

1. With reference to the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules of 2020, which of the statement(s) given below is/are not correct?

1. No unmanned aircraft (UA) system shall be operated in India unless there is in existence a valid third party insurance policy to cover the liability that may arise on account of a mishap.
2. Nano-drones weighing 250 grams or less can be operated without a drone pilot license.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- These rules seek to regulate the production, import, trade, ownership and operation of unmanned aircraft systems or drones. They also create a framework for their use by businesses.
- Only authorised entities can sell drones.
- Only entities authorised by the Director General of Civil Aviation can own or operate.
- Permits for flying these also have to be sought online and a log has to be shared after the flight. The norms apply to all existing drones as well.

- Nano-drones weighing 250 grams or less can be operated without a drone pilot license. So, statement 2 is correct.
- No unmanned aircraft (UA) system shall be operated in India unless there is in existence a valid third party insurance policy to cover the liability that may arise on account of a mishap. So, statement 1 is correct.
- Rule number 36 and 38 in the Ministry's draft state that no unmanned aircraft shall carry any payload, unless specified by the Director General of DGCA.
- Neither shall a person "drop or project or cause or permit to be dropped or projected from a UAS (unmanned aircraft system) in motion anything," except when specified.
- For owning and using a drone, one has to be at least 18 years old.
- In the case of companies, the requirement is that their main place of business has to be in India and the chairman and at least two thirds of directors have to be Indian citizens.
- Also, businesses operating drones have to be substantially owned and effectively controlled by Indian nationals.

2. With respect to the Delimitation Commission, which of the statements given above are not correct?

1. Delimitation Commission is a temporary body constituted only after every census.
2. Delimitation will be done to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir as per the rules of the J&K Representation of the People Act 1957.
3. These bodies are so powerful that its orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union Government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 has now been invalidated and, instead, delimitation to the UT of J&K will

- be done as per the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (as amended from time to time) and provisions of Sections 59, 60 of Act 34 of 2019. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- These bodies are so powerful that its orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court. So, statement 3 is correct.
- Bifurcation of J&K into two UTs has led to redrawing of Assembly constituency boundaries. While, the UT of Ladakh will not have its own legislature, J&K will. This would be similar to Puducherry or Delhi.
- They are constituted after every Census. However, such delimitation was also necessitated in 2014 when Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were bifurcated. So, statement 1 is not correct.

3. Consider the following reserves regarding the Tiger Reserves:

1. Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.
2. To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA.
3. No alternation of boundary can be done without the recommendation of State Governments and without the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 under centrally sponsored scheme called Project Tiger. So, statement 1 is correct.
- To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments can forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA. So, statement 2 is correct.
- Central Government via NTCA may also advise the state governments to forward a proposal for creation of Tiger Reserves.
- Tiger Reserves are managed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- No alteration of boundary can be done without the recommendation of National Board for Wild Life and without the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority.
- So, statement 3 is not correct.

4. Recently, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) were used for the first time to drop explosive devices, triggering blasts inside the Air Force Station's technical area in Jammu. UAV's are used in which of the following purposes?

1. Package Delivery
2. in Agriculture for spraying pesticides
3. Monitoring environmental changes
4. Aerial photography

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Drone is a layman terminology for Unmanned Aircraft (UA). There are three subsets of Unmanned Aircraft- Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Autonomous Aircraft and Model Aircraft.
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft consists of remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other components, as specified in the type design.
- Besides combat use, drones are used for a range of purposes like package delivery, in agriculture (spraying pesticides etc), monitoring environmental changes, aerial photography, and during search and relief operations, among others.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'National Automotive Testing and Research and development Infrastructure Project (NATRIP):

(a) It is the initiative in the automotive sector which comprises representatives from the Government of India and State Governments.

(b) It is a flagship project of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- National Automotive Testing and Research and development (R&D) Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) is the largest and most significant initiative in the automotive sector which comprises representatives from the Government of India, a number of State Governments and Indian Automotive Industry.
- It is a flagship project of the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- NATRIP aims to create a state of the art testing, validation and R&D infrastructure in the country.

- Recently, NATRAX- the High Speed Track in Pithampur, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), has been inaugurated by the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

- It is one of the state-of-the-art automotive testing and certification centres under NATRIP.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'Pyrostria laljii' species:

1. It is a new species of the coffee family recently discovered from the Andaman Islands.

2. It has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the IUCN Red List criteria.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, Pyrostria laljii, a new species which belongs to the genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered from the Andaman Islands.
- A new species of pokeweed named Rivina andamanensis was also discovered.
- It is the first record of the genus Pyrostria in India. It is a 15-meter-tall tree.

