

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

September, 2021

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2021

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES - ORGANISATIONS, MISSIONS AND INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding WEP Nxt:

1. It will focus on India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
2. It has been launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Microsoft.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** WEP Nxt is the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). It will be working with India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NITI Aayog and Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) called "WEP Nxt".

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding SAMRIDH Scheme:

1. It aims to create a conducive platform for Indian Software Product start-ups to secure investments for scaling their business.
2. It has been launched by Ministry of Skill development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It aims to create a conducive platform for Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the SAMRIDH Scheme.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding MANTHAN Hackathon-2021

1. It is a hackathon based on national interests and challenges faced by our intelligence agencies in the fields
2. It is organized by the Ministry of Defence

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a hackathon based on national interests and challenges faced by our intelligence agencies in the fields such as Fake Content Detection, Cybercrime, Image, Video and Data Analytics, etc.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.

Read more: [MoE's Innovation Cell, AICTE and BPR&D launched MANTHAN- 2021 hackathon](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm:

1. It is Centrally Sector Scheme that aims to boost domestic production of Palm Oil and reduce its dependence on import
2. The scheme offers price assurance to the farmers

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** that aims to boost domestic production of Palm Oil and reduce its dependence on import
- **Statement 2 is correct:** if the market is volatile, then the Centre will pay the difference in price to the farmers through direct benefit transfer

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National Supercomputing Mission (NSM):

1. The mission aims to connect research and academic institutions to a supercomputing grid all over the country.
2. Param Shakti supercomputer was set up under phase I of this mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About National Super Computing Mission(NSM):

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- Firstly, the government launched the **National Super Computing Mission** in 2015.
- Secondly, the **aim is to connect research and academic institutions to a Supercomputing grid** all over the country. The grid consists of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities, It will increase the research capacities and capabilities in the country.
- Thirdly, these supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The NKN is another program of the government. NKN connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high-speed network.
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Science and Technology and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) through the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- **Phases under the mission:**
 - **Phase 1:** Under this phase, 30% of the value addition of **Supercomputers** is done in India.
 - **Param Shivay** was the first supercomputer assembled indigenously, installed in IIT(BHU). **Param Shakti** and **Param Brahma** supercomputer installed at IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune respectively.
 - Thereafter, supercomputing facilities were set up in two more institutions and one more is being set up with a computing speed to 6.6 Petaflops (PF).
- **Read more [here](#)**

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.6) Y-Break App has been seen in the news recently. Which of the following is the potential application of the app?

- a) This app explains traditional food habits and encourages people to intake them more.
- b) This app encourages people to take part in the development of local bodies.
- c) Through this app, yoga and meditation can be done anywhere.
- d) Through this app, one can pay their pending taxes online.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Ayush Minister launched the Y-Break App.

About:

The Y-Break mobile application has been developed by MDNIY (Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga).

Through this app, yoga and meditation can be done anywhere for just 5 minutes.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.7) Which one of the following is the correct aim of **Saksham Bitiya** initiative of NITI aayog?

- a) It aims to train girls in socio-emotional and ethical learning.
- b) It aims to encourage girls to participate in Olympic games.
- c) It aims at addressing drop out among girl child.
- d) It aims to improve academic performance of girl child.

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Saksham Initiative:

NITI Aayog, with the help of civil society organisations, had started a community programme led by volunteers called “**Saksham Bitiya**”. It aims to train girls in socio-emotional and ethical learning.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding **TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India)**:

1. It is a legislative body created by an act of parliament.
2. It has power to fix the rates at which telecommunication services within India and outside India shall be provided.

Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Poshan Maah:

1. It is celebrated every year in the month of September under POSHAN Abhiyan.
2. It aims to increase people’s participation under POSHAN.
3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is nodal agency to implement the programme.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 and 2 are correct

Statement 3 is incorrect: Ministry of Women and Child development is nodal ministry to implement the programme

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding MUDRA scheme:

1. It aims to provide loan to corporates, medium and large enterprises.
2. Shishu, Kishore, Tarun are the components of MUDRA scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It was launched by the government in 2015 for providing loans up to Rs. 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro-enterprises.

Statement 2 is correct: Categories of Loans: MUDRA has created three products as per the stage of growth and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit:

Shishu: Covering loans up to Rs. 50,000.

Kishore: Covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh

Tarun: Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.11) With reference to PM Jan Dhan Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. Its aim is to provide access to various financial services.
2. The scheme covers both the rural and urban areas.
3. A nominal amount of 50 rupees is required to open a bank account under it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It was launched in 2014 to ensure universal access to financial services namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner through the use of technology.

Statement 2 is correct: The scheme covers both the urban as well as rural areas and provides an indigenous Debit Card (RuPay card) to each of its account holders.

Statement 3 is incorrect: No minimum balance is required for opening an account under this scheme. The beneficiary can open his/her account in any bank branch or Business Correspondent outlet at zero balance.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.12) With reference to PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), consider the following statements.

1. It is a competency-based test designed to assess the ability of the 15-year-old candidates.
2. It is an international survey coordinated by the G20 countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The field trial of PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) is scheduled to be held from September, 2021.

About PISA:

It is a competency-based test designed to assess the ability of the 15-year-old candidates that measures their reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years to apply their knowledge to real-life situations. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

It is an international survey coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and was first conducted in 2000. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.13) With reference to the **President's Colour**, consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation.
2. The Indian Army was the first amongst the Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the President's Colour.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

As per the latest announcement from the government of India, the President of India will award the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at the ceremonial parade to be held at INS Hansa, Goa.

About the President's Colour:

President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation. **(Statement 1 is correct).**

The Indian Navy was the first amongst the Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the President's Colour in 1951. **(Statement 2 is incorrect).**

Subsequent recipients of the President's Colour in the Navy include Southern Naval Command, Eastern Naval Command, Western Naval Command, Eastern Fleet, Western Fleet, Submarine Arm, INS Shivaji and the Indian Naval Academy.

Source: [Naval Aviation to get President's Colour](#)

Q.14) With reference to **MITRA Scheme**, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims at assisting the district judiciary in reduction of pendency of ten-year-old cases.
2. It has been launched by Ministry of Law and Justice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The scheme aims to enable the textile industry to become globally competitive and boost exports. The scheme also aims to boost employment generation within the textile sector and also attract large investment.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It has been launched by Textile ministry

Source: [Article](#)

Q.15) With reference to Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), consider the following statements:

1. It will cover clinical care such as labs, pharmacies as well as hospital administration.
2. System is implemented by RailTel and National Informatics Centre.
3. It is fully integrable with the National Digital Health Mission program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** HMIS will cover clinical care such as labs, Pharmacies as well as Hospital Administration.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** System is implemented by RailTel- a miniratna PSU of Ministry of Railways and C-DAC under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** This system is also fully integrable with the National Digital Health Mission program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.16) With reference to the e-CHARAK Platform, consider the following statements.

1. It is an online market portal for the trade of medicinal plants.
2. The platform was launched by the Department of Science and Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The platform was launched by the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)**, Ministry of Ayush. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

The Full Form of the platform is an e-Channel for Herbs, Aromatic, Raw material And Knowledge.

It is an online market portal for the trade of medicinal plants. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

Source: [Union Minister launches “AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” Campaign at Ayush Ministry](#)

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Q.17) Which of the following statements is true about NISHTHA initiative?

- a) It is a portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- b) It aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for Entrepreneurship development.
- c) It is a capacity building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training.
- d) It is the scheme is to improve the performance of it is in India.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement a is incorrect:** It is the definition of **ASEEM (Atma Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping)**. The scheme was launched in 2020 Launched in 2020 to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Statement b is incorrect:** it is the definition of **Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan)**. The scheme was launched in the year 2016. It aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for Entrepreneurship development through Entrepreneurship education and training.
- **Statement c is correct:** The Union Human Resource Development Minister has launched '**National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)**'. Its **Objective** is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- **Statement d is incorrect:** It is the definition of **Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)**. The scheme was launched in 2016. The main focus of the scheme is to improve the performance of ITIs.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.18) With reference to Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme for Specified Agriculture Products, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to provide assistance for only the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The scheme aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce. The assistance will help mitigate the disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Scheme was launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.19) With reference to **Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojana**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a welfare measure programme for Insured Persons covered under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.
2. Under this, government provide the relief package for the poor to help them fighting against Corona virus.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer A

Statement 1 is correct: Under Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojana , unemployment allowance is paid at 50% of wages for 3 months to those insured persons who lose their jobs for any reason. The unemployment allowance shall become due for payment after 30 days from the date of unemployment and the claim can be submitted directly to the designated ESIC Branch Office by the worker.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The statement is about Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana . Under this, a comprehensive relief package of Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus. This was announced in March 2020, to reach out to the poorest of the poor, with food and money in hands, so that they do not face difficulties in buying essential supplies and meeting essential needs.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.20) With reference to **PRANA portal**, which of the following statements is/ are correct:

- a) It is a portal for monitoring the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- b) It is the portal for Indian citizens to access information about all the services offered to them.
- c) It is the portal to grant certificate of disability to disabled people through online mode only
- d) It is a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

About Prana portal

Full Form: PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities.

Developed by: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in partnership with Knowledge Lens (a B2B product company)

Purpose: It is a portal for monitoring the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). It will support tracking of physical as well as financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality management efforts under NCAP to the public.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.21) With reference to **MGNREGA**, consider the following statements:

1. It provides guaranteed 150 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household
2. Skilled and unskilled persons who are willing to do work are covered under this scheme.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It provides guaranteed 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household.

Statement 2 is correct: It provides work to any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.22) With reference to “**Sansad TV**” consider the following statements:

1. It has been formed by merging the two parliamentary channels Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV.
2. It was done based on the recommendation of Surya Prakash committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation;

Statement 1 is correct: Sansad TV has been formed by merging the two parliamentary channels Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV. The Prime Minister of India has launched Sansad TV on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy.

Statement 2 is correct: The merger was done based on the recommendations of a committee formed in 2019 under former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/pm-launches-sansad-tv/>

Q.23) Crime in India report is released by which of the following organization?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Department Of Internal Security
- c) Department of Defence
- d) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB) has released a report titled Crime in India 2020.

Registration of Cases: There was a 28% increase in the registration of cases in 2020 in the country compared to 2019. The surge in cases was primarily due to cases registered under violation of COVID-19 norms.

Special and Local Laws: Cases increased by four times under the Special and Local Laws (SLL) between 2019 and 2020. This section refers to state regulations imposed to enforce

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COVID-19 norms. On the other hand, the cases under 'traditional crime' had reduced by about 2 lakh cases in 2020.

Read more: [28% jump in filing of cases in 2020: NCRB](#)

Q.24) With respect to “**Ek Pahal**”, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have launched the “Ek Pahal” Campaign.
2. Under the campaign, people will be encouraged to register under the Tele-Law Initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Ministry of Law and Justice in association with the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) has launched the “Ek Pahal” Campaign.

Statement 2 is correct: Ek Pahal Campaign aims to mainstream legal aid and to actualize the aspiration of access to justice for every citizen. Under the campaign, people will be encouraged to register under the Tele-Law Initiative.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/ministry-of-law-and-justice-launches-pan-india-special-campaign-for-justice-delivery-at-doorstep/>

Q.25) With respect to “**Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019**”, consider the following statements:

1. It grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian from all our neighboring countries.
2. Under the Act, the Central government has power to cancel the registration of OCIs on certain grounds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The objective of the CAA is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Statement 2 is correct: The Act provides that the central government may cancel the registration of OCIs on certain grounds.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/who-is-the-hollow-caa-really-meant-to-protect/>

Q.26) With reference to **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a skill development programme, where training will be provided to youth with a special focus on jobs that are relevant to the Railways.

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2. Based on the performance of the trainees, they have the Right to seek employment in Railways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Recently, the Ministry of Railways launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Statement 1 is correct: This is a skill development programme, where training will be provided to youth with a special focus on jobs that are relevant to the Railways.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Candidates who are 10th passed and between 18-35 years shall be eligible to apply. Participants in the scheme shall however have no claim to seek employment in Railways on the basis of this training.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.27) With reference to SPIN Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is aimed at bringing self-sustainability in India Textile sector.
- 2. KVIC (Khadi and village Industries Commission) has launched this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The scheme is aimed at bringing self-sustainability in the Indian pottery sector.

Statement 2 is correct: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Scheme called SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India). It has also set up a pottery cluster under SFURTI Scheme.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/on-prime-ministers-birthday-kvic-launches-series-of-schemes-to-empower-artisans-in-varanasi/>

Q.28) With reference to National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), consider the statements below:

- 1. Public Sector Banks and private lenders shall hold equal ownership in NARCL.
- 2. The stressed assets acquired by NARCL would be handled by India Debt Resolution Company Ltd.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PSBs shall hold 51% ownership and the rest will be held by private lenders.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The stressed assets acquired by NARCL would be handled by India Debt Resolution Company Ltd. IDRCL will focus on the resolution of the assets and employ turnaround professionals. When the assets are sold, the commercial banks will be paid back the rest.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.29) With respect to “**Project Fulwari**”, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. Its aim is to address the problem of malnutrition and associated physical and mental development issues of infants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It has been launched by The **Northern Coalfields Ltd(NCL)**, a Singrauli based Coal India arm **under the Ministry of Coal**.

Statement 2 is correct: **As part of the project**, Fulwari Centres are being established where identified malnourished children are getting special attention to ensure that their weight, physical and mental progress meets the normal standards. Apart from this, timely vaccination and age-appropriate safe toys are also being arranged for the kids at these centres.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/project-fulwari-under-azadi-ka-amrit-mahotsav-to-strengthen-northern-coalfields-limited-nclfight-against-malnutrition-in-kids/>

Q.30) With reference to **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)**, consider the following statements:

1. It is the nodal agency for regulating the safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases and petroleum.
2. It is an autonomous body under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization(PESO) is the nodal agency for regulating the safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases and petroleum.

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PESO was formerly known as the Department of Explosives. It is an autonomous body under DPIIT.

PESO's major work is to administer the responsibilities delegated under the Explosives Act 1884 and Petroleum Act 1934 and the Rules made thereunder related to manufacturing, import, export, transport, possession, sale and use of Explosives, Petroleum products and compressed gases.

Headquarters: PESO has its Headquarters at Nagpur in Maharashtra. It also serves through five Circle Offices at Agra, Chennai, Faridabad, Kolkata & Mumbai.

