committee during the Tirupur session where he advocated strongly for reservation in government jobs and education.
- He quit the Congress in 1925 owing to some differences with the working of the Congress.
- In Vaikom, a small town in Kerala state, then Travancore, there were strict laws of untouchability in and around the temple area. Dalits, also known as Harijans, were not allowed into the streets around and leading to the temple. In 1924 Vaikom was chosen as a place for an organised Satyagraha. Periyar and his wife Nagamma arrived in Vaikom for the satyagraha.

Q102. Which of the following items are included under the Concurrent List?

1. Public health and sanitation
2. Marriage and divorce
3. Criminal procedure
4. Charities and charitable institutions

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: b

Explanation:

- The Concurrent List is a list of subjects given in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It includes the power to be considered by both the union and state government.
- The subjects of marriage and divorce, criminal procedure and charities and charitable institutions come under the concurrent list while Public health and sanitation is a state subject.

Q103. With reference to Asian Development Bank (ADB), which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank.
2. Japan holds the largest share in ADB, followed by China and India.
3. Only countries from Asia can be part of ADB.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines. India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank.

- Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by U.S.A (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%).
- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

Q104. Which of the following is/are the Nerve agents?

1. Sarin (GB)
2. Soman (GD)
3. Tabun (GA)
4. VX

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Nerve agents, sometimes also called nerve gases, are a class of organic chemicals that disrupt the mechanisms by which nerves transfer messages to organs. The disruption is caused by the blocking of acetylcholinesterase (AChE), an enzyme that catalyzes the breakdown of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter. Nerve agents are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors used as poison.
- The main nerve agents are the chemicals sarin (GB), soman (GD), tabun (GA) and VX.

Q105. In the context of modern scientific research, consider the following statements about 'IceCube', a particle detector located at South Pole, which was recently in the news:

1. It is the world's largest neutrino detector, encompassing a cubic kilometre of ice.
2. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter.
3. It is buried deep in the ice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- IceCube, the South Pole neutrino observatory, is a cubic-kilometer particle detector made of Antarctic ice and located near the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. It is buried beneath the surface, extending to a depth of about 2,500 meters. A surface array, IceTop, and a denser inner subdetector, DeepCore, significantly enhance the capabilities of the observatory, making it a multipurpose facility.
- It is the world's largest neutrino detector. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter.

Q106. Which of the following committees are associated with preserving the ecology and conservation of Western Ghats?

1. Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee
2. Pitamber Committee
3. Madhav Gadgil Committee
4. BP Jeevan Reddy Committee

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- K. Kasturirangan committee and Madhav Gadgil committee are related to preserving the ecology and conservation of Western Ghats.
- In November 2004, the Central government appointed a five-member committee headed by Justice B P Jeevan Reddy to review the provisions of the AFSPA in the northeastern states.

- On the eve of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in 1972, popularly called the Stockholm Conference, the Pitamber Committee was set up to make a report on the state of the environment in India.

Q107. Which of the following statements with respect to the Swadeshi Movement is/are INCORRECT?

1. It is also known as the Vande Mataram Movement.
2. The movement spread to Madras under Chidambaram Pillai.
3. It remained confined to the upper and middle classes and zamindars, and failed to reach masses especially the peasantry.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Swadeshi movement was part of the Indian independence movement. After the partition of Bengal, the Swadeshi movement was formally started in August 1905 to curb foreign goods by relying on domestic production.
- It is also known as the Vande Mataram Movement.
- The movement spread to Madras under Chidambaram Pillai.
- It remained confined to the upper and middle classes and zamindars, and failed to reach masses especially the peasantry.