- Plants belonging to genus *Pyrostria* are usually found in Madagascar but the recently discovered species is new to science.
- While the genus *Pyrostria* is not found in India, there are several genera from the family Rubiaceae that are common in India.
- These plants, including cinchona, coffee, adina, hamelia, ixora, gallium, gardenia, mussaenda, rubia, morinda, have high potential for economic value.
- Named *Pyrostria laljii* after Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India.
- It has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) is a centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.
- The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, in 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs
- Financial Assistance Provided by the Scheme:
 - Upgradation of Individual Micro Food Processing Units: Existing individual micro food processing units desirous of upgrading their units can avail credit-linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.
 - Seed Capital to SHG: Initial funding of Rs. 40,000- per Self Help Group (SHG) member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.

7. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME), consider the following statements:

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- It enables the existing individual micro food processing units to avail credit-linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost for upgrading their units.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

- Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) – records the inter-state transactions.

9. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

Parliament conducts three sessions each year.

- The Budget session: February to May, the Monsoon session: July to September and the Winter session: November to December.

- Recognizing the widespread use of torture during investigations, Juan E. Méndez, submitted a report in 2016 to the United Nations General Assembly as outgoing Special Rapporteur on Torture.
- It called for the development of a universal set of standards for non-coercive interviewing and associated procedural safeguards during investigations to ensure that no person — including suspects, witnesses, victims, and other persons being interviewed is subjected to torture, ill-treatment, or coercion while being questioned.
- The Méndez Principles aim to provide a cohesive blueprint of practical measures to replace torture and Coercive Interrogation.

10. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) is an international human rights treaty, under the review of the United Nations, that aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- India is one of only five countries that have yet to ratify the 1987 UNCAT. The others include Sudan, Brunei, Palau and Haiti.

1. With reference to the Indra Sawhney case, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The Court rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, but it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
2. No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
3. The carry forward rule in case of unfilled vacancies should not violate 50% rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In the famous **Mandal case (Indra Sawhney v. Union of India 1992)**, the scope and extent of **Article 16(4)**, which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court.
- Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions, viz,

- ✓ The advanced sections among the OBCs (the creamy layer) should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation.
- ✓ No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only. Any existing reservation in promotions can continue for five years only (i.e., upto 1997).
- ✓ The total reserved quota should not exceed 50% except in some extraordinary situations. This rule should be applied every year.
- ✓ The 'carry forward rule' in case of unfilled (backlog) vacancies is valid. But it should not violate 50% rule.
- ✓ A permanent statutory body should be established to examine complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.

- However, it is also to be noted that the Parliament has passed the 124th Constitution Amendment Bill (10% Quota Bill) to provide for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) among the general category candidates in higher education and government employment in the year 2019.

• **So, all the three statements are correct.**

2. With reference to the Socially Educational and Backward Class (SEBC), which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The President alone is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1) of the Constitution.
2. The States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.
3. Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The President (that is the Central government) alone, to the exclusion of all other authorities, is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1), which shall be deemed to include SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory for the purposes of the Constitution.
- The States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.

- The Central List is to be the “only list” for the SEBC.
- Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament, by virtue of Article 342A (2).
- In the task of identification of SEBCs, the President shall be guided by the Commission (National Commission for Backward Classes) set up under Article 338B; its advice shall also be sought by the State in regard to policies that might be framed by it.
- If the commission prepares a report concerning matters of identification, such a report has to be shared with the State government, which is bound to deal with it, in accordance with provisions of Article 338B. However, the final determination culminates in the exercise undertaken by the President (i.e. the Central Government, under Article 342A (1).
- However, “the President’s prerogative as far as the identification and inclusion of SEBCs in the List would not affect the States’ power to make reservations in favour of particular communities or castes, the quantum of reservations, the nature of benefits and the kind of reservations, and all other matters falling within the ambit of Articles 15 and 16”.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian federation was not the result of an agreement by the units.
2. The component units of Indian Federation had no freedom to secede from the federation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- While submitting the draft Constitution in 1948, Dr B R Ambedkar, chairman of the drafting committee, had said that the committee had used the word 'Union' because:
 - ✓ the Indian federation was not the result of an agreement by the units, and
 - ✓ the component units had no freedom to secede from the federation.
- The members of the Constituent Assembly were very cautious of not using the word 'Centre' or 'Central government' in the Constitution as they intended to keep away the tendency of centralising of powers in one unit.