Read more: [Industrial Safety in Petroleum and Explosives Sector gets a Big Boost](#)

Q.31) K. Kasturirangan Committee, was recently seen in news. It is related to which of the following:

- To study the monsoon
- To devise New Curriculum Framework
- To study the present inflation trends of India
- To study the archaeological sites of India

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement b is correct: The Union Education Ministry has set up a committee headed by space scientist K. Kasturirangan to devise the National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs). It will serve as a guiding document for the development of textbooks, syllabus and teaching practices in schools across the country.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/new-panel-to-devise-school-curriculum/>

Q.32) With reference to **PM KUSUM**, consider the following statements:

- The scheme aims to promote the use of solar power among farmers.
- This scheme is launched under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer A

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-Kusum) scheme was launched in 2019. It aims to help farmers access reliable day-time solar power for irrigation, reduce power subsidies, and decarbonise agriculture.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) Scheme

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.33) With reference to SAUBHAGYA Scheme, consider the following statements:

- The scheme aims to achieve Universal Household Electrification in the rural areas alone.
- Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It aims to provide electricity to all unelectrified households in rural and urban areas.

Statement 2 is correct: Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.

Source: [SAUBHAGYA completes Four years of successful implementation](#)

Q.34) With reference to **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**, Consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms and citizens access health records electronically.
2. The Health ID will be free of cost and mandatory for all Indian Citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms and citizens access health records electronically.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Health ID will be free of cost and voluntary for all Indian Citizens.

Source: [PM Modi launches Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission](#)

Q.35) Which of the following services is/are covered under the recently launched **Elder line helpline?**

1. Pension & legal issues.
2. Emotional support.
3. Intervention in case of abuse.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer:

Explanation:

All are correct.

- Elder Line is the first pan-India toll-free helpline-14567-for senior citizens. It aims to provide free information and guidance on pension and legal issues, extend emotional support and intervene in cases of abuse.

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- The intent is basically to provide senior citizens or their well-wishers with one platform to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis without having to struggle for it.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.36) TKS Nair Committee, Raman Puri Committee, seen in news, is related to which of the following:

- a) Agricultural Reforms
- b) Police Reforms
- c) Defence Reforms
- d) Economy reforms

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement C is correct: Various committees in the past were constituted for the purpose of defence reforms. Corporatization of OFB was recommended by **TKS Nair Committee (2000)**, **Vijay Kelkar Committee (2005)**, and **Vice Admiral Raman Puri Committee (2015)**. There is another committee under setup under **Lt Gen D B Shekatkar**, which did not suggest corporatization. It recommended regular audits of all ordnance units considering past performance.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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International relations -Others

Q.1) Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi were sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains them?

- Tribes in Afghanistan
- Newly discovered methane deposits in Iran
- Islands of Maldives
- New species of frogs

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, India and Maldives have signed a pact for the construction of a \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project.

The project involves the construction of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link that will connect the Maldives capital Malé with the neighbouring islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

Read more: [What signing of the \\$500m India-Maldives mega-infra project means](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline (TAPI)**:

- It is a natural gas pipeline.
- The end location of the pipeline is in Fazilka, India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, a Taliban leader mentioned that the Taliban would address the issues holding up Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project after the formation of the government.

About the TAPI Pipeline:

- The pipeline will transport natural gas from the Galkynysh Gas Field in Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India
- The pipeline will transport natural gas from the Galkynysh Gas Field in Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India.
- The end location of the pipeline is located in Fazilka, India

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

- BRICS headquarter is in Beijing, China.
- Fortaleza Declaration created New development Bank (NDB) & Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).
- In NDB, each participant country will be assigned one vote, and none of the countries will have veto power.

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: BRICS headquartered in Shanghai, China

Statement 2 is correct: To consider the increasing instances of global financial crisis, BRICS nations signed BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) in 2014 as part of Fortaleza Declaration at Sixth BRICS summit.

- Also, Agreement for establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) with 100 billion US dollars have signed under this declaration. Objective is to have equal distribution from all the BRICS countries for mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects

Statement 3 is correct: each participant country will be assigned one vote, and none of the countries will have veto power. This is opposite to World Bank, which assigns votes based on the capital share

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Universal Postal union (UPU):

1. It is a UN-specialized agency.
2. A non-member country of the United Nations cannot become a UPU member.
3. It was established by the Treaty of Bern.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a United Nations specialized agency. It is also the second-oldest international organization worldwide.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Any non-member country of the United Nations can become a UPU member provided that its request is approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the UPU. The UPU now has 192 member countries.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Universal Postal Union(UPU) was established by the Treaty of Bern in 1874.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) With reference to United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. Its objective is to maintain international peace and security.
2. It is the only organ of UN that has the power to take decisions that the Member States are obligated to implement.

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3. Each year the UN General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for UNSC, out of 10 in total, for a one -year term.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Expalnation:

Statement is correct: UN gives UNSC, the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

Statement 2 is correct: While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Statement 3 is in incorrect: Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.

Source: [TOI](#)

Q.6) With reference to **BRICS**, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Chairmanship of the forum rotates biannually between the members.
- 2. Currently India is holding the chairmanship for the first time.

Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Chairmanship of the forum rotates **annually** between the member states, in accordance with acronym BRICS.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India was chair in 2012 and 2016 too. Currently India is holding the chairmanship for third time.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **ZAPAD 2021 exercise**:

- 1. It is organized by US Military force every year.
- 2. It focuses primarily on operation against terrorists.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: ZAPAD 2021 exercise is organized by Russia.

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Statement 2 is correct: It focuses primarily on operation against terrorist.

Source: [Article](#)

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Science and Technology- Other technological developments

Q.1) Which of the following is/are applications of **Facial Recognition Technology**?

1. Better identification of criminals
2. Biometric attendance at companies
3. Student authentication mechanism

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Chikungunya disease

1. It is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by the mosquitoes
2. At present, there is no vaccine to treat/prevent Chikungunya disease

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Chikungunya virus is most often spread to people by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. These are the same mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Presently, There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Chikungunya virus infection.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Which of the following statements is correct regarding **QSim**?

- a) It is an extension of sim that is embedded inside the device.
- b) Both GSM & CDMA mobile technologies are used in QSim.
- c) It is a contact less communication technology designed to exchange data between two devices with simple touch.
- d) It is a toolkit that enable researchers to carry research in Quantum computing.

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is the about Embedded sim or e sim: It is a digital sim that allows us to activate a cellular plan from the carrier without using the physical sim card

Statement 2 is incorrect

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Statement 3 is incorrect: It is the definition of Near Field Communication

Statement 4 is correct: QSim is a first-of-its-kind toolkit that enables researchers and students to carry out research in [Quantum Computing](#) in a cost-effective manner.

Built by: Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

More about QSim: [QSim](#)

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding genetically programmed mosquitos:

1. The genetically programmed mosquitoes are also called “protector mosquitoes”.
2. Natural process called gene drive is used to introduce genetic changes in genetically programmed mosquitos.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Which one of the following statements correctly defines the Milky seas effect?

- a) It refers to appearance of white foam over the sea surface due to release from ships.
- b) It refers to occurrence of thin sheet of ice over the sea surface post glacier melting.
- c) It is a luminous phenomenon in which large areas of sea appear to glow translucently.
- d) None of the above.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation;

About Milky seas effect:

- **Milky seas** are also called mareel. It is a luminous phenomenon in the ocean, in which large areas of seawater appear to glow translucently (in varying shades of blue)
- **Such occurrences glow** brightly enough at night to be visible from satellites orbiting Earth.
- Luminous bacteria (called **Vibrio harveyi**) cause the particles to glow when they colonize.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Which of the following statements is correct about bio fortification?

- a) It is the process of increasing nutritional value of food crops by increasing the density of vitamins and minerals in a crop.
- b) It is the process to increase crop production by the use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides, and high-yield crop varieties.
- c) It is the process of accumulation of chemicals in living organisms to a concentration higher than that occurring in the inorganic, non-living environment.

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d) It is a farming methodology aimed at increasing the yield of crops produced in the farming.

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Statement talks about bio fortification.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is the definition of Green Revolution.

Statement 3 is incorrect: It is the definition of Bio Magnification.

Statement 4 is incorrect: It is the definition of System of Rice Intensification. Aim is to increase the yield of rice produced in farming.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.7) Consider the following pairs:

GI tagged products ----- relevant states

1. Pashmina Shawl --- Jammu and Kashmir
2. Kadaknath Chicken—Madhya Pradesh
3. Tirupati Laddu --- Andhra Pradesh
4. Bikaneri Bhujia --- Rajasthan

Which of the above pairs is/are matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

All the products are GI certified and are matched correctly

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.8) e-Source Platform was seen in news recently. Which of the following statements correctly explains the potential application of the platform?

- a) It is a platform that will help to identify the country of origin of goods
- b) It is an exchange platform that will serve as an online marketplace for waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- c) It is a platform that will help intelligence agencies to identify the source of cyber attacks
- d) It is a platform that will help to identify the source for the information spread on social media.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

IIT Madras is developing an online platform called “e-Source” to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy.

About the e-source platform:

- **e-Source is an exchange platform** that will serve as an online marketplace for waste electrical and electronic equipment. It will also facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholders (buyers and sellers).
- **Led by:** The initiative is being led by Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS) which is located at the IIT-Madras campus.

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- **Funded by:** It is funded by the Government of India's Department for Science and Technology and the German Academic Exchange Service.

Source: [New online platform to promote reuse, repair, recycle e-waste](#)

Q.9) With reference to the **indemnity**, consider the following statements:

1. It protects the manufacturers from any potential civil-legal liability from being sued by people for any unforeseen complications.
2. It is provided only to vaccines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- In simple terms, **indemnity means security against a loss or other financial stress.** This is **commonly used in insurance contracts.** So, indemnity can be provided on multiple fronts, not only to vaccines. (**Statement 2 is incorrect**).
 - Recently, the Indian Government has planned to offer indemnity to the financial bidders of Air India Ltd.
- **In legal terms,** It protects the manufacturers from any potential civil-legal liability from being sued by people for any unforeseen complications. (**Statement 1 is correct**).

Source: [India to Offer Indemnity to Flag Carrier Bidder Over Cairn Claim](#)

Q.10) Which of the following correctly defines the term Blue straggler?

- a) A globally recognized eco-label under blue flag certification.
- b) It refers to a class of stars in open or globular clusters.
- c) A class of cyanobacteria that derive energy via photosynthesis.
- d) An encryption technique based on the blockchain technology.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Blue stragglers** are a class of stars on open or globular clusters. They stand out as they are bigger and bluer than the rest of the stars.
- **First Discovered by:** Blue stragglers were first discovered by Allan Sandage in 1953.

Source: [Article](#)

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International Relations

Q.1) SIMBEX is a maritime bilateral exercise between India and which one of the following countries?

- a) Singapore
- b) Azerbaijan
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Thailand

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises)** is a joint maritime bilateral exercise between Indian and Singapore navies. The first edition of the exercise was conducted in 1994.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) AUSINDEX is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which one of the following countries?

- a) Austria
- b) Australia
- c) Armenia
- d) Argentina

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement b is correct: **AUSINDEX** is a bilateral **maritime exercise** between India and Australian Navies. It was started in the year 2015. This is the fourth edition of the exercise.

Aim: To provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster interoperability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) With reference to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), consider the following statements.

1. It is a specialized United Nations agency engaged in providing grants and loans at low interests.
2. It is headquartered in Rome.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Sri Lanka and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are working together to promote the island's agriculture-based economy.

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About IFAD

- It is a specialized United Nations agency created in 1977 engaged in providing grants and loans with low interest for allied projects. The organization is an outcome of the World Food Conference of 1974. **(Statement 1 is correct)**
- The IFAD works with rural people allowing them to enhance their food security, improve nutrition and raise their incomes.
- It also helps people to expand their businesses.
- It is headquartered in Rome. **(Statement 2 is correct)**
- IFAD brings out the Rural Development Report every year.

Source: [Borgen](#)

Q.4) With reference to **Eastern Economic Forum**, consider the following statements.

1. It is a joint initiative of Russia and European Union.
2. It takes place each year in Vladivostok, a city in Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, the Prime Minister of India (PM) addressed the plenary session of the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) via video-conferencing.

About the Eastern Economic Forum

The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of Russia in 2015. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)** Its aim is to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The summit takes place each year in Vladivostok, a city in Russia. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

Read more: [India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to participate in the 6th Eastern Economic Summit in Vladivostok](#)

Q.5) With reference to "**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**", consider the following statements:

1. SAARC was established in Dhaka in 1985.
2. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of SAARC.
3. SAARC headquarter is in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** SAARC was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Myanmar is not the member of SAARC. SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Headquarters and Secretariat of the Association are at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.6) With reference to **Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)**, consider the following statements.

1. The partnership aims to accelerate the low carbon growth by supporting research and deployment of clean energy technologies.
2. It is launched by India in the recent BRICS Summit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

It was launched in 2009 by India and the United States. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**. The partnership aims to accelerate the **low carbon growth by supporting research and deployment of clean energy technologies**. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

Source: [Ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership \(SCEP\)](#)

Q.7) With reference to **Marital rape in India**, consider the following statements.

1. At present, there is no law penalizing Marital rape in India.
2. So far, no official committee has recommended the government to make Marital rape illegal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

India is one of the countries where marital rape is yet to be even recognized. At present, there is no law penalizing Marital rape in India. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

Exception 2 to Section 375: This section provides that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife (provided that wife is over the age of 18) would not amount to the offence of rape.

Independent Thought v. Union of India (2017) case: In this case, the SC has criminalised sexual intercourse with a minor wife aged between 15 and 18 years. In this

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case, the Court restricted marital rape cases to minors to bring parity between IPC and POCSO 2012.

Justice Verma Committee was constituted in 2012 with an objective to strengthen the anti-rape laws in the country. The committee strongly recommended that the exception for marital rape be removed. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Source: [The Issue of Marital Rapes in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.8) Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) was recently seen in news. It is the initiative of India and which of the following country?

- a) France
- b) The United Kingdom
- c) The United States of America
- d) Australia

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India and the United States of America (USA) have jointly launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)”.

About Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD):

CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021. It aims to help both the countries move towards decarbonising economies in sync with their respective commitments to deal with climate change.

Source: [India and US launch the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue \(CAFMD\)](#)

Q.9) Model 3 expressway was recently seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes the term?

- a) It is a newly planned highway to connect India's North East with West Bengal through Bangladesh.
- b) It is a new technology that connects multiple platforms such as Broad band, mobile, DTH, etc in same platform.
- c) It is a new platform that connects all the India's website data in one high speed connection so that to improve data security.
- d) It is a single distributed ledger, capable of handling multiple currencies, and settling the claims.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Model 3 is a single distributed ledger, capable of handling multiple currencies, and settling the claims. It comes with inbuilt checks on money-laundering and a dedicated set of players jostling to offer foreign-exchange services at the best price.

Hong Kong and Thailand, together with China and the United Arab Emirates, are studying a bridging option for their digital currencies.