Q108. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Strait

Joining Seas/Water Bodies

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Hormuz Strait | The Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf |
| 2. Bab-el-Mandeb | The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea |
| 3. Sunda Strait | The South China Sea and the East China Sea |

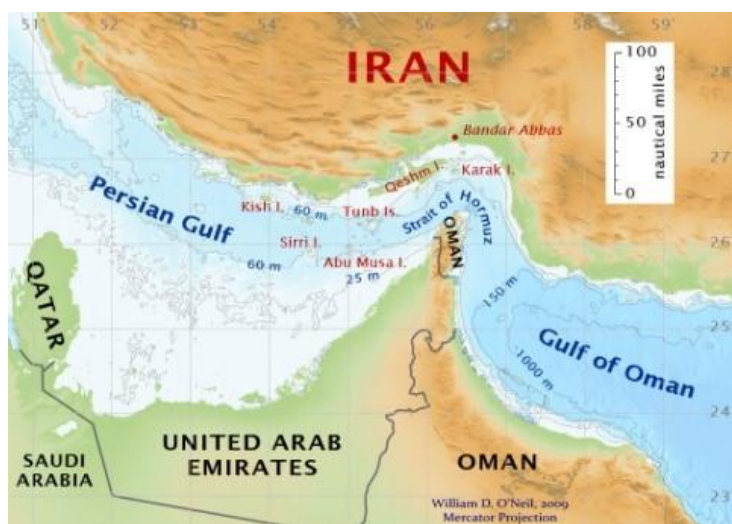
Options:

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

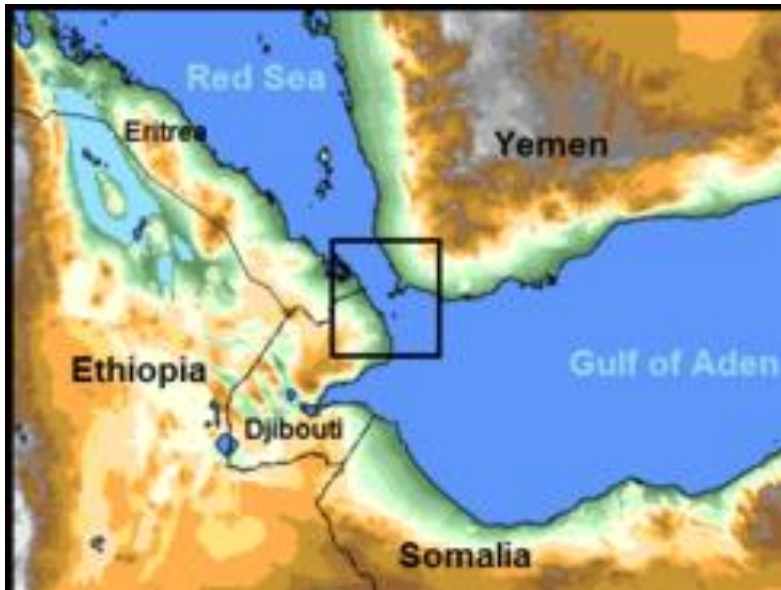
Answer: b

Explanation:

- Hormuz strait connects the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.



- The Bab-el-Mandeb strait connects the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.



- The Sunda Strait is the strait between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra. It connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean.



Q109. Consider the following statements with respect to Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, frequently in news:

1. It defines the punishment for sending offensive messages through a computer or any other communication device.
2. The Supreme Court struck down this section declaring it as violative of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 made it a punishable offence for any person to send 'grossly offensive' or 'menacing' information using a computer resource or communication device.
- The Supreme Court in the Shreya Singhal case struck down this section declaring it as violative of the freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

Q110. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?

- a) Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto
- b) Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government
- c) Foundation of Muslim League
- d) Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the Indian National Congress

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Surat Split was a turning point in the history of the Nationalist Movement in India. The main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat was the lack of faith that Extremists had in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government.

- The two main demands placed by the extremists were:
 - Demand for the resolution of Swaraj
 - Lala Lajpat Rai to be made the President of the INC
- These two demands were not acceptable to the moderates. Thus, instead of Lala Lajpat Rai, the moderates supported the idea of Rash Behari Ghosh as the President.