4. Which of the following actions by the Government will help in controlling 'Demand-Pull Inflation'?

1. Increasing taxes
2. Reducing government expenditure
3. Upward revision of wages

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A mismatch between demand and supply pulls up prices. Either the demand increases over the same level of supply, or the supply decreases with the same level of demand and thus the situation of demand-pull inflation arise.
- Cuts in spending are the one of the ways of tackling excess demand. This is mainly done by increasing taxes and reducing government expenditure. At times, the goods in short supply are imported, interest on loans increased.

5. With reference to Green Hydrogen, consider the following statements:

1. It is produced by electrolysis of water using Thermal Power Plants.
2. Electricity splits water into hydrogen and oxygen with Water Vapor as by product.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable energy (like Solar, Wind) and has a lower carbon footprint.
- Electricity splits water into hydrogen and oxygen with by Products such as Water and Water Vapor.

Other Types of Hydrogen:

- Brown hydrogen is produced using coal where the emissions are released to the air.
- Grey hydrogen is produced from natural gas where the associated emissions are released to the air.
- Blue hydrogen is produced from natural gas, where the emissions are captured using carbon capture and storage.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The informal sector's components are not included in GDP computations.
2. PM SVANidhi is a Micro Credit Scheme for the informal sector workers.
3. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a USD 500 million

loan programme to support India's informal working class.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The informal sector is the part of any economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by any form of government.
- It is largely characterized by skills gained outside of a formal education, easy entry, a lack of stable employer-employee relationships, and a small scale of operations.
- Unlike the formal economy, the informal sector's components are not included in GDP computations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India's estimated 450 million informal workers comprise 90% of its total workforce, with 5-10 million workers added annually.
- Some Initiatives by the Government:
 - Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)
 - Labour Reform
 - PM SVANidhi: Micro Credit Scheme for Street Vendors. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)
- Recently, the World Bank has approved a USD 500 million loan programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks.

7. In context to Kalbeliya Dance, consider the following:

1. It is associated with one of the Rajasthani tribes.
2. It was included in UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in 2010.
3. The dance is performed by Women Only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kalbeliya dances are an expression of the Kalbelia community's traditional way of life.
- It is associated with a Rajasthani tribe of the same name.
- It was included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organizations (UNESCO) list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in 2010.

- The dance form consists of swirling; graceful movements that make this dance a treat to behold.
- The movements associated with the Kalbelia also make it one of the most sensuous forms of folk dance in India.
- It is generally performed for any joyous celebration and is considered to be an integral part of the Kalbeliya culture.
- Another unique aspect of the Kalbelia dance is that it is only performed by women while the men play the instruments and provide the music.

8. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the mangoes mentioned above have been accorded the Geographical Indication tag.
- Mango State
- Jardalu mango – Bihar
- Hapus mango – Maharashtra
- Laxmanbhog mango – West Bengal
- Banaganapalle mango – Andhra Pradesh
- Appemidi mango – Karnataka

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

1. Global Cyber Security Index (GCI) 2020 is released by
- UNESCO
 - World Economic Forum
 - International Telecommunication Union
 - Organization for economic cooperation and development

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- United Nations' specialised agency for information and communication technologies — International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has released the Global Cyber Security Index (GCI) 2020.
- The index is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level.
- Countries are measured along five pillars, namely, legal measures, technical measures, organisational measures, capacity development, and cooperation to generate an overall score.
- The countries were asked 82 questions where 20 indicators were measured.
- Top 5 Countries of 2020 include the US on first, the UK and Saudi Arabia second, Estonia on third, South Korea, Singapore and Spain on fourth, Russia, United Arab Emirates and Malaysia on fifth.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the reservation in India:

- Reservation for other Backward Classes is only statutory, unlike the constitutional reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- In spite of the constitutional provisions in the Part III of the constitution, the Right to reservation is not fundamental right and is only a Constitutional Right.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court recently ruled that reservation for other Backward Classes is only “statutory”, unlike the “constitutional” reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the extent of reservation given to the former in local bodies cannot be such that it will take the total reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs beyond the 50 per cent ceiling. So, statement 1 is correct.
- In case, constitutional reservation provided for SCs and STs were to consume the entire 50 per cent of seats in the concerned local

- bodies and in some cases in scheduled area even beyond 50 per cent, in respect of such local bodies, the question of providing further reservation to OBCs would not arise at all.
- Various provisions in Article 15 and 16 of the Constitution empower the State to make special provisions in education and jobs respectively for the socially and educationally backward section of the society and for the economically weaker section.
- In spite of the constitutional provisions in the Part III of the constitution, the Right to reservation is not fundamental right and is only a Constitutional Right. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court has also ruled last year that reservations in promotion **cannot** be considered as the fundamental right.