Once several such expressways are in place, banks' profit from opaquely priced currency conversions and fat fees may vanish from retail transfers.

Source: [How banks can lose \\$60 billion to cybercash highways](#)

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Q.10) With reference to **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**, consider the following statements:

1. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region
2. Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, India and Pakistan are the members of SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established as a multilateral association to ensure security and maintain stability across the vast Eurasian region, join forces to counteract emerging challenges and threats, and enhance trade, as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) “**Democracy Index**” is released by which of the following Organizations?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) World Bank
- c) Economic Intelligence Unit
- d) Reporters without Borders

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU) has released the Democracy Index, 2020. In that, India dropped two places and currently at 53rd position.

The Indian government, however, challenged the report. The issue got highlighted when EIU refused to share the data based on which rankings were provided. After this, the Indian government is considering a parallel **global democracy index formulated by Indian think-tanks**.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.12) With reference to **World Press Freedom Index**, Consider the following statements:

1. The index neither ranks public policies and nor is it an indicator of the quality of journalism in any country or region.
2. It has termed India as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly.
3. The report is released by Sweden-based Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The purpose of the Index is to rank 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. But the index neither ranks public policies and nor is it an indicator of the quality of journalism in each country or region. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

According to the report, India is termed as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly. India continues to be counted among the countries classified “bad” for journalism. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

The report is published by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders since 2002. **(Statement 3 is incorrect)**

Source: [Instead of denying slide in democratic values, India must work to fix it](#)

Q.13) With reference to **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, consider the following statements:

1. Its goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.
2. India is the member country of OECD.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Its goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India isn't a member of OECD yet.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.14) With reference to “**AUKUS**” consider the following statements:

1. It is the military component of Quad grouping.
2. Under this nuclear ballistic missile will be provided to Australia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: New Trilateral Security Partnership grouping has been formed between the **US, UK and Australia** (AUKUS) for the Indo-Pacific. It is not the military component of QUAD.

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The aim of the grouping is to advance the strategic interests, uphold the international order and promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region

Statement 2 is incorrect: USA is sharing the technology with Australia for nuclear submarines. No nuclear weapons will be supplied to Australia as per the deal.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/us-uk-australia-form-new-partnership/>

Q.15) Samudra Shakti is a joint naval exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Malaysia
- b) Nepal
- c) Indonesia
- d) Thailand

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- It is a joint naval exercise between Indian and Indonesian navies.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.16) Global Innovation Index is released by?

- a) WIPO
- b) UNCTAD
- c) WB
- d) WEF

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Global Innovation Index (GII), founded by Soumitra Dutta and Bruno Lanvin, is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.17) With reference to G20, consider the following statements:

1. It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
2. It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Statement 2 is correct: It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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Q.18) With reference to AUKUS Alliance, consider the following statements:

1. The alliance is directly aimed to control offensive maneuvers of China in Indo-Pacific.
2. Under the alliance, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines.
3. It is a diplomatic grouping involving Australia, UK and US.

Which of the statements given above is/is/are **incorrect**?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: According to the official statement, the AUKUS is not aimed [at] or about any one country, it's about advancing strategic interests of the AUKUS Countries and upholding the international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Statement 2 is correct: Under the alliance, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The AUKUS is a security grouping, unlike QUAD, which is a diplomatic grouping.

Source: [AUKUS Security Alliance – Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.19) Doing Business Report is released by which of the following organizations?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) International Labor Organization
- d) Reserve Bank of India

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

It is the World Bank's annual report. The report greatly influences investor decisions by releasing a ranking of economies based on how easy it is to open up, and operate, a business.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/world-bank-discontinues-doing-business-rankings/>

Q.20) Which of the following countries is/are a part of the E7 group?

1. India
2. Brazil
3. China

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- The E7 is the seven countries China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia and Turkey, grouped together because of their major emerging economies. The term was coined

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by the economists John Hawksworth and Gordon Cookson at PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2006.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.21) Surya Kiran is a joint military exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Nepal
- c) Thailand
- d) Malaysia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- It is a joint military exercise between India and Nepal.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.22) State Food Safety Index, in news, is released by which of the following organization?

- a) World Health Organization (WHO)
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c) Food Safety and Standard authority of India (FSSAI)
- d) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement c is correct: The index is developed by **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)** to measure the performance of states on **five significant parameters of Food Safety**.

The **parameters include** Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.23) With reference to “Blue Flag Certification” consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded by a non-profit organization called the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
2. Recently, Palolem Beach of Goa received Blue Flag cert certification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Blue Flag is one of the world’s most recognised **voluntary eco-labels** awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Recently, Indian Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry got the Blue Flag certification. With this there are total 10 Blue flag certified beach In India

1. Golden Beach – Odisha

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2. Shivrajpur Beach – Gujarat
3. Kappad Beach – Kerala
4. Ghoghla Beach – Diu
5. Radhanagar Beach – Andaman and Nicobar
6. Kasarkod Beach – Karnataka
7. Padubidri Beach – Karnataka
8. Rushikonda Beach – Andhra Pradesh
9. Kovalam Beach – Tamil Nadu
10. Eden Beach – Puducherry

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.24) Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity report is released by?

- a) FAO
- b) International Fund for Agricultural Development
- c) World Food Programme
- d) International Food Policy Research Institute

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The report is released by United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.25) With reference to Quad Fellowship programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scholarship program that will sponsor 100 students per year—25 from each Quad country.
2. The selected students can pursue masters and doctoral degrees at leading universities in any Quad country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It is a scholarship program that will sponsor 100 students per year—25 from each Quad country.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The selected students can pursue masters and doctoral degrees at leading STEM graduate universities in the United States.

Source: [Quad Leaders' Summit – Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.26) World Happiness Index, recently released published by which of the following organization?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Labor Organization
- c) UN Sustainable Development Solution Network
- d) Global Happiness Organization

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Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement c is correct: The World Happiness Report ranks 149 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be. The report has been published by UN Sustainable Development Solution Network

The rankings are based on polling (Gallup World Poll) which looks at six variables: Gross Domestic Product Per Capita (Purchasing Power Parity), Social Support, Healthy life expectancy at birth, Freedom to make life choices, Generosity, Perceptions of corruption.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Environment- Biodiversity and conservation

Q.1) Consider the following statement regarding **Land Degradation and Desertification Atlas** of India:

1. It has been prepared by Space Application Centre under ISRO
2. The report highlighted that rainfed farming land is more prone to erosion than the irrigated land

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Land Degradation and Desertification Atlas of India is been prepared by Space Application Centre under ISRO
- **Statement 2 is correct:** According to the report, agriculture unirrigated land is more prone to erosion than the irrigated land

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, sometimes in news, is located in which of the following states?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Zoological survey of India

1. Its objective is to promote survey, exploration, research of faunal diversity of India
2. Its headquarter is in New Delhi

Which of the following is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 correct:
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Its headquarter is in Kolkata

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.4) Terms *Trimeresurus salazar* and *Lycodon deccanensis*, sometimes seen in news, belong to which of the following species?

- a) Bird
- b) Snake
- c) Frog
- d) Bat

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

1. *Trimeresurus salazar*, is a new species of green pit viper discovered from Arunachal Pradesh
2. *Lycodon deccanensis*, is the Deccan wolf snake discovered from Karnataka

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Pashmina shawls:

1. Chegu and Changthangi are two breeds of pashmina-yielding goats in India.
2. Kashmir Pashmina has been assigned a Geographical indication (GI) tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Chegu and Changthangi are two breeds of pashmina yielding goats in
 - India.
 - **Source: [Article](#)**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kashmir Pashmina has been assigned a Geographical indication (GI) tag under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding use of lead in petrol:

1. It was added to petrol since introduction of lead has high anti-knock and octane boosting properties.
2. Lead is very toxic to human health but improves the efficiency of emission control system of vehicles.
3. All the countries around the world now use lead free petrol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: Lead is harmful to both human health as well as emission control system of vehicles

Statement 1 is correct: Due to its anti-knock, octane boosting properties, lead was added to petrol in the past

Statement 3 is correct: Recently, Algeria became the last country to introduce lead free petrol

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding India's achievement in the domain of climate change?

1. India is the only G20 nation complaint with the Paris Agreement.
2. India has been ranked within top 10 in Climate change performance index for two years consecutively
3. The Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme is the world's largest zero-subsidy LED bulb programme for domestic consumers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Latham's Snipe:

1. It is listed as "vulnerable" under IUCN red list
2. It breeds in northern Japan and parts of eastern Russia during May-July and spends its non-breeding season (September to March) along India's eastern coast

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Both the statements are incorrect.

Statement 1: It is listed as **least concern** under IUCN red list.

Statement 2: It breeds in northern Japan and parts of eastern Russia during May-July and spends its non-breeding season (September to March) along **Australia's eastern coast**

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.9) With reference to Mugger crocodile, consider the following statements:

1. It is native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran and Pakistan to the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka.
2. It is listed as an endangered species in the IUCN red list.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mugger Crocodile is also called marsh crocodile or broad-snouted crocodile. It is an egg-laying and hole-nesting species. It is native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran and Pakistan to the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Its IUCN status is listed as Vulnerable (VU).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Match the following Ramsar Convention wetlands to their geographical locations:

1. Wadhvana ----- Rajasthan
2. Deepor Beel ----- Assam
3. Vembanad Kol ----- Kerala
4. Bhoj Wetland ----- Gujarat

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Wadhvana Wetland is in Gujarat.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Bhoj wetland is In Madhya Pradesh.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.11) With reference to plastic waste, consider the following statements:

1. Plastic waste is major problem because of its biodegradable nature.
2. Un-Plastic Collective (UPC) is a voluntary initiative launched by the UN-Environment Program-India, Confederation of Indian Industry and WWF-India.
3. Microplastics are small plastic pieces of less than five millimeters in size.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: it is a problem because of its non-biodegradable nature.

Statements 2 is correct: UPC is co-founded by CII, UNEP and WWF India. The word 'un-plastic' specifically refers to moving all types of plastics in a circular economy and removing unnecessary plastic in the long run, while using sustainable alternative materials.

Statement 3 is correct: Microplastics are small plastic particles in the environment that are generally smaller than 1 mm to the 1 micrometer range. It includes microbeads that are used in cosmetics products, industrial scrubbers which are used for aggressive blast cleaning, microfibers used in textiles and virgin resin pellets used in plastic manufacturing processes.

Q.12) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding **Sand and dust storms**?

1. It increases the nutrient content in the areas of deposition.
2. It can also aid in phytoplankton growth in the sea thus helps maintain marine ecosystem.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

Statement 2 is correct: Dust particles that carry iron helps in maintaining phytoplankton balance and hence helps maintain marine ecosystem.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) With reference to **Dugong (sea cow)**, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as "endangered" under IUCN red list.
2. They are dependent on seagrasses for their subsistence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Dugong is listed as vulnerable under IUCN red list.

Statement 2 is correct: Dugong is a herbivores marine mammal and it is dependent on seagrasses for their subsistence.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) With reference to the **Black necked crane**, consider the following statements:

1. The black-necked crane is central to Buddhist mythology and culture.
2. It is listed as Near Threatened species under IUCN red list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The black-necked crane is central to Buddhist mythology and culture. According to a World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF), previous incarnations of the Dalai Lama were carried from monastery to monastery on the backs of these holy birds.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is listed as Near Threatened species in the IUCN Red List.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.15) With reference to LEAF Coalition, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to mobilize at least \$1 billion for financing countries committed to protecting their tropical forests.
2. This initiative is one of the outcomes of the 2015 Paris agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The initiative aims to mobilize at least \$1 billion for financing countries committed to protecting their tropical forests. It is supported by corporations like Unilever plc, Amazon, Nestle and Airbnb.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In April 2021, the LEAF (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance) Coalition was announced as a public-private effort led by the US, the UK and Norway.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.16) With reference to the Mangroves, consider the following statements:

1. They are confined to tropical and subtropical regions.
2. The seeds of Mangrove Forests trees germinate in the trees itself before falling.
3. According to Forest Survey of India 2019 Report, Mangrove cover has decreased as compared to last survey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: They are confined to tropical and subtropical regions as they need high solar radiation to filter saline water through their roots.

Statement 2 is correct: The seeds of Mangrove Forests trees germinate in the trees itself before falling – This is called Viviparity mode of reproduction.

Statement 3 is incorrect: According to the Forest Survey of India, 2019, Mangroves cover in the country increased by 54 sq km (91.10 percent) in comparison to the 2017 assessment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.17) With reference to the **Komodo dragon**, consider the following statements.

1. Komodo Dragon is endemic to Indonesia and present only in the World Heritage site, Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores.
2. Komodo Dragon is listed as vulnerable in IUCN Redlist.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The world's largest living lizard, the Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), has been moved from vulnerable to endangered. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

The species is endemic to Indonesia and present only in the World Heritage site, Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

Rising global temperature and subsequent sea levels are expected to reduce the Komodo dragon's suitable habitat by at least 30 percent in the next 45 years.

Due to ongoing human activities, Komodo dragons living outside protected areas in Flores are threatened by significant habitat loss.

Read more: [Over 900 species of animals have become extinct according to latest IUCN Red List](#)

Q.18) With reference to **Dugong**, consider the following statements:

1. It is an herbivorous mammal endemic to Indian Ocean.
2. They are listed in Appendix I of the CITES.
3. India's first conservation reserve is located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The dugong (*Dugong dugon*), also called the sea cow, is a herbivorous mammal. Species is found throughout the warm latitudes of the Indian and western Pacific Ocean.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** Internationally, dugongs are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits the trade of the species and its parts.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India's first Dugong conservation reserve is coming up in Tamil Nadu.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.19) With reference to **Manda buffalo**, consider the following statements.

1. They are resistant to parasitic infections and less prone to diseases.
2. They are endemic to the Western Ghats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, The Manda buffalo has been recognised as the 19th unique breed of buffaloes found in India by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

About the Manda Buffalo:

- They are found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- These buffaloes have ash grey and grey coats with copper-coloured hair. Some animals are silver white in colour.
- The Manda are resistant to parasitic infections, less prone to diseases and can live, produce and reproduce at low or nil input systems. **(Statement 1 is correct).**

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.20) **Vanniyar Movement** was recently seen in the news. It is related to which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Punjab

Explanation:

Correct Answer: B

Tamil Nadu government has announced the construction of a memorial in Villupuram to people killed in police firing and clashes in 1987, during a movement demanding reservation for the Vanniyar community.

About Vanniyar Movement

Vanniyars are one of the largest and most consolidated backward communities in the state. They had raised massive protests in the mid-1980s demanding 20% reservation in the state, and 2% in central services.