Q111. Consider the following statements:

1. PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs but PM_{2.5} can even enter the bloodstream, primarily resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory impacts.
2. As of now National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) do not meet the WHO's existing standards.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Particulate matter are microscopic particles of solid or liquid matter suspended in the air.
 - PM₁₀ is more likely to deposit on the surfaces of the larger airways of the upper region of the lung. Particles deposited on the lung surface can induce tissue damage, and lung inflammation.
 - PM_{2.5} (particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) can penetrate deeply into the lung, irritate and corrode the alveolar wall, and consequently impair lung function. PM_{2.5} can even enter the bloodstream.
- The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set limits for SO₂, NO₂, particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), Ozone, Lead, Carbon Monoxide, Ammonia, Benzene, Benzo Pyrene, Arsenic, Nickel. Notably, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) do not meet the WHO's existing standards.

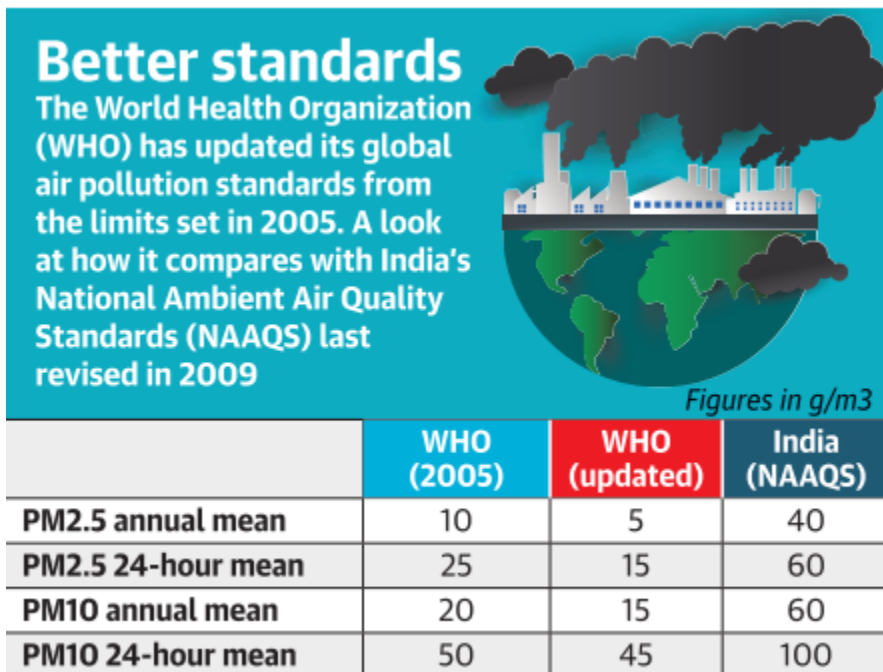


Image Courtesy: The Hindu

Q112. Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) recently seen in news is

- An electronic toll collection system operated by the National Highways Authority of India
- A system conceived by Supreme Court to ensure bail orders reach jail authorities swiftly
- An Investor Facilitation Portal for Ease of Doing Business
- A secure cloud based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana launched a new initiative called 'FASTER' or 'Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records'.
- Under the initiative, the Supreme Court will instantly transmit bail and other orders to the jail authorities, district courts and the High Courts. This will be done in a secure way electronically.

Q113. Arab Spring, a series of anti-government protests, originally started from

- Egypt
- Lebanon

- c) Syria
- d) Tunisia

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s.
- It began with the Tunisian Revolution.

Q114. With respect to Arjun Mk-1A battle tanks, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a second-generation main battle tank manufactured in India in collaboration with Russia.
2. India has recently agreed to export the battle tanks to Vietnam to boost India's material exports.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Main Battle Tank Arjun Mk-1A is a new variant of the Arjun tank designed to enhance firepower, mobility and survivability.
- It involves new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant.
- The MBT Arjun Mk-1A was designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with the other laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- As of now, there are no plans to export the Arjun Mk-1A battle tanks to Vietnam.

Q115. With reference to an organization known as 'Birdlife International', which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC-2015)

1. It is a Global Partnership of Conservation Organizations.
2. The concept of 'biodiversity hotspots' originated from this organization.
3. It identifies the sites known/referred to as 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas'.