3. Srisaillam Dam, sometimes seen in news is built across which of the following River?

- (a) Krishna
- (b) Godavary
- (c) Cauvery
- (d) Tunghabadra

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The water war between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana appears to be hotting up with the authorities of both the States stepping up security on their respective

sides at the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisaillam dams.

- Several floods in the region have created a need for repair and maintenance of the Srisaillam dam.
- The Srisaillam dam is constructed across the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is located in the Nallamala hills.
- The Krishna River is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra.
- It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- Tributaries: Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.
- Pattiseema Lift Irrigation project is the first river-linking project in India, connecting Godavari with Krishna through the Polavaram right canal.
- It will divert surplus Godavari water to Krishna river.



4. With respect to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which of the statements given below are correct?

1. USOF ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
2. It was created under the Department of Telecommunications in 2002.
3. It is a non-lapsable fund and all credits to this fund require Parliamentary Approval.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- USOF ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- It was created under the Department of Telecommunications in 2002.
- It is a non-lapsable fund, i.e., the unspent amount under a targeted financial year does not lapse and is accrued for next years' spending. All credits to this fund require parliamentary approval and it has statutory support under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.

- So all the three statements are correct.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

- The Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- It falls under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- Intentional infliction of pain and suffering to animals is termed cruelty under the act. Under the law, cruelty is:
 - If any person without reasonable cause, abandons any animal in circumstances which render it likely that it will suffer pain by reason of starvation or thirst.
 - If any person promotes or takes part in any shooting match or competition wherein animals are released from captivity for the purpose of such shooting.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- River Krishna originates in Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.

- It flows through Sangli and drains the sea in the Bay of Bengal.
 - The river flows through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
 - Tungabhadra River is the main tributary which itself is formed by the Tunga and Bhadra rivers that originate in the Western Ghats.
 - Its Right bank tributaries are: Koyna, Doodhganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Tungabhadra.
 - Its Left bank tributaries are: Bheema, Peddavagu, Musi, Paleru, Munneru.
8. Consider the following statements, with reference to the 'Gravitational Waves':
1. These are invisible ripples in space formed by merger of the Neutron star-Black hole (NS-BH).
 2. These were proposed by Albert Einstein in his General Theory of Relativity.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- The Gravitational Waves are invisible ripples in space that form when:
 - A star explodes in a supernova.
 - Two big stars orbit each other.
 - Two black holes merge.
 - Neutron star-Black hole (NS-BH) merges.
 - They travel at the speed of light (1,86,000 miles per second) and squeeze and stretch anything in their path.
 - As a gravitational wave travels through space-time, it causes it to stretch in one direction and compress in the other.
 - Any object that occupies that region of space-time also stretches and compresses as the wave passes over them, though very slightly, which can only be detected by specialized devices like LIGO.
 - These were proposed by Albert Einstein in his General Theory of Relativity, over a century ago.
 - However, the first gravitational wave was actually detected by LIGO only in 2015.
9. Consider the following, with regard to the 'Heat Dome':
1. It is a phenomenon of strong heat waves in the Pacific Northwest and some parts of Canada.
 2. The phenomenon begins when there is a strong change in Ocean Temperatures.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Pacific Northwest and some parts of Canada recorded temperatures around 47 degrees, causing a "historic" heat wave.
- This is a result of a phenomenon referred to as a "heat dome".
- The phenomenon begins when there is a strong change (or gradient) in ocean temperatures. In the process known as convection, the gradient causes more warm air, heated by the ocean surface, to rise over the ocean surface.
- As prevailing winds move the hot air east, the northern shifts of the jet stream trap the air and move it toward land, where it sinks, resulting in Heat Waves.

10. Consider the following, with regard to Kuvempu award :

1. It is an annual award given to a writer who has contributed in any of the languages recognised by the Constitution of India.
2. It is named after Kuvempu, the greatest Kannada poet of the 20th century.
3. Kuvempu won the Jnanpith Award for writing his version of the Ramayana.