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The Vanniyars declared an agitation from September 17 to 23, 1987, which turned violent. At least 21 protesters were killed, mostly in police firing, and also in clashes with members of Scheduled Caste communities.

After the DMK government came to power in 1989, the OBC quota was split into two: Backward Castes and Most Backward Castes. Vanniyars were categorised among the MBCs with 107 other communities, with 20% reservation.

Recently, Vanniyar community through Government Order got 10.5% reservation for Vanniyars within the 20% MBC quota.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.21) Which of the following has the power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court?

- Chief Justice of India
- Attorney General of India
- Parliament of India
- President of India

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Parliament, which has the power to increase the number of judges, has gradually done so by amending the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act**. The number of judges was increased from 8 in 1950 to 11 in 1956, 14 in 1960, 18 in 1978, 26 in 1986, 31 in 2009, and 34 in 2019.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.22) Which of the following factors is/are possible factors behind changing rainfall pattern in North East India?

- Drying up of land due to climate change.
- Increased snowfall in the Eurasian region.
- Pacific decadal Oscillation.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Climate change is causing increased variability and unpredictability of rainfall in the North East region of India.

- **Climate change causing drying up of land:** An aspect of warming that influences rainfall is drying of the land, which increases the frequency and intensity of dry periods and droughts. An increase in moisture and the drying up together change the rainfall patterns in unpredictable ways.
- **Increased snowfall in the Eurasian region** also impacts monsoon rainfall in North East India. Excessive snowfall in Eurasia causes cooling of the atmosphere of the region, which triggers events eventually leading to a weak summer monsoon season there.

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- **Sea surface temperatures:** A study has also attributed a decrease in rainfall to sea surface temperatures over the subtropical Pacific Ocean, which vary in a cycle and each phase of which lasts a decade. The peak comes every 20 years and is known as the **Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)**. As per a study, PDO is being influenced by global warming as it decreases the difference of temperatures among the layers of the ocean. The peak of PDO will change from 20 to 12 years, which may have an impact on the monsoon rainfall in North East India.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.23) With reference to Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs), consider the following statements:

1. In India, ONEs have been classified as wastelands.
2. They have the highest densities & diversity of large mammalian fauna and also support the livelihoods of local populations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

Explanations

- In India, ONEs has been classified as wastelands. They cover around 300,000 sq km (10 percent) of India's land surface. The largest stretches are found in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- These have the "**highest densities and diversity of large mammalian fauna**" and also **support the livelihoods of local** populations. So, the government should exclude these habitats when considering the location of renewable energy projects.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.24) With reference to wildfire burn scars, consider the following statements:

1. The darker soil surface that they leave behind displays increased fertility & water retention.
2. Burn scars can also increase thunderstorms and the risk of lightning.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Wildfires burn millions of acres of land every year. It leaves behind Wildfire burn scars on the land with little vegetation and a darker soil surface, which **cannot absorb the water**. It makes the land more susceptible to flooding and erosion. Even small rainfall is sufficient to trigger flooding and debris flow.

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- Statement 2 is correct: Burn scars can also increase thunderstorms and the risk of lightning that could spark more fires in the surrounding region.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.25) Sukhet's model was recently seen in news. Which of the following statements correctly explains the model?

- This model allows people from dry land to cultivate water intensive crops through rain water harvesting.
- This model helps farmer to be the producer and seller of their products to consumers.
- This model helps women in rural areas to open common service centers in local areas there by increasing governance in rural areas and cater women empowerment.
- This model allows women to get their LPG cylinders refilled every two months for free in exchange for cow dung and farmyard waste.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

It is an initiative by Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agriculture University (RPAU) at Pusa.

It allows women to get their LPG cylinders refilled every two months in exchange for cow dung and farmyard waste.

Furthermore, it provides four-fold benefit: ensures a pollution-free environment at home, waste disposal, monetary assistance for LPG cylinders, and availability of organic fertilisers to the local farmers.

Read more: [Sukhet's villagers trade waste for wellness, get free LPG refills](#)

Q.26) India's largest open-air fernery was recently inaugurated in which of the following states?

- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Himachal Pradesh
- Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, India's Largest open air fernery was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Ranikhet.

About open air fernery:

The fernery is home to a large number of fern species, some of which are endemic to the state, some hold medicinal value while some are threatened species that demand care and conservation.

The fernery has the largest collection of fern species, second to only Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram.

However, it is the country's first open-air fernery in natural surroundings which is not under any poly-house/ shade house.

Source: [All India Radio](#).

Q.27) With reference to National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to improve air quality at city, regional and national level.
2. It has a target of 25% reduction of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentration by 2025.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a comprehensive initiative in partnership with various Ministries and States to improve air quality at city, regional and national level.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It has a target of 20%–30% reduction of Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentration by 2024.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.28) With reference to Fluoride, consider the following statements:

1. Fluoride is an essential micronutrient and has both beneficial and detrimental effects on human health.
2. It is carcinogenic like arsenic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Fluoride is an essential micronutrient and has both beneficial and detrimental effects on human health.

Statement 2 is correct: Fluoride is not carcinogenic like arsenic. It attacks the calcium in the body,

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.29) Groundswell Report on climate change is released by which of the following organizations?

- a) UNEP
- b) WB
- c) IMF
- d) WEF

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Report is released by the World Bank.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.30) With reference to pollution in Yamuna River, consider the following statements.

1. Less water in the river is one of the reasons for Yamuna River pollution in Delhi.
2. Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) aims for the improvement of water quality conservation in the river and hygiene environment.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

A committee by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) states that Delhi accounts for 76% of the pollution load on the river.

The major causes of pollution in Delhi include Less water availability, Drains dumping sewage and industrial effluents, etc. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)**

1st Yamuna Action Plan (YAP): It was signed in 1992. It aims for the “improvement of water quality conservation in the river and hygiene environment in the cities in the river basin”.

3rd YAP (YAP-III): It is presently underway. But the present condition of Yamuna does not even fit for bathing in the Delhi stretch, except for Palla. It is the point where the river enters Delhi. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

Source: [Cleaning the Yamuna a story of missed deadlines](#)

Q.31) With reference to Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) initiative, consider the following statements:

- 1. It gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.
- 2. It was launched by India and Sweden with the support from World Economic Forum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- **Launched by:** Government of **Sweden and India** at the **UN Climate Action Summit** in 2019 with the support from **World Economic Forum**.
- **Aim:** The group gathers countries and companies that are committed to achieve the targets of the **Paris Agreement** by reaching net-zero carbon emissions from industry by 2050.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.32) Athikaraya, Kayame, Srihati, and Bhejri sometimes seen in news, these are associated with which of the following?

- a) Indigenous rice
- b) Folk rituals
- c) Medicinal herbs
- d) Sacred groves

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- As many as 12 folk varieties of Indian rice examined by researchers can supplement the nutritional demand of important fatty acids in undernourished mothers.
- In India, many folk varieties of rice like Athikaraya, Dudh-sar, Kayame, Neelam samba, Srihati, Maharaji and Bhejri are known to enhance milk production in lactating women. Other traditional varieties like Kelas, DudheBolta and Bhutmoori are rich in iron and can be included in diet of mothers to treat anaemia.

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.33) With reference to hybodont shark, consider the following statements:

1. It was a dominant group of fishes found in both marine and fluvial environments.
2. It became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time. However, hybodont sharks started to decline in marine environments from the Middle Jurassic onwards until they formed a relatively minor component of open-marine shark assemblages. Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.34) With reference to Geological Survey of India (GSI), consider the following statements:

1. It conducts both ground-based and marine survey to update national geoscientific information.
2. It is an attached office under Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Its main functions relate to creating and updating of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment. These objectives are achieved through ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical etc.

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Its headquarters is in Kolkata. GSI an attached office to the Ministry of Mines has regional offices in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad and Shillong. GSI also has unit offices in almost all States of the country.

Q.35) Shoonya initiative sometimes seen in news is associated with?

- a) Formulating India's net zero emission targets before the Glasgow Climate Change conference.
- b) Promoting zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and the industry.
- c) Swachh Bharat Campaign's zero garbage-centric approach to smart cities.
- d) identifying, developing and deploying technologies for converting waste to wealth.

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

Shoonya is an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and the industry.

Aim: To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

As part of the campaign, a corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognise and promote the industry's efforts towards transitioning to EVs for final-mile deliveries.

Moreover, an online tracking platform will share the campaign's impact through data such as vehicle-kilometres electrified, carbon savings, criteria pollutant savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.36) With reference to Black tigers, consider the following statements:

1. Black coat colouration and patterning is due to a single mutation in the Taqpep gene.
2. The melanistic tiger species is found only in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- A recent study has discovered that the coat colouration and patterning that make the wild cats appear dark boil down to a single mutation in the Transmembrane Aminopeptidase Q (Taqpep) gene.
- The only other black tigers outside of Similipal in India exist at the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar, Ranchi Zoo and Chennai's Arignar Anna Zoological Park, where they were born in captivity. These captive-born tigers shared a common ancestry with Similipal tigers.
- The tiger species known as the melanistic tiger is found only in India.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.37) With reference to Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) Biosphere Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. Reserve stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.
2. The reserve is uninhabited.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** MDD Biosphere reserve is a transboundary reserve stretching across 5 countries of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The reserve is inhabited by around 9 lakh people.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.38) Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following states?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Odisha
- c) Bihar
- d) Chhattisgarh

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary lies in Odisha.**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.39) Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was recently seen in news. Which of the following statements correctly describes the term?

- a) It is an ancient shark species identified in Rajasthan.
- b) It is a new butterfly species found in Western Ghats.
- c) It is the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve located in Europe.
- d) It is a project that aims to bring ancient species to the present world using gene editing technology.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, UNESCO designated **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve.**

The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across **Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.** The total area of the reserve — a million hectares — in the so-called '**Amazon of Europe**', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.

Read more: [UNESCO declares world's first 5-country biosphere reserve in 'Amazon of Europe'](#)

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Q.40) With reference to **Global Methane Pledge**, consider the following statements.

1. It is a pledge to cut global methane emissions by nearly 30% in the next decade.
2. The pledge is jointly made by US and European Union(EU).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It is a pledge to cut global methane emissions by nearly 30% in the next decade.

Statement 2 is correct: The pledge is jointly made by US and European Union(EU).

The pledge will be formalized at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.

Read more: [Biden unveils plan to cut methane emissions](#)

Q.41) Sequoia National Park was recently seen in News. The national park is situated in which of the country?

- a) Australia
- b) Germany
- c) The USA
- d) Indonesia

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Two wildfires in California, US are burning through the Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada that is home to some of the largest trees in the world.

Among these trees is the **world's largest tree** popularly known as **General Sherman**, which firefighters are now trying to protect from the blaze.

The General Sherman tree is the world's largest in terms of volume. As per recent estimates, General Sherman is about 2,200 years old.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.42) With reference to **Sea Cucumber**, consider the following statements.

1. They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world, and they recycle nutrients.
2. World's first conservation area for Sea Cucumbers is created by Lakshadweep Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized two tonnes of sea cucumber, a banned marine species, in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay areas in Tamil Nadu.

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Sea cucumbers are marine invertebrates that live on the seafloor found generally in tropical regions.

Statement 1 is correct: They are an integral part of the coral ecosystem. They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world, and they recycle nutrients, thus playing an important role in keeping coral reefs in good condition.

Statement 2 is correct: In 2020, the Lakshadweep Islands administration created the world's first conservation area for sea cucumbers.

Sea cucumber in India is treated as an endangered species listed under schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.43) Deolali minnow, the Deccan barb and the Nilgiri mystus belong to which of the following species?

- a) Frog
- b) Gecko
- c) Fish
- d) Bird

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- All belong to the fish species.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.44) Which of the following is/are possible consequences of Ozone depletion?

1. Changes in the spectrum of incoming radiation.
2. Formation of more tropospheric ozone.
3. Change the vertical distribution of molecules in the troposphere and stratosphere.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All are correct.

Explanation

Ozone depletion can cause the following: -

- **First**, Ozone depletion affects the climate and changes the spectrum of incoming radiation.
- **Second**, the ozone layer may produce new molecular species that change the radiation-emitting and absorbing properties of the atmosphere. This may cause the formation of more tropospheric ozone, which will not be desirable.
- **Third**, in the absence of the ozone layer, the radiations will directly flow to the earth's surface and change the vertical distribution of molecules in the troposphere and stratosphere. This will change the rate of vertical circulation.

Source: [DTE](#)

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Q.45) WHO's new Global Air Quality Guidelines (GAQGs) recommends air quality levels for which of the following pollutants?

1. Ozone
2. Nitrous Oxide
3. Carbon Dioxide

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The WHO's new guidelines recommend air quality levels for six pollutants, including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

The other two are PM10 and PM2.5 -- particulate matter equal or smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.46) With respect to One Horned Rhino, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as Endangered under the IUCN category.
2. Under India Rhino Vision 2020, it aims to Increase the Rhino Population in Assam from about 2000 to 3000 by 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Conservation status of One Horned Rhino:

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.

CITES: Appendix I

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Statement 2 is correct: The vision of IRV is to Increase the Rhino Population in Assam from about 2000 to 3000 by 2020. It aims to ensure that one-horned rhinos are spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/explained-why-assam-govt-is-burning-2500-rhino-horns-in-a-special-ceremony/>

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Modern History:

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Jallianwala Bagh massacre:

1. Hunter Commission was set up to examine the incident of Jallianwala Bagh.
2. Sir Subramaniya Aiyar renounced his knighthood following the incident.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: The British government appointed the Hunter Commission to inquire into the Jallianwala Bagh shootings. The committee condemned the incident but did not impose any penal or disciplinary action against General Dyer.

Statement 2 is in incorrect: Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi as a sign of condemnation, renounced their British Knighthood and Kaiser-i-Hind medal respectively.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. He was a freedom fighter from Meghalaya.
2. He knew Sanskrit and translated the Hindu religious book 'Bhagavad Gita' into the Khasi.
3. He was the only Khasi who attended the famous 'Lahore Session' of Indian National Congress in 1929.

Which of the following personality is described in the statements above?