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 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

- BirdLife International is a global partnership of non-governmental organizations that strives to conserve birds and their habitats. It is a Global Partnership of Conservation Organizations.
- BirdLife International has identified 13,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and is the official International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List authority for birds.
- The term 'biodiversity hotspot' was given by Norman Myers in 1988. He first identified 10 hotspots based on the high degree of endemism and habitat loss, i.e. the regions of richest biodiversity and most endangered.

Q116. Consider the following statements:

1. This river rises near Sihawa in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh.
2. It is one of the most active silt-depositing streams in the Indian subcontinent.
3. Hirakud Dam is built across this river.

The above statements best describe:

- a) Bedti
- b) Subarnarekha
- c) Mahanadi
- d) Shetrunji

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Mahanadi is a major river in East Central India. It rises near Sihawa in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh.
- It is one of the most active silt-depositing streams in the Indian subcontinent.
- Mahanadi is also known for the Hirakud Dam. The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

Q117. With respect to the Co-operative Societies, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The 97th Constitutional Amendment act made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right.
2. The conduct of elections to a co-operative society is vested with the state election commission.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right as a part of Article 19.
- State Election Commission is not responsible for conducting elections to a co-operative society.
 - The state government appoints a body for the conduct of elections to a co-operative society.
 - The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to a co-operative society shall vest in such an authority or body, as may be provided by the Legislature of a State.

Q118. Which amongst the following States in India shares the longest border with Myanmar?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh

- b) Nagaland
- c) Mizoram
- d) Manipur

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The total length of the India-Myanmar border is about 1643 km.
- Arunachal Pradesh (520 km) shares the longest border with Myanmar.
- Other Indian states that share a border with Myanmar are Mizoram (510 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (510 km).

Q119. Which of the following statements about Foot and Mouth Disease is/are correct?

1. Humans are not infected by the foot-and-mouth disease virus.
2. National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is a Central Sector Scheme where 100% of funds shall be provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or hoof-and-mouth disease (HMD) is an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including domestic and wild bovids. It is a contagious disease.
- Humans can also be infected by the foot-and-mouth disease virus, however, the cases are very rare.
- National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is a Central Sector Scheme where 100% of funds shall be provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs.

Q120. With reference to Congress Socialist Party, consider the following statements:

1. It advocated the boycott of British goods and evasion of taxes.
2. It wanted to establish the dictatorship of proletariat.
3. It advocated separate electorate for minorities and oppressed classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Congress Socialist Party was a socialist entity within the Indian National Congress.
- It was founded in 1934 by Congress members who rejected what they believed was a pacifist and anti-rational mysticism of Gandhi. They also rejected the sectarian attitude of the Communist Party of India towards the Congress.
- It was formed with Acharya Narendra Deva as President and Jay Prakash Narayan as General Secretary in 1934.
- The ideal of this party was decentralized socialism in which there was substantial share in the economic power of co-operatives, trade unions, independent farmers, and local authorities.

Q121. Which of the following correctly describes the mandate of the Justice A.K. Rajan committee that was recently constituted?

- a) To recommend a policy to the MOEFCC for clearing illegal encroachments in wetlands
- b) To study the impact of NEET on medical admissions in Tamil Nadu
- c) To suggest changes to the farm laws
- d) To investigate financing routes of Naxals in Dantewada and Bastar

Answer: b

Explanation:

- A special high-level committee of 9 members headed by the former Justice A. K. Rajan was formed to conduct a detailed review regarding the extent to which the NEET system for admission to medical colleges in Tamil Nadu has affected the students and its impact on them and in case the students have been facing excessive hardships, the new procedure to alleviate these problems to be devised.

Q122. Consider the following statements with regard to PM Digital Health Mission:

1. It was launched in 2016 to augment India's digital health infrastructure.
2. It includes a unique health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked.
3. It will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- PM Digital Health Mission was launched in 2021 to help strengthen India's medical sector and health facilities of the country.
- It includes a unique health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked.
- It will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent.