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kuvempu Award is a national award instituted in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu.
- The award is given annually to a writer who has contributed in any of the languages recognised by the Constitution of India.
- The award carries a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.
- Kuppali Venkatappa Puttappa, popularly known by his pen name Kuvempu, was an Indian poet, playwright, novelist and critic.
- He is widely regarded as the greatest Kannada poet of the 20th century.
- He was the first Kannada writer to be decorated with the Jnanpith Award for his version of the Ramayana titled 'Sri Ramayana Darshanam'.

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Open Defecation Free+ (ODF+) status :

1. It mandatorily implies that there is no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.
2. It implies that all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **ODF+:** This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained. ODF+ status does not mandatorily deal with dumping of sewage in water bodies or areas.
- **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is already ODF+ and the faecal sludge/septage and sewage are safely managed and treated, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.

- **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found defecating in the open.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. A debt is classified as non-performing, when the loan payments have not been made for a minimum period of 90 days.
2. Capital Adequacy Ratio is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Non-Performing Asset (NPA) refers to a classification for loans or advances that are in default or are in arrears on scheduled payments of principal or interest.
- In most cases, debt is classified as non-performing, when the loan payments have not been made for a minimum period of 90 days.
- Gross non-performing assets are the sum of all the loans that have been defaulted by the individuals who have acquired loans from the Financial Institution.

- Net non-performing assets are the amount that is realized after provision amount has been deducted from the gross non-performing assets.
- Capital Adequacy Ratio is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.
- It is also known as Capital-to-Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR).
- It is decided by central banks to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.
- Provisioning Coverage Ratio refers to the prescribed percentage of funds to be set aside by the banks for covering the prospective losses due to bad loans.

3. In context to the Right against Exploitation, consider the following statements:

1. Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits traffic in human beings, begar (forced labour) and other similar forms of forced labour without any exception.
2. The Fundamental Right under Article 24 is available only to citizens and not to Foreigners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Article 23 prohibits traffic in human beings, begar (forced labour) and other similar forms of forced labour. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens. It protects the individual not only against the State but also against private persons. Article 23 also provides for an exception to this provision. It permits the State to impose compulsory service for public purposes, as for example, military service or social service, for which it is not bound to pay. However, in imposing such service, the State is not permitted to make any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class.
- Article 24 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory, mine or other hazardous activities like construction work or railway. But it does not prohibit their employment in any harmless or innocent work.
- It is available to both citizens and foreigners (except enemy aliens).

4. With respect to the President's Rule, consider the following statements:

1. Article 352 of the Constitution of India gives the President of India the power to suspend state government and impose President's rule of any state in the country.
2. It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.
3. The approval takes place through simple majority in either House, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India gives the President of India the power to suspend state government and impose President's rule of any state in the country if "if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution".
- **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

What would be its Implications?

- Upon the imposition of this rule, there would be no Council of Ministers.
- The state will fall under the direct control of the Union government, and the Governor will continue to be the head the proceedings, representing the President of India.

Parliamentary Approval and Duration:

- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- The approval takes place through simple majority in either House, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Initially valid for six months, the President's Rule can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India.
2. Snake Boat Race is being held every year in the month of August in this Lake.
3. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.

The following statements best describes which of the following lake?

- (a) Vembanad Lake

- (b) SasthamKotta Lake
(c) Ashtamudi Lake
(d) Kadalundi Lake

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Vembanad Lake is also known as Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi).
- Spanning several districts of Kerala and covering a territory of more than 2033.02 km², it is the **largest lake in Kerala** and the **longest Lake in India**.
- It is separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island and is a popular backwater stretch in Kerala.

6. Ethiopia is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Eritrea
2. Djibouti
3. Somalia
4. Kenya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

- Ethiopia is a Landlocked Country on the Horn of Africa. (Most Populous Landlocked Country in the World).

- It shares borders with Eritrea to the north, Djibouti to the northeast, Somalia to the east, Kenya to the south, South Sudan to the west and Sudan to the northwest.
- Its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa.