- a) U Sib Charan Roy
- b) Moje Riba
- c) Gopinath Bordoloi
- d) Paona Brajabashi

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

U Sib Charan Roy:

- **U Sib Charan Roy** was a Nationalist and socio-religious reformer, born in 1862 in Sohra, Meghalaya. He was the eldest son of Babu Jeebon Roy, the 'Father of modern Khasis'.
- **He joined government service** in 1891 as an A.S.I of police. But, he grew disgusted with the oppressive measures resorted by the British Government. Subsequently, he resigned from Government service in 1892.
- **He joined the Indian National Congress in 1920** and was the **only Khasi who attended the famous 'Lahore Session' of 1929** and had seen the flag hosting and demand for 'Purna Swaraj' (complete independence) by the Congress.
- **He started a monthly paper** 'U Nongphira' (watchman).
- Furthermore, he knew Sanskrit and translated the **Hindu religious book 'Bhagavad Gita' into the Khasi language.**

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Hari Singh Nalwa**

1. He was one of the commanders of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's force.
2. He prevented Afghans from entering Punjab through Khyber pass.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

About Hari Singh Nalwa:

- Hari Singh Nalwa was one of the main and most trustworthy commanders of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's force. He remained Governor of Kashmir, Hazara and Peshawar.
- He defeated various Afghans and established control over various regions along the boundary of Afghanistan and prevented Afghans from entering Punjab through Khyber pass, which was the main route to enter India by the foreign invaders from 1000 AD till the early 19th century.
- In 1818, Sikh army under Nalwa won the Battle of Peshawar and Nalwa was asked to be stationed there. Nalwa took control over Jamrud in 1837, a fort at the entryway to Afghanistan through Khyber Pass.
- For his bravery and ferocity, the government of India released a stamp on the name of Nalwa in 2013.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.4) With reference to **Battle of Saragarhi**, Consider the following statements.

1. The battle happened in 1897 between the British Indian contingent and the Afghans Tribesmen.
2. Sikh soldiers were led by Gurmukh Singh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

September 12 marks the 124th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi that has inspired a host of armies, books and films, both at home and abroad.

About Battle of Saragarhi

The Battle of Saragarhi is considered as one of the finest last stands in the military history of the world.

The battle happened in 1897 between the **British Indian contingent** comprising 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36th Sikhs (now known as Indian Army's 4th Battalion) who were stationed at Saragarhi **and** 10,000 to 12,000 **Afghans Tribesmen. (Statement 1 is correct)**

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Though heavily outnumbered, the 21 Sikh soldiers led by **Havildar Ishar Singh** managed to hold the Saragarhi tower for seven hours till their last breath, killing 200 tribals and injuring 600. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Source: [Battle of Saragarhi explained: When 21 men fought thousands](#)

Q.5) With reference to Subramaniya Bharati, consider the following statements:

1. He published the weekly journal “**India**”, which was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons.
2. He was the supporter of caste system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: He began his career as a journalist and as a sub-editor in “Swadesamitran” in 1904. He edited and published the weekly journal “India”, which was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons. He also published and edited a few other journals like “Vijaya”.

Statement 2 is incorrect: He was against the caste system. He declared that there were only two castes-men and women and nothing more than that.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) With reference to Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, consider the following statements:

1. He established Provisional Government of India at Bagh-e-Babur in Kabul in the middle of World War I in 1915.
2. He was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: He established a “**Provisional Government of India**” at Bagh-e-Babur in Kabul in the middle of World War I in 1915. He declared himself president and his fiery fellow revolutionary **Maulana Barkatullah** of Bhopal, prime minister, of the Provisional Government.

Statement 2 is incorrect: he was nominated for the 1932 Nobel Peace Prize.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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Q.7) With respect to “**Shankar Shah**”, consider the following statements:

1. He was a Gond king of Garha Kingdom in the Gondwana region of Madhya Pradesh.
2. He fought with the Mughal Kings, including Aurangzeb to establish independent kingdom.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: King Shankar Shah was a Gond king of Garha Kingdom in the Gondwana region of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Despite his state being under British rule during the first war of independence in 1857, the king and his son, Raghunath were saddened by the British era atrocities and kept igniting the rebellion through their poetry.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding defence offset mechanism:

1. One of its intended objectives is to partially compensate for a significant outflow of a buyer country's resources.
2. Under this mechanism a buyer is mandated to produce or manufacture weapons tech domestically in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under defence offset policy mechanism transfer of technology is one of its objectives
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There is no such obligation on a buyer.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in a report, defined offsets as a “mechanism generally established with the triple objectives of:

3. partially compensating for a significant outflow of a buyer country's resources in a large purchase of foreign goods
4. facilitating induction of technology and
5. adding capacities and capabilities of domestic industry

Source: [Article](#)

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) With reference to biogas production via Bio-methanation method, consider the following statements:

1. Under this, organic material is microbiologically converted under anaerobic conditions to biogas.
2. The energy content of the biogas produced under the process is proportional to the Methane content.
3. The biogas has a lower calorific value than natural gas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Bio-methanation organic material is microbiologically converted under anaerobic conditions to biogas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The energy content of the biogas is proportional to the CH₄ content. Usually, the AD biogas contains between 40–75% CH₄ and 25–60% CO₂, besides other components in minor quantities such as H₂, N₂, NH₃, H₂S, H₂O and others trace organic and inorganic components.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because of the presence of CO₂, the biogas has a lower calorific value than natural gas, and therefore cannot be directly injected into the natural gas grid.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) With reference to National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), consider the following statements:

1. It is a constituent part of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It is the only government-owned aerospace R&D lab in the civilian sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NAL is a part of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the only government-owned aerospace R&D lab in the civilian sector.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.3) With reference to **Hycean worlds**, consider the following statements.

1. Hycean planets are up to 2.5 times bigger than Earth, with oceans and hydrogen-rich atmospheres.
2. These planets might support microbial underwater life.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

A recent study published in The Astrophysical Journal identifies a new class of exoplanets – Hycean worlds – that could support life different from that on Earth.

These planets are about 2.5 times the size of Earth, have temperatures about 200 degrees Celsius and planet-wide oceans. These could support microbial underwater life.

Source: [Space.com](https://www.space.com)

Q.4) With reference to the **INS Dhruv**, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched for civil research in the Antarctica region.
2. It has the capability to map ocean beds for research.
3. It is a nuclear missile tracking ship which will be manned by Indian Navy personnel with the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is not a civil vessel but a ship of Indian Navy meant for the purpose of Nuclear Missile defence.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct

Features of INS Dhruv

- **Mapping:** It has the capability to also map ocean beds for research and detection of enemy submarines.
- **Enhanced surveillance capabilities:** INS Dhruv is equipped with DRDO developed state-of-the-art active scanned array radar or AESA. It has the ability to scan various spectrums to monitor spy satellites watching over India, as well as monitor missile tests in the entire region.
- **Surveillance:** The ship will be a vital key to maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific and is being commissioned at the time when the era of underwater armed and surveillance drones has dawned.
- **Real time warning system:** It will act as an early warning system for enemy missiles headed towards Indian cities and military establishments.

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- **Control:** The nuclear missile tracking ship will be manned by Indian Navy personnel with the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

Source: [HT](#)

Q.5) With reference to Dementia, consider the following statements.

1. Dementia is a viral disease that affects the functions of intestine.
2. It is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report titled 'Global status report on the public health response to 'dementia'.

About Dementia:

Dementia is a syndrome – usually of a chronic or progressive nature – that leads to deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from the usual consequences of biological ageing. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)**

Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death among all diseases and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

Read more: [World failing to address dementia challenge: WHO report](#)

Q.6) With reference to Nipah virus, consider the following statements:

1. It is a zoonotic virus.
2. The only available vaccine is the antiviral drug Ribavirin.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a zoonotic virus, meaning it has been transmitted from animals to human beings.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There is no vaccine against Nipah virus. The only available treatment is supportive cough care. Ribavirin, an antiviral drug, was used to treat encephalitis in 2018.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.7) With reference to **Mu Variant**, Consider the following statements.

1. Mu variant is currently responsible for more than 10% of global infections.
2. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified this variant as a variant of interest (VOI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified yet another SARS-CoV-2 variant — B.1.621 — as a variant of interest (VOI) and given it the label “Mu”. **(Statement 2 is correct)** Mu Variant was first seen in Colombia in January 2021 when it was given the designation B1621.

It has since been detected in 40 countries, but it is currently responsible for only 0.1% of infections globally. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)**

Source: [Mu variant: Newly classified by WHO as a SARS-CoV-2 variant of interest](#)

Q.8) With reference to **Hydrogen**, consider the statements below:

1. Grey hydrogen is produced from coal.
2. Hydrogen is a good storage material for surplus electricity generated from renewables.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Grey hydrogen is produced from methane or natural gas. Brown hydrogen is produced from coal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Apart from use in transportation, hydrogen may be a good storage material for surplus electricity generated from renewables. Solar and wind are intermittent; sometimes they don't generate any power, and sometimes they generate a surplus. The surplus can be used to electrolyze hydrogen, which can be stored.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) With reference to **Pollen**, consider the following statements.

1. It is a fine yellowish powder released by plants.
2. Each pollen grain contains female gametes necessary for fertilization.
3. Pollen are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Chandigarh has got its **first pollen calendar**. This can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.

About Pollen:

Pollen is a fine yellowish powder released by plants (**Statement 1 is correct**). They are essential for the sexual reproduction of flowering plants and plants that produce cones. Each pollen grain contains male gametes necessary for fertilisation. (**Statement 2 is incorrect**)

Pollen produced by plants are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans. (**Statement 3 is correct**)

In India, about 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever and approximately 15% develop asthma.

Read more: [Chandigarh's first Pollen Calendar can help identify potential allergy triggers and guard sensitive people from exposure](#)

Q.10) With reference to **Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)**, consider the following statements.

1. They provide online privacy and anonymity by creating a private network from a public internet connection.
2. VPNs are essential to the proper functioning of many modern businesses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs should collaborate with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to develop a coordination mechanism to block VPNs.

About VPNs:

A virtual private network (VPN) provides online privacy and anonymity by creating a private network from a public internet connection. VPNs mask a person's internet protocol (IP) address, so the online actions are virtually untraceable. (**Statement 1 is correct**)

VPNs are **essential to the proper functioning of many modern businesses**, particularly in the **high-value-added services sectors**. The VPNs enable branch offices to be properly plugged into corporate networks and allow for employees to conduct transactions and approvals with proper data security. (**Statement 2 is correct**)

Read more: [Protect Digital India: About the challenges associated with banning VPNs](#)

Q.11) With reference to **HIV**, consider the following statements:

1. HIV attacks CD4, a type of White Blood Cell (T cells) in the body's immune system.
2. It spreads from one person to another through sexual contact.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks CD4 cells that help the body fight infection, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases.

Statement 2 is correct: HIV is transmitted through anal or vaginal sex, or sharing needles, syringes, or other drug injection equipment.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.12) With reference to Inspiration4 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a manned spaceflight aboard the SpaceX *Resilience* capsule.
2. It will orbit the Earth higher than both International Space Station and the Hubble Space Telescope.
3. The mission involves circling the Earth for three days and then splashing down into the Atlantic Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

Explanation

- **Inspiration4** is a spaceflight planned for four people aboard the SpaceX *Resilience* capsule. The three-day flight will be the first human spaceflight to orbit Earth with exclusively private citizens on board. The flight will be privately operated by SpaceX using a previously-flown [Crew Dragon](#) capsule launched to low Earth orbit.
- **The objective of the Inspiration4 mission:** The mission involves circling the Earth for three days and then splashing down into the Atlantic Ocean. It will orbit the Earth at 575 km, higher than the [International Space Station](#) (408 km) and the [Hubble Space Telescope](#) (547 km). This will be the farthest distance travelled by a crewed mission since 2009, when astronauts last went to repair the Hubble.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Grey Hydrogen – Coal
2. Brown Hydrogen – Natural Gas
3. Pink Hydrogen – Electrolysis via nuclear power

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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d) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Grey Hydrogen:** This is the most common form of hydrogen production. Grey hydrogen is created from natural gas, or methane, using steam methane reformation but without capturing the greenhouse gases made in the process.
- **Brown hydrogen:** Using black coal or lignite (brown coal) in the hydrogen-making process, these black and brown hydrogen are the absolute opposite of green hydrogen in the hydrogen spectrum and the most environmentally damaging.
- **Pink hydrogen:** Pink hydrogen is generated through electrolysis powered by nuclear energy. Nuclear-produced hydrogen can also be referred to as purple hydrogen or red hydrogen. In addition, the very high temperatures from nuclear reactors could be used in other hydrogen productions by producing steam for more efficient electrolysis or fossil gas-based steam methane reforming.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) With reference to Marker X syndrome, consider the following statements:

1. It is a genetic disorder.
2. Boys often have a more serious form of this syndrome than girls.
3. The disorder can be cured if therapy is given at an early stage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is a genetic disorder. It is also known as Martin-Bell syndrome or Marker X syndrome.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The syndrome is the leading inherited cause of autism in 4% of the population worldwide. Boys often have a more serious form of it than girls.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The disorder cannot be cured, but early therapy can improve the individual's quality of life.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.15) With reference to the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scheme, consider the following statements.

1. The scheme covers only the school students.
2. The scheme is sponsored and managed by the Department of Science & Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, the Union Minister of Science & Technology has presented the 8th INSPIRE – MANAK Awards during a virtual ceremony.

About INSPIRE Scheme

INSPIRE is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the Department of Science & Technology for the attraction of talent to science. **(Statement 2 is correct).**

Programs: The scheme covers students in the age group of 10-32 years and has three programs and five components. They are a) **Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science** (SEATS), b) **Scholarship for Higher Education** (SHE) and c) **Assured Opportunity for Research Careers** (AORC). **(Statement 1 is incorrect).**

Read more: [Union Minister presents the 8th INSPIRE – MANAK Awards during a virtual ceremony](#)

Q.16) With reference to **Atal Innovation Mission: Space Challenge**, consider the following statements.

1. It is launched in collaboration with ISRO and DRDO.
2. Students from all across the country can participate in this challenge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Atal Innovation Mission has launched **Space challenge 2021 in collaboration with ISRO & CBSE.**

Statement 2 is correct: All the ATL (Atal tinkering Labs) and non ATL schools can participate in it.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.17) With reference to **dissipation of acoustic energy by honeycomb structures based on natural beehives**, consider the following statements:

1. These structures have been found to efficiently control high as well as low frequencies of Acoustic energy.
2. The vibration energy produced is dissipated in the form of heat due to wall damping properties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Connect Answer: C

Explanation

Both statements are correct.

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- An Indian researcher recently fabricated paper honeycomb and stronger polymer honeycomb structure as sound-absorbing panels that **dissipate acoustic energy to low-frequency ranges**.
- Many traditional materials have been found to be good at controlling higher frequencies, but not at lower frequency ranges.
- However, natural **beehives** have been found to **efficiently control high as well as low frequencies because of their geometry**. This behaviour was owing to the conversion of acoustical energy into vibration energy. This vibration energy is dissipated in the form of heat due to wall damping properties.