Q123. Which country recently became the first European country to elect a women majority Parliament?

- a) France
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Recently, Iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a female majority parliament.
- Unlike some other countries, Iceland does not have legal quotas on female representation in parliament, though some parties do require a minimum number of candidates to be women.
- Voters elected 33 women to the country's Althing (national parliament of Iceland), up from 24 in the last election.
- No other country in Europe had previously surpassed the threshold of 50 per cent.
- However, Sweden and Finland have 47 per cent and 46 per cent women in parliament, respectively.

Q124. 'Judima Rice Wine', a popular beverage in the North-East, is brewed by which indigenous tribe?

- a) Bodos of Assam
- b) Kukis of Mizoram
- c) Dimasa tribe of Assam
- d) Garo tribe of Meghalaya

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Judima is a rice wine made from sticky rice, which is steamed and mixed with traditional herbs.
- The wine is a speciality of the Dimasa tribe of Assam.
- It has a distinct sweet taste, takes about a week to prepare and can be stored for years.
- It has now been granted the Geographical Indication Tag.
- It is the first beverage from the northeastern region to earn the GI Tag.

Q125. Which one of the following suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past?

- a) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- b) Rajamannar Committee (1969)

- c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)
- d) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Sarkaria Commission on inter-state relations in its report dealt with the role of Governors.
- It suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past.

Q126. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Article 30 of the Constitution of India deals with the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
2. It applies to both religious and linguistic minorities.
3. The right of such educational institutions to receive government aid is a fundamental right.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Article 30 of the Constitution of India deals with the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. It applies to both religious and linguistic minorities.
- In a recent ruling, the Supreme Court made it clear that the right of educational institutions whether run by a majority or minority community to receive government aid is not a fundamental right.
- It said that if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a matter of right.

Q127. Recently the term 'Akash Prime' was seen in the news. What does it refer to?

- a) A collaboration between Amazon Prime and the Education Ministry to run online classes
- b) A new version of the Akash surface-to-air missile developed by the DRDO
- c) A weather monitoring system deployed by India Meteorological Department
- d) An earth-observation satellite launched by ISRO for military applications

Answer: b

Explanation:

- 'Akash Prime' is a new version of the Akash surface-to-air missile developed by the DRDO.

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

1. The Cauvery river dispute is between Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
2. The sharing of the waters should be as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's decision of 2007, which was modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.
3. The Central Government has notified the Cauvery Water Management Scheme which constitutes the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee' to give effect to the court's decision.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Cauvery river dispute is a water-sharing dispute between Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- The sharing of the waters should be as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's decision of 2007, which was modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.

- The Central Government has notified the Cauvery Water Management Scheme which constitutes the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee' to give effect to the court's decision.

Q129. The Taiwan Strait connects –

- a) Strait of Malacca with Gulf of Thailand
- b) South China Sea with East China Sea
- c) Andaman Sea with Gulf of Thailand
- d) Indian Ocean with Pacific Ocean

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Taiwan Strait connects the South China Sea with the East China Sea.



Q130. Which of the following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution?

1. Automobile exhaust

2. Tobacco smoke
3. Wood burning
4. Using varnished wooden furniture
5. Using products made of polyurethane

Select the correct answer using the given code below – [UPSC 2020]

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Benzene is an organic chemical compound (C_6H_6). Benzene is formed from both natural processes and human activities.
- Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires.

Following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution:

- Automobile exhaust
- Tobacco smoke
- Wood burning
- Using varnished wooden furniture
- Using products made of polyurethane

Q131. Consider the following statements with respect to Right to Information:

1. Only an individual who is above 18 years of age is eligible to seek information.
2. The right to information has been recognized as a fundamental right.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The right to information has been recognised as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution by the Supreme Court in several cases.
- The RTI Act, 2005, provided an extended regime for enabling effective implementation of the fundamental right to information.
- Any citizen can request information by making an application in writing or through electronic means together with the prescribed fees.

Q132. Under the Constitution, a person shall be disqualified as being a member of the State legislative assembly in which of the following cases?