7. Which of the following places constitutes UAE?

1. Sharjah
2. Abu Dhabi
3. Umm Al Quwain
4. Ajman
5. Dubai

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

United Arab Emirates (UAE) includes

- Ras al-Khaimah

- Sharjah
- Abu Dhabi
- Umm Al Quwain
- Ajman
- Dubai
- Fujairah

- ✓ Inspecting price stability
- ✓ Tool for inflation targeting (Indian uses CPI as a benchmark for inflation targeting)
- ✓ Understanding the real value of salaries, wages, and pensions.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care.
- It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.
- It can be useful for the following purposes:
 - ✓ Identifying periods of inflation or deflation

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

government's reservation program of affirmative action.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

1. Section 66A of IT Act, 2000 deals with which of the following?

- (a) The punishment for sending “offensive” messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet.
- (b) Blocking the content on online platforms in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India.
- (c) Trying to hack into the data stored in the computer
- (d) Provision of penalties for breach of privacy

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Blocking the content on online platforms in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India – **Section 69A.**
- The punishment for sending “offensive” messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet – **Section 66 A.**
- Trying to hack into the data stored in the computer – **Section 66.**
- Provision of penalties for breach of privacy – **Section 66 E.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Ration shops can be privately owned or owned by cooperative societies or by the Government.
2. Ownership licenses to the Ration shops are issued by the concerned state government.

3. The responsibility of identifying eligible families and issuing ration cards to them rests with the local self-governments.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A **ration card** is issued to the head of the family, depending on the number of members in a family and the financial status of the applicant.
- It is used by households to get essential food grains at subsidized prices from designated ration shops (also called fair price shops) under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).**
- Over the years, different types of ration cards were issued depending on the level of deprivation. Later, in 2013, when the **National Food Security Bill** was passed, different ration cards were compressed to just two — **priority and Antyodaya (for the poorest).** The responsibility of identifying eligible families and issuing ration cards to them rests with the state/UT government. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

- **Ration shops** can be privately owned or owned by cooperative societies or by the government. Ownership licenses are issued by the concerned state government. **So, statement 1 and 2 are correct.**

- Presently, commodities including wheat, sugar, rice and kerosene are being allocated as part of the (TPDS). State governments have the discretion to provide additional commodities.

3. Consider the following statements with respect to ‘One Nation One Ration Card Scheme’ (ONORC):

1. With the ONORC scheme being implemented, the beneficiary can buy food grains from ration shops located in any of the states.
2. For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides Hindi the other language could be English.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Since Ration Cards are issued by State Governments, this implied that

beneficiaries could procure food grains only from the designated ration shops within the concerned state.

- If a beneficiary were to shift to another state, he/she would need to apply for a new ration card in the second state. There were other complications.
- For instance, after marriage, a woman needed to get her name removed from the ration card issued to her parents, and get it added to the ration card issued to her husband’s family.
- The **ONORC scheme** attempts to address this gap in TPDS delivery. Essentially, the scheme has been launched keeping in mind the internal migration of our country, since people keep moving to different states in search of better job opportunities and higher standards of living.
- As per Census 2011, 4.1 crore people were inter-state migrants and 1.4 crore people migrated (inter and intra-state) for employment.
- With the ONORC scheme being implemented, the beneficiary can buy food grains from ration shops located in any of the states. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides the local language, the other language could be Hindi or English.

- So, statement 2 is not correct.
- Till date, 32 states and Union Territories have joined the ONORC, covering about 69 crore NFSA beneficiaries. Four states are yet to join the scheme — Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal.

4. Consider the following pairs:

- | River | Disputed states |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Narmada | - Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan |
| 2. Krishna | - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana |
| 3. Vamsadhara | - Chhattisgarh, Odisha |
| 4. Cauvery | - Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry |

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

MAJOR INTER-STATE RIVER DISPUTES	
River (s)	States
Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha
Mahanadi	Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka
Periyar	Tamil Nadu, Kerala

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to “Harit Dhara”:

1. It is a programme launched to create awareness regarding the harmful impacts of monoculture.
2. It is a feed supplement developed to cut down methane emissions by cattle.
3. It is an initiative for rejuvenation of land which is deteriorated by overgrazing of cattle.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed an anti-methanogenic feed supplement ‘Harit Dhara’ (HD), which can cut down cattle methane emissions by 17-20% and can also result in higher milk production.
- HD decreases the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen, responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea (structure similar to bacteria) for reduction of CO₂ to methane.
- It has been made from tannin-rich plant-based sources.

- Tropical plants containing tannins, bitter and astringent chemical compounds, are known to suppress or remove protozoa from the rumen.
- Fermentation after using HD will help produce more propionic acid, which provides more energy for lactose (milk sugar) production and body weight gain.
- This leads to economic benefits for Farmers.