Hence, mimicking this property as an engineering solution could offer a **cost-effective method for controlling noise pollution**.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) With reference to Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), consider the following statements:

1. During a CME, enormous bubbles of superheated gas called plasma are ejected from the sun.
2. They can occur anywhere on the Sun.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Connect Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** CME is an ejection of highly magnetised particles from the sun. During a CME, enormous bubbles of superheated gas – called plasma – are ejected from the sun. The underlying cause of CMEs is not well understood. However, astronomers agree, that the sun's magnetic field plays a major role.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Though CMEs can occur anywhere on the Sun, it is primarily those which originate from regions near the centre of the visible solar surface (called the photosphere) that are important for study, since they may propagate directly towards the Earth.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.19) Which of the following correctly defines the term Zero Shot Learning (ZSL)?

- a) A process via which a machine learns how to recognize objects in an image without any labeled training data.
- b) An encryption algorithm to protect high-value crypto transactions over the blockchain.
- c) A new model of higher education teaching resulting in increased learning outcomes.
- d) A neurological mechanism through which a human brain learns to assimilate information.

Connect Answer: A

Explanation

- In machine learning, zero-shot learning refers to the process by which a machine learns how to recognize objects in an image without any labeled training data to help in the

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classification. In other words, ZSL aims to help machines categorize objects that they have never seen before.

- **For example**, given a set of images of animals to be classified, along with auxiliary textual descriptions of what animals look like, an AI which has been trained to recognize horses, but has never seen a zebra, can still recognize a zebra if it also knows that zebras look like striped horses.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) With reference to sterile insect technique, consider the following statements:

1. Under this method biological insect control large numbers of sterile insects are released into the wild.
2. Insects used for this method are preferably female.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The sterile insect technique is a method of biological insect control whereby overwhelming numbers of sterile insects are released into the wild.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The released insects are preferably male as this is more cost-effective and the females may in some situations cause damage by laying eggs in the crop, or, in the case of mosquitoes, taking blood from humans

Source: [Article](#)

Q.21) With reference to the saline gargle RT-PCR technique, consider the following statements:

1. It is an entirely non-invasive technique.
2. It has been developed by National Institute of Virology.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The method is non-invasive and simple enough for a patient to collect his/her own sample for testing. A simple collection tube filled with a saline solution is used. The patient gargles with the solution and rinses it inside the tube.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** it has been developed by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.22) Which of the following statement is true about **REX MKII**?

- It is a social humanoid robot that is capable of imitating human gestures and facial expressions
- It is the vaccine developed to fight against the deadly Corona virus Delta variant.
- It is the mission by NASA that will place a single geophysical lander on Mars to study its deep interior.
- It is a remote-controlled armed robot that can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire.

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Statement a is incorrect: It is about Sophia Robot. The humanoid robot can track faces, maintain eye contact and recognize people.

Statement c is incorrect: It is about NASA Insight mission.

Statement d is correct: REX MKII is a remote-controlled armed robot of Israel that can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. It is operated by an electronic tablet and can be equipped with two machine guns, cameras and sensors. It can also run autonomously. The robot can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured soldiers and supplies in and out of battle and strike nearby targets.

Q.23) With reference to low-C bricks, consider the following statements:

- They require high-temperature firing.
- These bricks use the Portland Cement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are incorrect.

- Researchers have developed a technology to produce energy-efficient walling materials using construction and demolition (C&D) waste and alkali-activated binders. These are called low-C bricks, do not require high-temperature firing, and avoid the use of high-energy materials such as Portland cement. The technology will also solve the disposal problems associated with C&D waste mitigation.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.24) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term Hydrodynamic Cavitation?

- It is a process by which shale gas is extracted from the sedimentary rocks.
- It refers to a process which occurs in a flowing liquid as a result of a decrease and subsequent increase in local pressure.
- A mechanical procedure employed in cleaning up of an oil spill over the surface of the Ocean.
- A geomorphic process which results in the creation of weathering and erosion landforms.

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Indian scientists have developed a new sustainable and affordable solution for converting keratin waste such as human hair, wool, and poultry feathers to fertilizers, pet, and animal feeds.
- They used advanced oxidation for the conversion of the waste to marketable fertilizers and animal feed. The key technology behind this involves pre-treatment followed by hydrolysis of keratin using a technique called Hydrodynamic Cavitation, which involves vaporization, bubble generation, and bubble implosion in a flowing liquid.
- **Hydrodynamic Cavitation** is a process of vaporisation, bubble generation and bubble implosion which occurs in a flowing liquid as a result of a decrease and subsequent increase in local pressure. Cavitation will only occur if the local pressure declines below the saturated vapor pressure of the liquid.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.25) With reference to Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOF), consider the following statements:

1. They are a class of compounds containing metal ions coordinated to organic ligands to form 3D structures.
2. They are often highly porous materials that act like a sponge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanations

Both statements are correct.

- MOFs are a class of compounds containing metal ions coordinated to organic ligands to form 3D structures, with the special feature that they are often highly porous materials that act like a sponge.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.26) With reference to Nuclear-powered Submarines of India, consider the following statements:

1. INS Chakra was the first Nuclear-powered Submarine of India.
2. India does not have a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine or SSBN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

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Statement 1 is correct: India has had Nuclear powered Submarine since it got the Soviet-built K-43 Charlie-class SSN in 1987. It was commissioned with the Red Fleet of the USSR in 1967, and it was leased to the Indian Navy. In India, it was rechristened INS Chakra. The submarine was decommissioned in 1991.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the meantime, India was working on building its own SSN, and the first Indian nuclear submarine, the INS Arihant, was commissioned in 2016. India also demonstrated the capability to launch nuclear weapons in 2018, the INS Arihant is now classified as a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine or SSBN. This is significant, as INS Arihant completes India's nuclear triad.

Read more: [Explained: The AUKUS agreement to equip Australia with n-subs – About Nuclear Submarines](#)

Q.27) Recommendation algorithms are frequently employed in which of the following platforms?

1. E-commerce
2. Social media
3. Gig work

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recommendation algorithms are widely employed in e-commerce platforms, social media feeds and gig work platforms. Such an algorithm helps a user navigate information overload and presents content that it deems more relevant to the user.

These algorithms **learn from user demographics, behavioral patterns, location of the user, the interests of other users accessing similar content**, etc., to deliver content.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.28) With respect to “**Havana Syndrome**”, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a set of mental health symptoms experienced by US intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.
2. It involves symptoms such as hearing certain sounds without any outside noise being present, nausea, vertigo and headaches, memory loss.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Havana syndrome is a set of medical signs and symptoms reported by US and Canadian embassy staff first in Havana, Cuba dating to late 2016, and subsequently in other countries.

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Statement 2 is correct: The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/explained-cia-officer-on-india-trip-reports-havana-syndrome-what-is-known-about-its-symptoms-and-causes-so-far/>

Q.29) XENON1T and LUX-Zeplin experiments are associated with which of the following?

- a) Block Chain technology
- b) Dark matter detection
- c) Search for extraterrestrial life
- d) Detection of gravitational waves

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The XENON1T experiment is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment and was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.
- LUX-Zeplin is a next-generation dark matter experiment located at the Sanford Underground Research Facility.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.30) With reference to outer space treaty 1967, consider the following statements:

1. Outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States.
2. Astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind.
3. States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are principles enshrined in the outer space treaty?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

Outer Space Treaty, 1967 includes the following principles:

- The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;
- Outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States;
- Outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;
- States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner;
- The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- Astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind;
- States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental activities;
- States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects; and

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- States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.31) With reference to dark energy and dark matter, consider the following statements:

1. Majority of the universe is dark matter.
2. Dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Roughly 68% of the universe is dark energy. Dark matter makes up about 27%. The rest - everything on Earth, everything ever observed with all of our instruments, all normal matter - adds up to less than 5% of the universe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together while dark energy repels and causes the expansion of our universe. Both components are invisible.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.32) Consider the following pairs:

- | Vitamin | Deficiency |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Vitamin A | Night Blindness |
| 2. Vitamin C | Scurvy |
| 3. Vitamin D | Anaemia |

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

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

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Disease caused by Vitamin A: Night Blindness,

Vitamin C: Scurvy, disease of gums

Vitamin B: Anaemia

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.33) With reference to Akash Prime Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is medium range Air-Air Missile developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization).
2. Missile is optimized for low temperature and high-altitude operations with the modified ground system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system. It was developed by DRDO.

Statement 2 is correct: It is equipped with an improved active radio-frequency (RF) seeker. Missile has also been optimized for low temperature and high-altitude operations with the modified ground system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.34) With reference to Hydrogen, consider the following statements:

1. It occupies a larger volume as compared with the same quantity of diesel.
2. Compared to batteries, hydrogen offers an economical alternative for short-distance transportation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Hydrogen takes up a lot of space. 1 kg of Hydrogen, occupies a volume of about 11,000 litres, versus just over a litre per kg of diesel.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** For smaller distances, battery-charged vehicles are the most viable option economically. while Hydrogen can be used in heavy duty, long-distance transportation because batteries have low energy-to-weight ratios, and they take a long time to charge compared to fuel cells.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.35) With reference to fungible and non-fungible assets, consider the following statements:

1. A fungible asset can be readily interchanged.
2. A non-fungible asset can also contain smart contracts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Both statements are correct.

What are Fungible and Non-Fungible assets?

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- A fungible asset is something that can be readily interchanged like money. With money, you can swap a £10 note for two £5 notes, and it will have the same value.
- On the other hand, a non-fungible asset means it has unique properties which cannot be interchanged with something else. Example: It could be a painting that is one of a kind. You can take a photo of the painting or buy a print, but there will only ever be one original painting.

What are Non-Fungible Tokens(NFTs)?

- Non-Fungible Tokens(NFTs) are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated.
- They are one-of-a-kind assets in the digital world that can be bought and sold like any other piece of property, but they have no tangible form of their own.
- The digital tokens can be thought of as certificates of ownership for virtual or physical assets.
- NFTs can also contain smart contracts that can solve the problems of provenance and duplication of the art.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.36) With reference to **Agni missiles**, consider the following statements:

1. Agni V is a three-stage, solid fueled fire and forget missile.
2. Agni-P (Prime) is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. It will replace the Agni I missile.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

Recently, China has cited a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution to question India's missile programme amid reports of an upcoming test for the Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile.

Very few countries, including the US, China, Russia, France and North Korea, have InterContinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM).

Agni Class of Missiles:

Agni V is a three-stage, solid fueled fire and forget missile.

Agni-P (Prime) is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. These Agni Prime will replace the Agni I missile.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.37) With reference to USB-Type C, consider the following statements:

1. They support reverse insertion.
2. They can support relatively larger charging currents ranging from 3 A to 5 A.
3. The connector tabs on the Type C chargers were placed on the cable itself, instead of being placed on the device.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

The European Commission has proposed a plan to harmonise charging ports and fast charging technology for electronic devices — something that could force original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to adopt a single technology (USB-Type C) for most of their devices.

About USB-Type C:

- Type-C ports support reverse insertion, so one can insert either end of the cable.
- Type-C ports can transmit data at a higher rate. 4K videos can be transmitted via a USB 3.1 Type-C port.
- Type-C ports support relatively larger charging currents ranging from 3 A to 5 A, and support reverse charging.

The only disadvantage of Type-C is that the connector tabs for chargers were placed on the device itself. So, any malfunction of these tabs would require replacement of the entire port (Not cable alone).

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.38) With reference to **Rabies**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a protozoic disease that is spread through the animal bite.
2. Its symptoms include neurological problems and a fear of light and water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is caused by a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus that is **present in the saliva** of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).

Statement 2 is correct: It has symptoms of cerebral dysfunction, anxiety, confusion, and agitation. As the disease progresses, the person may experience delirium, abnormal behavior, hallucinations, hydrophobia (fear of water), and insomnia

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.39) With reference to **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is an industry – academia interface designed to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprises.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise set up by Deptt of Biotechnology.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is an industry-academia interface. Likewise, it aims to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.40) With reference to Landsat-9, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint mission by NASA and ISRO.
2. It will help identify water bodies affected by potentially harmful algal blooms.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The earth monitoring satellite, Landsat 9, is a joint mission of NASA and the US Geological Survey (USGS).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** If a forest is affected by drought, it will be seen in Landsat images and can help the researchers decode the areas at risk. Similarly during a wildfire, the Landsat images will capture the plumes of smoke and help study the extent of a burning. The satellite images can also help recovery experts plan sites for replanting. Landsat images can also help identify water bodies affected by potentially harmful algal blooms. According to NASA, scientists are now developing computer programs that would use Landsat and other satellite data to automatically warn lake recreation managers when blooms pop up.

Source: [Article](#)

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Polity and governance - Committees - Ashok Kumar Tandon Committee

Q.1) Ashok Kumar Tandon Committee was recently constituted. For which of the following purpose the committee has been constituted?

- The committee will look at the existing guidelines of Journalists Welfare Scheme and make appropriate recommendations.
- The committee will look into the challenges in e-mobility projects and suggest recommendations to improve them.
- The committee will look into the challenges in green hydrogen production and suggest necessary reforms.
- The committee will look into the present scenario and suggest steps to reopen schools in India.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a ten-member Committee headed by Shri Ashok Kumar Tandon, renowned Journalist and Member, Prasar Bharati to take a look at the existing guidelines of the Journalists Welfare Scheme of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and make appropriate recommendations for changes therein.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) With reference to “**Judges of High Court**”, consider the following statements:

- They are appointed by governor of the state in consultation with Chief Justice of India.
- The age of retirement of HC judges is 65 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 217 of the Constitution states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI, Governor of the state.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The age of retirement is **65 years for SC judges** and **62 for HC judges**, unlike in the United States, where Supreme Court judges serve for life.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.3) which of the following is the objective of 6th schedule of the constitution?

- To protect the interest of border states.
- To protect the interest of schedule tribes.
- To allocate power and functions between Union and States.
- To allocate seats for states and UT's in Rajya Sabha.

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Correct Answer B

Explanation:

About 6th Schedule

- The Constitution of India makes special provisions for the administration of the tribal dominated areas in four states namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- As per article 244 and 6th Schedule, these areas are called “Tribal Areas”, which are technically different from the Scheduled Areas under fifth schedule.
- The Governors of these four states are empowered to declare some tribal dominated districts / areas of these states as autonomous districts and autonomous regions.
- It provides for the creation of autonomous District and Regional Councils in these tribal areas and they enjoy a certain degree of administrative, legislative, judicial and financial autonomy.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Venkatachaliah Commission sometimes seen in news is associated with?

- a) Reviewing the working of the Indian Constitution.
- b) Report on the working of capital market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
- c) Pension Scheme for the Unorganized Sector.
- d) Analyse the financial condition of the Regional Rural Banks in India.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), or the Venkatachaliah Commission: It recommended that individual and collective consultation with the States should be undertaken through the Inter-State Council established under Article 263 of the Constitution.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) With reference to Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It was established with the prime objective of modernization of police force.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** BPRD is not a statutory body. It was established via a resolution, not by an Act.