1. If he is found guilty of certain election offences or corrupt practices in the elections.
2. If he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a court.
3. If punished for preaching and practising social crimes such as untouchability, dowry and sati.
4. If he holds any office of profit under the Union or state government (except that of a minister or any other office exempted by state legislature).

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

A person can be disqualified for being selected as and for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State if he/she

- a. holds an office of profit under GOI or any State Government, other than that of a Minister at the centre or any state or an office declared by a law of the State not to disqualify its holder (many States have passed such laws declaring certain offices to be offices the holding of which does not disqualify its holder for being a member of the Legislature of that States).
- b. is mentally unsound as declared by a competent court.

- c. is an undischarged insolvent.
- d. is not an Indian citizen or has voluntarily got the citizenship of a foreign State or is under any acknowledgement of adherence/allegiance to a foreign nation.

Q133. Which of the following chemicals are barred from usage in firecrackers?

- 1. Antimony
- 2. Lithium
- 3. Mercury
- 4. Arsenic
- 5. Lead

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Antimony, Lithium, Mercury, Arsenic and Lead have been barred from usage in firecrackers by the Supreme Court in 2017.
- These chemicals are proven to be hazardous for respiratory systems and can cause serious ailments like asthma, lung cancer, shortness of breath, hormonal imbalances, and many other respiratory diseases.

Q134. With respect to anti-defection Law, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Under the Anti-defection Law, the power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature in consultation with the Election Commission of India.
- 2. Supreme Court has observed that anti-defection cases should be decided by Speakers in six months' time in all circumstances.

Options:

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Under the anti-defection law, the power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature. Consultation with the Election Commission of India is not required.
- The law does not specify a time frame in which such a decision has to be made. However, the Supreme Court observed that anti-defection cases should be decided by Speakers in three months' time.

Q135. Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic? (UPSC 2015)

- a) Khangchendzonga National Park
- b) Nandadevi National Park
- c) Neora Valley National Park
- d) Namdapha National Park

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Namdapha National Park has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic.
- It is the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot and is located in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Its habitat changes with increasing altitude from tropical moist forests to Montane forests, temperate forests and at the higher elevations, to Alpine meadows and perennial snow.

Q136. With reference to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. NPPA is an independent body of experts under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

2. NPPA is required to monitor the prices of drugs and take corrective measures where warranted and has the power to fix and regulate such prices.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
- It was constituted by a Resolution in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- NPPA is required to monitor the prices of drugs and take corrective measures where necessary and has the power to fix and regulate such prices.

Q137. Consider the following statements with respect to Jahanpanah City:

1. It was the last medieval city of Delhi.
2. It was built by Sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Jahanpanah was the fourth medieval city of Delhi established in 1326–1327 to address the constant threat of the Mongols.
- It was established by Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1325–51) of the Delhi Sultanate.
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq wanted to unify the scattered urban settlements and that was the reason he built the fortified city. The areas included Lal Kot, Siri, and Tughlaqabad Fort.

Q138. With respect to Rabindranath Tagore, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Tagore renounced his Knighthood in protest of the Bengal famine.
2. He became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.
3. The national anthem of Bangladesh was composed by Tagore.

Options:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in condemnation of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919.
- He was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- Bangladesh's national anthem, "Amar Shonar Bangla" was penned by Rabindranath Tagore in 1905.

Q139. Recently the term 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)' was seen in the news. What does it refer to?

- a) PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
- b) A weather monitoring system deployed by India Meteorological Department
- c) A new strategy against Maoists
- d) An initiative in the National Education Policy to revamp the elementary education

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
- It is a framework designed and invoked by RBI when banks breach certain key risk thresholds including asset quality, profitability and capital.