6. In context to 'Project BOLD', consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
2. It seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a project named Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD) from the village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- Under the project 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha from Assam – have

been planted over 16 acres of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land of village NichlaMandwa.

- KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- It is the first of its kind exercise in India. It seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- It will reduce desertification and provide livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.
- It will also act as havens of sustainable development and food security.

7. Consider the following statements, with reference to Albedo effect:

1. The Albedo effect is a phenomenon observed in the Arctic region in which the ice reflects back the heat into space.
2. The Inuit are the indigenous population of the Arctic 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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Arctic is a polar region located at the northernmost part of Earth.

- The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska (United States), Canada, Finland, Greenland (Denmark), Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.
- Land within the Arctic region has seasonally varying snow and ice cover.
- The Arctic and Antarctic act like the world's refrigerator. Since they are covered in white snow and ice that reflect heat back into space (Albedo effect), they balance out other parts of the world that absorb heat.
- Sea ice is a highway for Inuit, who use it to travel and hunt.
- The term Inuit refers broadly to the Arctic indigenous population of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

10. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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



1. With reference to powers of the Governor, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Governor has the discretionary powers to invite the leader of the largest party/alliance, post-election, to form the government.
2. The Governors report on the breakdown of the constitutional machinery is beyond the judicial review of the judiciary.
3. There is no fixed term for governor's office, but he/she can be terminated if the acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Governor has the discretionary powers to invite the leader of the largest party/alliance, post-election; to form the government. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The S.R. Bommai verdict allows the Supreme Court to investigate claims of malafide in the Governor's report however the SC said that while the subjective satisfaction of the President

- regarding such a breakdown was beyond judicial scrutiny. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- The term of governor's office is normally 5 years but it can be terminated earlier by:
 - ✓ Dismissal by the president on the advice of the council of minister headed by the prime minister of the country.
 - ✓ Dismissal of governors without a valid reason is not permitted. However, it is the duty of the President to dismiss a governor whose acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.
 - ✓ Resignation by the governor
- So, statement 3 is not correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Executive power of the Union of India is vested in the President of India.
- Cabinet Secretary is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board, the Cabinet

Secretariat, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and head of all civil services under the rules of business of the Government of India.

3. In the context to the Bhima Koregaon battle, consider the following statements:

1. The Battle of Koregaon was fought between the Mughal forces under Aurangzeb and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima.
2. The Jaystambh built by the British acts as a symbol of power of Mahars and serves as a memorial for them.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Battle of Koregaon was fought on 1 January 1818 between the British East India Company and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima.
- The 28,000-strong Marathas, led by **Peshwa Baji Rao II** intended to attack Pune.
- On their way, they were met by an 800-strong Company force that was on its way to reinforce the British troops in Pune.

4. In which one among the following categories of protected areas in India are local people not allowed to collect and use the biomass?

- (a) Biosphere Reserves
- (b) National Parks
- (c) Wetlands declared under Ramsar Convention
- (d) Wildlife Sanctuaries

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Parks is the protected areas in India and local people are not allowed to collect and use the biomass.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Swami Vivekananda:

1. He was referred to as the 'maker of modern India' by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
2. He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Samkhya and Nyaya.
3. National Youth Day is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Swami Vivekananda was born as Narendranath Datta on 12th January, 1863.

- National Youth Day is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- In 1893, upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State, he took the name ‘Vivekananda.’
- He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga. hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- He preached ‘neo-Vedanta’, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- The Vedanta, or Uttara Mimamsa, school concentrates on the philosophical teachings of the Upanishads (mystic or spiritual contemplations within the Vedas),
- He is best known for his speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893.
- He spelt out the four pathways of attaining moksha from the worldly pleasure and attachment in his books - Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga and Bhakti-yoga.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the “maker of modern India”.

6. Consider the following, with reference to the Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair:

1. He was one of the members of the Hunter Committee setup to investigate atrocities caused during the Jalliahwala Bagh massacre.

2. He played an important role in the expansion of provisions in the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair is known for being a strong advocate for social reforms and a firm believer in the self-determination of India.
- He was an acclaimed lawyer and judge in the Madras High Court.
- He was one of the early builders of the Indian National Congress (INC), formed in 1885.
- In 1897, he became the youngest president of the INC in the history of the party till then, and the only Malayali to hold the post ever.
- In 1902, Lord Curzon appointed him a member of the Raleigh University Commission.
- In 1904, he was appointed as Companion of the Indian Empire by the King-Emperor and in 1912 he was knighted.
- He was appointed as a permanent judge in the Madras High Court in 1908.