Statement 2 is correct: Primary objective behind establishing BPRD was modernization the police force.

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Indian Economy- Monetary policy

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Taper tantrum**:

1. It is the gradual reduction of monthly purchase of assets by federal reserve.
2. This step is similar to quantitative easing.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Tapering is gradual reduction of monthly purchase of assets by federal reserve. It marks the revival of tight monetary policy.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Tapering is done after the process of Quantitative easing. Quantitative easing is used to bring back economy to revival path from slowdown

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Vande Bharat Train**

1. These are engineless semi-high speed trains.
2. About 80 percent of the train is built indigenously and rest is imported.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, Indian Railways has planned to operate 102 Vande Bharat trains by March 2024.

About Vande Bharat Train:

- **Vande Bharat** is India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high speed train. Earlier, it was known by the name Train 18. **(Statement 1 is correct)**
- The train has been built by the **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai**, in a record time of **20 months**.
- The train is a 100% 'Make in India' project and is claimed to be built at half the cost of a similar train set that is imported. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Source: [102 Vande Bharat trains to be operational by 2024](#)

Q.3) With reference to **Account Aggregators**, consider the statements below:

1. It is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information.
2. The licence for AAs is issued by the Finance Ministry.
3. One of the benefits of AAs is that they will help banks reduce transaction costs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the Reserve Bank of India, an Account Aggregator is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer. It is also engaged in consolidating, organising and presenting such information to the customer or any other financial information user as may be specified by the bank.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The licence for AAs is issued by the RBI, and the financial sector will have many AAs.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** AAs will allow banks to access consented data flows and verified data. This will help banks reduce transaction costs, which will enable them to offer lower ticket size loans and more tailored products and services to our customers

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) With reference to Palm oil, consider the following statements:

1. It is a perennial plantation crop.
2. Its plantation can lead to a decline in forest cover and biodiversity of a region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Oil palm is a low maintenance, high yield, perennial plantation crop. It is one of the essential food items such as onions and pulses and widely used by a majority of Indians.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Studies on agrarian change in Southeast Asia have shown that increasing oil palm plantations is a major reason for the region's declining biodiversity. For example: Indonesia has seen a loss of 1,15,495 million hectares of forest cover in 2020, mainly to oil palm plantation

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) With reference to "Bitcoin", consider the following statements:

1. El Salvador is the first nation to adopt bit coin as legal currency.
2. RBI has legalized the use of bitcoin in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** El Salvador has become the first country in the world to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Currently it is not legalized in India. In India, the Government has floated the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021. The bill prohibits all private crypto currencies and lays down the regulatory framework for the launch of an official digital currency.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.6) With reference to **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes**, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote the local companies to setup or expand their manufacturing units.
2. It restricts the foreign investors to set up their manufacturing units in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It aims to promote the local manufacturers to expand their manufacturing. Under the Scheme, companies will get incentives on **incremental sales** from products manufactured in domestic units.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **major aim** of the scheme is to invite foreign investors to set up their manufacturing units in India.

Source[Article](#)

Q.7) Which of the following are the challenges associated with **Legalizing Crypto currencies in India?**

1. Safety and security of cryptocurrencies.
2. Volatility of cryptocurrency.
3. High investor protection.
4. Non-regulation of Cryptocurrency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

1. **Safety and security of cryptocurrencies:** This is one of the key issues with cryptocurrency. **Mt Gox bankruptcy case** is a highlight of this. Mt gox is a Tokyo-based cryptocurrency exchange. After the cyberattack, several thousands of bitcoin went lost and the company is yet to settle the claim. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

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2. **No investor protection:** Since the cryptocurrency transactions are anonymous in nature, there is no investor/consumer protection in cryptocurrencies. **(Statement 3 is incorrect)**
3. **Conflict of interest:** Globally, crypto-currency exchanges act as both custodian and a regulator. So, their own interest and consumer protection get into conflict.
4. **Non-regulation:** There are some cryptocurrency regulators who often indulge in money laundering and terrorism financing. Further, they are immune to the Central Bank regulation of various countries. **(Statement 4 is correct)**
5. **The volatility of cryptocurrency:** Many cryptocurrencies have only a limited amount of coins. For example, Bitcoins fixed the maximum possible number as 21 million. This creates an increase in demand with each passing day and creates instability in exchange rates. This made the cryptocurrency more volatile in nature. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

Source: [There's a major new risk in town and it's called crypto](#)

Q.8) With reference to PUSA Decomposer, Consider the following statements:

1. It will convert paddy stubble into bio-manure.
2. It consists of a bacteria-based liquid solution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Pusa Decomposer** is a low-cost capsule that can **convert paddy stubble into bio-manure. (Statement 1 is correct)**
- **The capsule consists** of a **fungi-based solution** that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- **Developed by:** Pusa Decomposer Technology has been developed by ICAR – Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

Source: [Centre should direct States to use bio-decomposer: CM](#)

Q.9) With reference to Bad Banks, Consider the following statements:

1. A bad bank is an asset reconstruction company (ARC), involved in management and recovery of bad loans or NPAs of other banks.
2. Sunil Mehta panel on NPA's (Non-Performing Assets) propose to establish bad banks in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

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Recently, The Union Government has approved a proposal that requires the government to guarantee **Security Receipts(SR)** issued by **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)** when buying **non-performing assets (NPAs)** from banks. This will **clear the path for the launch of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**. The **NARCL** is a type of Bad Bank that has to be set up to resolve the problem of bad loans impacting the public sector banks.

About Bad Bank

A bad bank is an asset reconstruction company (ARC), involved in management and recovery of bad loans or NPAs of other banks. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

Generally, these Banks are initially funded by the government and gradually, banks and other investors start to co-invest in them.

Concept of Bad bank in India

- The idea gained momentum when the RBI held asset quality review (AQR) found several banks showing a healthy balance sheet but have suppressed or hidden bad loans.
- **Sunil Mehta panel** on NPA's (Non-Performing Assets) proposed **Sashakt India Asset Management company**,(a bad bank) for resolving large bad loans in 2018. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

Source: [Union Cabinet clears decks for National Asset Reconstruction Company](#)

Q.10) Which of the following is/are benefits of a T+1 settlement cycle introduced by SEBI?

1. Frees up capital for risk collateralization
2. Provides liquidity to investors
3. Decreases unsettled exposure to clearing corporation

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

- T+1 means **settlements will have to be cleared within one day** after the actual transaction takes place. This means the trades executed on Monday gets settled on Tuesday, the next working day.

What are the benefits of T+1 Settlement?

- Firstly, a shortened cycle not only reduces settlement time but also reduces and frees up the capital required to collateralise that risk.
- Secondly, it will provide liquidity to the investors as they get their funds for the shares sold/ credited to their account earlier.
- Thirdly, it reduces the number of outstanding unsettled trades at any instant, and thus decreases the unsettled exposure to Clearing Corporation by 50%.
- Lastly, a shortened settlement cycle will also help in reducing systemic risk.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.11) With reference to Digital Communications Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is responsible for preparing the budget for the Department of Telecommunications for each financial year.
2. It is a statutory body.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** One of the functions of Digital Communications Commission is the preparation of the budget for the Department of Telecommunications for each financial year and getting it approved by the Government.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Commission was established by a resolution, not by an act. Hence, it's not a statutory body.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) 'Taper Tantrum' was recently seen in news. Which of the following statements correctly explains the term?

- a) It is the process in economy to remove inefficient firms by favoring best performers.
- b) It is a concept used by Big Techs to reduce the competition by buying smaller firms.
- c) It is the outcome of US Federal Reserve's decision to reduce its quantum of a bond-buying programme that led to a sudden sell-off in global bonds and stocks.
- d) It is the term that is used to define the imposition of climate finance on developing countries by developed countries.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

After the 2007-2009 global financial crisis and recession, the US Federal Reserve started a bond-buying programme (known as quantitative easing) to infuse liquidity. With these funds, the investors started investing in global bonds and stocks.

In 2013, the US Federal Reserve decided to reduce (taper) its quantum of a bond-buying programme that led to a sudden sell-off in global bonds and stocks.

As a result, many emerging market economies, that received large capital inflows, suffered currency depreciation and outflows of capital. This is called globally as a '**taper tantrum**'.

Source: [BRICS: 2021 vs 2013: About Taper Tantrum and Economy of BRICS nations](#)

Q.13) With reference to Unified Farmer Service Platform (UFSP), Consider the following statements:

1. It is a combination of Core Infrastructure, Data, Applications and Tools that enable seamless interoperability of various public and private IT systems in the agriculture ecosystem.
2. It will act as a central agency in the agri ecosystem like UPI in the e Payments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Unified Farmer Service Platform (UFSP) is a combination of Core Infrastructure, Data, Applications and Tools that enable seamless interoperability of various public and private IT systems in the agriculture ecosystem across the country. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

UFSP is envisaged to play the following role:

It will act as a central agency in the agri ecosystem (like UPI in the e Payments) **(Statement 2 is correct)**

The platform enables Registration of the Service Providers (public and private) and the Farmer Services.

The platform enforces various rules and validations required during the service delivery process.

The platform will act as a medium of data exchange amongst various schemes and services to enable comprehensive delivery of services to the farmer.

Source: [Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare signs 5 MOUs with private companies for taking forward Digital Agriculture](#)

Q.14) With reference to Telecom sector reforms, consider the following statements:

1. 100% FDI is permitted under the automatic route.
2. Non-telecom revenue will be excluded on prospective basis from the definition of AGR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

i). Rationalization of Adjusted Gross Revenue: Non-telecom revenue will be excluded on prospective basis from the definition of AGR. To protect government revenues, companies availing of the moratorium will have to pay interest. This would be at the rate of marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) plus 2%.

ii). For auctions held henceforth, **no Bank Guarantees (BGs)** will be required to secure installment payments. Industry has matured and the past practice of BG is no longer required.

iii). To encourage investment, **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** under automatic route permitted in Telecom Sector. All safeguards will apply. Currently, 100% FDI is allowed in the sector, but only 49% was on the automatic route, and any investment above that limit required government approval.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.15) Consider the following pairs of PLI Schemes and their respective Ministries.

PLI Scheme - Concerned Department/Ministry

1. Automobiles & Auto Components - Department of Heavy Industries
2. White Goods (ACs & LED) - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
3. Manufacturing of Medical Devices - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

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

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

Correct Answer D

Compilation:

Initially, the PLI Scheme focussed on three sectors.

Sl. No	PLI Scheme	Concerned Ministry/Department
1	Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY).
2	Critical Drug Intermediaries, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients	Department of Pharmaceuticals
3	Manufacturing of Medical Devices	Department of Pharmaceuticals

Later it was expanded to other sectors.

Sl. No	Notified PLI Schemes	Concerned Ministry/Department
1	Electronic/Technology Products	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
2	Pharmaceutical drugs	Department of Pharmaceuticals
3	Telecom & Networking Products	Department of Telecom
4	Food Products	Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
5	White Goods (ACs & LED)	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
6	High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Recently the scheme is expanded to the following sectors.

Sl. No	Other PLI Schemes	Concerned Ministry/Department
1	Automobiles & Auto Components	Department of Heavy Industries
2	Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery	NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries.
3	Textile Products (MMF segment and technical textiles)	Ministry of Textiles
4	Speciality Steel	Ministry of Steel

Source: [Cabinet clears PLI for auto sector to spur 'green', high-tech](#)

Q.16) De Soto effect is associated with which of the following?

- a) Slow technological progress due to population growth
- b) Enhanced thermionic emission in a condensed matter
- c) Access of global poor to the formal credit system

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d) a psychological tendency to remember interrupted or incomplete tasks.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Soto effect states that the global poor working in tiny informal enterprises are in effect shut out of the formal credit system. Hence, they are forced to live in poverty, because a lack of clear property rights makes it difficult for them to offer their land assets as collateral to banks.
- A slum dweller with no formal land title thus has to depend on informal sources of money that leave her with little to reinvest in the business.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) With reference to **Gig workers**, consider the following statements:

1. Code on Social Security, 2020 aims to provide labor rights to gig workers.
2. At present, more than 50% of new employment in India is generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce
3. There is no clear employee-employer relationship is available to gig workers in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Code on Social Security, 2020 aims to provide only social security benefits not the labor rights.

Statement 2 is correct: An estimated 56% of new employment in India is being generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce.

Statement 3 is correct: No clear employer-employee relationship is the main issue with the gig economy workers in India. Most of the time, it is the ambiguity around the rights of workers and the responsibilities of platforms that allows businesses to treat their gig workers as employees in terms of the control they exert upon them, but without any employee entitlements like insurance, medical benefits, employees' provident fund, bonus or gratuity, etc.

Source: [Gig Workers and their challenges - Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.18) Which of the following is/are the **benefit of pearl farming**?

1. Alternate source of income for farmers.
2. Employment generation of youth.
3. Reduce fertilizers usage.
4. Eco-Friendly and purify the water.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct Answer A

Explanation:

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) has signed an agreement with the Jharkhand-based Purty Agrotech for the promotion of pearl farming in tribal areas.

The benefits of pearl farming includes,

- **Alternate Source of Income for Farmers.**
- **Employment Generation.**
- **Eco-Friendly Technique:** Pearl farming is an eco-friendly technique. Filter feeder oysters also purify the water. A single oyster clears over 15 gallons of water a day, retaining particles as small as 2 microns.

Source: [Govt to promote pearl farming in tribal areas](#)

Q.19) With reference to Judima, consider the following statements:

1. It is a wine brewed by Dimasa community of Assam.
2. It is the first beverage from North East to earn a GI Tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- Judima, the wine brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam, has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- This wine made from rice and a certain herb is the first beverage from the north-east to earn this label.
- The GI tag for Judima followed months of documentation by the Assam Agricultural University, which coordinated the historical and cultural research on the popular drink with the Youth Association for Development and Empowerment (YADEM) in central Assam's Dima Hasao district.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) SCALE Committee was recently seen in news. Which of the following statements is explaining the aim of the committee?

- a) The committee aims to improve coir industry's production in India.
- b) The committee aims to provide a practical road map for improving India's renewable energy targets.
- c) It is a joint government-industry committee aimed at navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the pandemic.
- d) It is a committee that aims to improve the measurement standards to provide proper weights and measurements.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

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SCALE Committee stands for Steering Committee for Local Value Addition, Manufacturing and Exports(SCALE)

It is a joint government-industry panel aimed at navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the pandemic.

The committee is looking at ways to increase localisation, component manufacturing and employment in various industries.

Source: [Govt.-industry panel drives policy to revive manufacturing](#)

Q.21) Which of the following parameters of ground water are measured in Aquifer mapping under the National Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) programme?