Q140. With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2015)

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. It is found along the entire coast of India.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The dugong is a marine mammal.
- Dugongs are generally found in warm waters around the coast with large numbers concentrated in wide and shallow protected bays.
- Dugongs are protected in India and occur in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Q141. Consider the following statements with respect to COVAX:

1. It is a global science initiative established in 2008 that provides open-access to genomic data of influenza viruses and the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. It is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO.
3. COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which was launched in response to the COVID pandemic.
 - ACT accelerator aims at bringing together governments, global health organisations, manufacturers, scientists, private sector, civil society and philanthropy, with the aim of providing innovative and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.
- COVAX (COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access) aims to accelerate the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, and guarantee fair and equitable access for every country.
- COVAX is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi and WHO, with UNICEF as a key delivery partner.
- GISAID is a global science initiative and primary source established in 2008 that provides open-access to genomic data of influenza viruses and the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q142. This region is an evergreen low-land forest located between the branches of River Periyar, It was the first bird sanctuary in Kerala. The sanctuary was notified in 1983 based on a recommendation made by Dr. Salim Ali.

The Bird Sanctuary being talked about is:

- a) Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary
- b) Thattekad Bird Sanctuary
- c) Pathiramanal Bird Sanctuary
- d) Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary was the first bird sanctuary in Kerala.
- Salim Ali, one of the best known ornithologists, described this sanctuary as the richest bird habitat on peninsular India.
- Thattekkad literally means flat forest, and the region is an evergreen low-land forest located between the branches of the Periyar River, the longest river in Kerala.

Q143. Which of the given pairs is/are correctly matched?

Helicopter

1. Chinook

2. AH 64 Apache

3. KA-226T Utility Helicopters

Procured from

United States of America

Russia

Israel

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- AH 64 Apache is being procured from the U.S., while KA-226T Utility Helicopters is being procured from Russia.
 - Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world. Alongside the capability to shoot fire and forget anti-tank guided missiles, air-to-air missiles, rockets and other ammunitions, it also has modern Electronic Warfare (EW) capabilities to provide versatility to helicopters in a network-centric aerial warfare.
 - In 2015, India and Russia concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for around 200 Ka-226T twin engine utility helicopters, with 60 helicopters to be directly imported and remaining 140 manufactured locally. The helicopters would be manufactured by India Russia Helicopters Limited (IRHL) — a joint venture between HAL and Russian Helicopters with Transfer of Technology (ToT) from Russia. The Ka-226T is meant to replace the ageing and obsolete Cheetah and Chetak fleet of the Army and Air Force.

Q144. Hamboting La, recently seen in News is located in:

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Ladakh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Hamboting La is a high mountain pass located in Ladakh region.

Q145. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)', recently seen in the news? (UPSC-2017)

- a) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.
- b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
- c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- d) It is an important provision in 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets also known as S4A Scheme was launched in 2016 by the Reserve Bank of India as an initiative to address and resolve the debt issues of the corporate sector along with strengthening the ability of the lender to deal with stressed assets.
- As per the S4A scheme, the debt of a company is bifurcated into two parts namely sustainable and unsustainable debt based on the cash flows of the company's project. The sustainable debt of a company should not be less than 50% of the existing debt and the unsustainable debt can be converted into optionally convertible debentures.

Q146. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Bosphorus strait connects the Black sea with the Sea of Marmara.
2. The Dardanelles connects the Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Bosphorus strait is a natural strait connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. Also known as the Strait of Istanbul, this water way links the European part of the city from its Asian part and thus remains as a very strategic waterway in the region.
- The Bosphorus strait is one of the world's important maritime routes for the transportation of oil from the Caspian Sea region and Russia to regions including Asia, Western and Southern Europe.
- The Dardanelles strait connects the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.

Q147. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The 15th Finance commission recommendations are meant for the five year period 2021-2026.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Finance Commissions are periodically constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution to define the financial relations between the central government of India and the individual state governments. The Finance

Commission is a Constitutionally mandated body that is at the centre of fiscal federalism.

- Initially the 15th FC was intended to make recommendations for the years 2020-2025 as the recommendations of the 14th FC was meant for the years 2015-2020.
- However, owing to the pandemic, the 15th FC submitted a separate recommendation report for the year 2020-21 and then subsequently for a five year term (2021-22 to 2025-26).