1. Quantity
2. Quality
3. Sustainability

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Aquifer mapping can be defined as a scientific process, wherein a combination of geologic, geophysical, hydrologic and chemical field and laboratory analyses are applied to characterize the quantity, quality and sustainability of ground water in aquifers.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.22) With reference to Naga Cucumber, consider the following statements:

1. It is grown in Jhum fields as a mixed crop mainly during the Kharif season.
2. It can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks.
3. It is cultivated completely organically.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

- Naga Cucumber has been traditionally cultivated by Naga farmers in their Jhum fields as a mixed crop, mainly during the Kharif season (April –May).
- Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft, and sweet. They are grown completely organically.
- Naga cucumbers differ in taste, shape and sizes from those available in other parts of India.
- They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a high level of water and can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks

Source: [Article](#)

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Polity - ELECTION AND RELATED ISSUES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation)**

1. The primary goal of the initiative is to build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote.
2. It is the flagship program of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) organized a two-day SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Consultation Workshop.

Statement 1 is correct: The primary goal of the initiative is to build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote

Statement 2 is wrong: It is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) With reference to Article 21 of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The rights available under this article is available to Indian citizens only.
2. It includes protection from arbitrary executive and legislative proceedings.
3. It can be taken only by the process established by law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.

Statement 2 is correct: It protects from arbitrary executive and arbitrary legislative proceedings.

Statement 3 is correct: Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.3) With reference to the **Schedule Tribes**, consider the following statements.

1. Autonomous district councils are constituted under 5th schedule.
2. Lokur committee and Mungekar Committee are associated with it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Autonomous District Councils are administrative bodies constituted in accordance to Sixth Schedule Article 244 (2) & Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct: Mungekar Committee: It examined issues of administration and governance. It has recommended the formulation of a Tribal Administrative Service under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to select enthusiastic and committed officers for the development of tribal areas.

Lokur Committee: It was set up to look into criteria for defining Schedule Tribes. The Committee recommended five criteria for identification, namely, primitive traits, distinct culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness.

Source: [LiveMint](#)

Q.4) With reference to the **PESA (Panchayat Extensions of Scheduled Areas)**, consider the following statements:

1. It was enacted after the recommendation of Bhuria commission.
2. It confers the powers of local self-governance, ownership and management of natural resources to the local Tribal communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: After the Bhuria Committee recommendations, PESA Act came into existence in 1996. Its aim is to ensure tribal self-rule for people living in scheduled areas of India.

Statement 2 is correct: The PESA Act conferred the **absolute powers to Gram Sabha**, whereas state legislature has given an advisory role to ensure the proper functioning of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.

Source: [LiveMint](#)

Q.5) With reference to “**Indian Languages**” consider the following statements:

1. They are listed under the 7th Schedule of Indian constitution.
2. 21st, 71st and 92nd constitutional amendments are linked to the listing of languages in the Indian constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: India presently has 22 languages specified under the Constitution's **eighth schedule**.

Statement 2 is correct: 21,71 and 92 constitution amendments are linked to listing of languages in Indian constitution.

- **Sindhi** language was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967.
- **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali** were included by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992.
- **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali** were added by 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.

Source: [Bhashas & Bharat: The current language policy is wise, born out of pragmatism. We can't afford linguistic extremism](#)

Q.6) With reference to a Self-Help Group (SHG), consider the following statements:

1. It is a voluntary association of the economically poor, usually drawn from the same socio-economic background.
2. Initially, the NABARD launched self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- SHG is a voluntary association of the economically poor, usually drawn from the same socio-economic background, and who resolve to come together for a common purpose of solving their issues and problems through self-help and community action.
- Initially, the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, along with empanelled Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) designed and developed the SHGs-Bank linkage programme.

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Geography:

Q.1) With reference to Tropical Cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. In this, counter clockwise wind flow in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise wind flow in the Southern Hemisphere.
2. Present of Coriolis force is not required for the formation of these cyclones.
3. It is characterized by a low-pressure centre.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 & 3 are correct

Conditions required for formation of tropical cyclones:

1. A consistent source of heat as tropical cyclones is thermally induced low-pressure systems.
2. Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C which is possible only during the late summers i.e. September, October, and November.
3. Presence of the Coriolis force.
4. Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
5. A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
6. Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.2) Which of the following countries do not share border with the Caspian Sea?

- a) Armenia
- b) Azerbaijan
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Turkmenistan

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement a is incorrect: Armenia is a landlocked country.

Caspian Sea is bordered in the northeast by Kazakhstan, in the southeast by Turkmenistan, in the south by Iran in the southwest by Azerbaijan, and in the northwest by Russia.

Source: [India Kazakhstan relations](#)

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Q.3) With which of the following states/countries does Assam share its border?

- a) Bhutan, Myanmar, Tripura
- b) Sikkim, Tripura, Bangladesh
- c) Tripura, Nepal and Bhutan
- d) Manipur, Mizoram and Bangladesh

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Assam is located in the northeastern part of the country.

It is bounded to the north by **Bhutan** and the state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

To the east by the states of **Nagaland and Manipur**.

To the south by the states of **Mizoram and Tripura**.

To the west by **Bangladesh** and the states of **Meghalaya** and **west Bengal**.

Source: [Article](#)

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- The newly discovered island measures 60×30 metres. It is three metres above sea level and has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth. Before this, **Oodaaq** was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.

Researchers suggested naming the new island as '**Qeqertaq Avannarleq**', which is Greenlandic for "**the northernmost island**".

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) With reference to **Yamuna**, consider the following statements:

1. Yamuna originates from Yamunotri glaciers in the Kumaon ranges of lower Himalayas.
2. Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, Ken are the tributaries of Yamuna.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It originates from the **Yamunotri Glacier** on the southwestern slopes or **Banderpoonch peak in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas**.

Statement 2 is correct: Tons, Giri, Hindon, Chambal, Sind, Betwa, Ken are important tributaries of Yamuna.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.7) With reference to corals, consider the following statements:

1. Corals are found only in tropical water.
2. Among the hard and soft corals, only hard corals can build reefs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: While the majority of coral reefs are found in tropical and sub-tropical waters, there are also deep-water corals in colder regions. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, there are more cold-water coral reefs worldwide than tropical reefs. The largest cold-water coral reef is the Rost Reef off Norway.

Statement 2 is correct: There are two major types of corals: hard corals and soft corals, such as sea fans and gorgonians. Only hard corals build reefs.

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.8) With reference to the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**, Consider the following statements.

1. Only the higher educational institutions in the country are considered for ranking.
2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Ministry of Education has released the **sixth edition of the India Rankings 2021** instituted by the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**.

About NIRF

Launched by: The National Institutional Ranking Framework(NIRF) was launched in 2015 by the **Ministry of Education. (Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Objective: To rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

Source: [Union Education Minister releases India Rankings 2021](#)

Q.9) With reference to **Organic farming, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the type of farming which uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure etc.
2. Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic in 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Organic farming is an agricultural system that uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure, and bone meal and places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting.

Statement 2 is correct: Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic in 2016.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.10) With reference to **permafrost, consider the following statements:**

1. Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen for at least two years straight.
2. The active layer of the permafrost stays frozen all year long.
3. Lower permafrost layers contain soils made mostly of minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen—32 °F (0 °C) or colder—for at least two years straight.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A layer of soil on top of permafrost does not stay frozen all year. This layer is called the active layer. This layer thaws during the warm summer months and freezes again in the fall. In colder regions, the ground rarely thaws—even in the summer.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Near the surface, permafrost soils also contain large quantities of organic carbon—a material leftover from dead plants—that couldn't decompose, or rot away, due to the cold. Lower permafrost layers contain soils made mostly of minerals.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) With reference to Thamirabarani river, consider the following statements:

1. It originates at the western slope of the Eastern Ghats.
2. It is a seasonal river.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are incorrect.

- Thamirabarani river originates at the eastern slope of the Western ghats.
- It is a perennial river.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) With reference to Ellora Caves, consider the following statements:

1. These caves belong from 6th to 10th century.
2. It has sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at one place.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

Dating back from the 6th to 10th century, the Ellora Caves comprise 34 monasteries and temples excavated side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff. Besides being an architectural marvel, the heritage site also embodies the spirit of tolerance as it has sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at one place.

Source: [Article](#)

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GEOGRAPHY - DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND OTHER WATER FORMS - RIVERS

Q.1) With reference to Brahmani river, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tributary of Mahanadi River.
2. Bhitarkanika Wildlife sanctuary lies in the estuarial region of Brahmani-Baitrani river system.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Brahmani is not a tributary of Mahanadi. The Brahmani is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Brahmani** is formed by the confluence of the **Sankh** and South Koel rivers

Source: [Article](#)

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Ancient and Medieval history Quiz - THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Dara Shikoh**

1. He was the eldest son and a chosen successor of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
2. He was an orthodox Muslim and against Hindus.
3. He was killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb.

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

Correct Answer C

About Dara Shikoh:

1. **Dara Shikoh (1615-59)** was the eldest son and a chosen successor of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. **(Statement 1 is correct)**
2. **He was designated with the title** Padshahzada-i-Buzurg Martaba (Prince of High Rank)
3. **However,** he was killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb. **(Statement 3 is correct)**

Dara Shikoh as Liberal Muslim:

1. **Dara Shikoh** was a champion of interfaith understanding, philosopher, artist, architect, translator, poet and administrator.
2. **He is described as a** “liberal Muslim” who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions. He translated the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads into Persian. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**
3. **Moreover, his most important works,** Majma-ul-Bahrain (Mingling of Two Oceans) and Surr-i-Akbar (Great Mystery) are devoted to the cause of establishing connections between Hinduism and Islam

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) With reference to **Gaudiya Vaishnavism**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Hindu religious movement inspired by Madhavacharya.
2. The focus is on devotional worship of Radha and Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a Vaishnava Hindu religious movement inspired by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Here, “Gaudiya” refers to the Gaura or Gauda region of Bengal with Vaishnavism meaning “the worship of Vishnu”.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** The focus of Gaudiya Vaishnavism is the devotional worship (known as bhakti-yoga) of Radha and Krishna, and their many divine incarnations as the supreme forms of God, Svayam Bhagavan.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) With reference to **Choppu Samaan**, consider the following statements?

1. It is a traditional play toy for kids.
2. It has recently received GI (Geographical Indication) tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It is a traditional toy for kids. It is a kitchen set that is made up of fine wood with polished edges. Furthermore, it is painted with harmless natural colours, so it is safe for children. Originally, artists used teak and rosewood, but now there is more use of eucalyptus and rubberwood.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Recently, a Welfare Association of wooden toymakers named Ambasamudram Bharani Mara Varna Kadasal Artisans has applied for the Geographical Indications tag for Choppu Samaan. It still has not received GI tag.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.4) With reference to **Shankhalipi script**, consider the following statements:

1. It comprises of ornate spiral characters assumed to be Brahmi derivatives looking like conch shells.
2. It is found in inscriptions across north-central India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- Shankhalipi or “shell-script” is a term used by scholars to describe ornate spiral characters assumed to be Brahmi derivatives that look like conch shells or shankhas.
- They are found in inscriptions across north-central India and date to between the 4th and 8th centuries. A similar inscription was found on the back of a stone horse sculpture from that period that is at present in the State Museum at Lucknow.

Source: [Article](#)

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Art and Culture - FESTIVALS, DANCE AND OTHERS – Others

Q.1) Buzurgon ki Baat – Desh Ke Saath programme has been launched recently, which of the following is the aim of the programme?

- a) It aims at enhancing the youth knowledge about the wars India fought after independence to instill Patriotism.
- b) It aims to enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons those who have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
- c) It aims to enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons those who have lived during the time of Emergency in India.
- d) It aims to enhancing the interaction between the youth and the retired persons of Army.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Union Minister of Culture has launched a program named 'Buzurgon ki Baat – Desh Ke Saath'.

The programme aims at **enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder** persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

Read more: [Union Minister launches program 'Buzurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath'](#)

Q.2) With reference to the **Thamirabarani civilization**, consider the following statements.

- 1. The civilization flourished in the modern-day Kerala.
- 2. The civilisation developed around the Porunai river.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

A study has revealed that the Thamirabarani civilization in Tamil Nadu is at least 3,200 years old. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)**

The civilisation developed around the Thamirabarani river. The Thamirabarani is also called Porunai. So, it is also called Porunai river Civilisation. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

Encouraged by this finding, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced the establishment of the Porunai Museum in Tirunelveli at a cost of ₹15 crores.

Source: [Thamirabarani civilisation 3,200 years old](#)

Q.3) With reference to **Ellora Caves**, consider the following statements:

- 2. These caves belong from 6th to 10th century.
- 3. It has sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at one place.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- e) 1 only
- f) 2 only
- g) Both 1 and 2
- h) Neither 1 nor 2

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

Dating back from the 6th to 10th century, the Ellora Caves comprise 34 monasteries and temples excavated side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff. Besides being an architectural marvel, the heritage site also embodies the spirit of tolerance as it has sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at one place.

Source: [Article](#)

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Bills, Acts and Regulations - Acts- Health

Q.1) With reference to Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, consider the following statements:

1. The Act clearly defines spurious, adulterated drugs and also misbranded drugs.
2. It also established the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: D

Both statements are correct

Explanation

About the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940

- It is the central legislation that regulates India's drug and cosmetic import, manufacture, distribution and sale. The Act clearly **defines spurious drugs, adulterated drugs and misbranded drugs.**
- This also **established the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).** The Act also establishes regulatory control over the manufacture and sale of drugs.
- The **State Health department** has to regulate the manufacturing, sales and distribution of drugs. **Drug Inspectors** will control the implementation at **ground level.**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) With reference to Arbitration Act and Land Acquisition in India, consider the following statements.

1. The government can acquire land for highways without a fair mechanism for compensation.
2. If the landowner is dissatisfied with the compensation, he can seek reconsideration by an Arbitrator.
3. Under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act, the courts can modify the award or increase the compensation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

In the recent **Project Director, NHAI vs M Hakeem case**, the SC ruled that the government can acquire land for highways without a fair mechanism for compensation. **(Statement 1 is correct)**

National Highways Act, 1956 (amended 1997): Under it, government servants fix the compensation while acquiring the land. If the landowner is dissatisfied with the compensation, he can seek reconsideration. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

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This is a remedy in **section 34 of the Arbitration Act**. But this provides only limited appeal in a court of law. Under **Section 34 of the Arbitration Act**, the **courts cannot modify the award** or increase the compensation itself. It can **either set aside the award or leave it to be re-decided** by the arbitrator. **(Statement 3 is incorrect)**

Source: [A very consequential Supreme Court ruling: When govt values land unjustly, landowners cannot seek full remedy in lower courts](#)