- In 1915, he became part of the Viceroy's Council, put in charge of the education portfolio.
- In 1919, as part of the executive Council, he played an important role in the expansion of provisions in the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- When the massacre of Jallianwala Bagh (13th April, 1919) happened, he resigned from the Viceroy's Council in protest.
- His resignation shook the British government. In the immediate aftermath, press censorship in Punjab was lifted and martial law terminated.
- Further, a committee was set up under Lord William Hunter to examine the disturbances in Punjab.

7. Consider the following:

1. An Aurora is a display of light in the sky only seen in the Northern Hemisphere of Earth.
2. Auroras are caused when charged particles ejected from the Sun's surface enter the Earth's atmosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- An Aurora is a display of light in the sky predominantly seen in the high latitude regions (Arctic and Antarctic). It is also known as a Polar light.
- They commonly occur at high northern and southern latitudes, less frequent at mid-latitudes, and seldom seen near the equator.
- While usually a milky greenish color, auroras can also show red, blue, violet, pink, and white. These colors appear in a variety of continuously changing shapes.
- Auroras are not just something that happens on Earth. If a planet has an atmosphere and magnetic field, they probably have auroras.
- Auroras are caused when charged particles ejected from the Sun's surface - called the solar wind - enter the Earth's atmosphere.
- The typical aurora is caused by collisions between charged particles from space with the oxygen and nitrogen in Earth's upper atmosphere.
- The electrons - which come from the Earth's magnetosphere, the region of space controlled by Earth's magnetic field - transfer their energy to the oxygen and nitrogen atoms and molecules, making them "excited".
- When a large number of electrons come from the magnetosphere to bombard the atmosphere, the oxygen and nitrogen can

emit enough light for the eye to detect, giving us beautiful Auroral displays.

- In the northern part of our globe, the polar lights are called aurora borealis or Northern Lights, and are seen from the US (Alaska), Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.
- In the south, they are called aurora australis or southern lights, and are visible from high latitudes in Antarctica, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia.

8. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and six countries — Bangladesh, Canada,

Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States in 2012.

- Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) are agents that have a relatively short lifetime in the atmosphere – a few days to a few decades – and a warming influence on climate.
- The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

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

1. He had served as a President of the Indian National Congress.
2. Sankaran Nair was an advocate who defended Bhagat Singh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Diversion of forest land in India is governed by the provisions under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
2. Any diversion of land for non-forest purposes has to be pre-approved by the Advisory Committee instituted under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
3. Proposals seeking diversion of forest land up to 40 hectares are processed by regional offices of MoEFCC under the instituted Regional Empowered Committees (REC).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Diversion of forest land in India is governed by the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- As per the FCA, any diversion of land for non-forest purposes has to be pre-approved by the Advisory Committee instituted under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- Proposals seeking diversion of forest land up to 40 hectares are processed by regional offices of MoEFCC under the instituted Regional Empowered Committees (REC). **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- Proposals that pertain to diversion of land greater than 40 hectares are sent directly to the central ministry.

2. Recently, West Bengal have expressed their necessity to form state legislative councils. In this context, consider the following:

1. The State Assembly has to pass a resolution for the creation of the Council by a majority of its total membership.
2. Prior recommendation of the President is required to introduce a bill to setup legislative councils.
3. Officially, Tamilnadu has a state legislative council but its implementation has been put on hold by the judiciary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required. The

Legislative Council in the State was abolished in 1969.

- Six States having a Legislative Council: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka.
- In 2020, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the resolution for abolition of the Legislative Council. This resolution is yet to be cleared by the Parliament of India to finally abolish the council.
- In 2019, the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council was abolished through the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019, which reduced the State of J&K to the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
- **Article 169 (Creation and Abolition):** The Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist) by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting, if the legislative assembly of the concerned state, by a special majority, passes a resolution to that effect.
- Special majority implies
 - ✓ A majority of the total membership of the assembly and
 - ✓ A majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the assembly present and voting.

- **Composition:** Under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the total strength of the State Assembly, and not less than 40 members.
- Like the Rajya Sabha, the legislative council is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution. The tenure of a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) is six years, with one-third of the members retiring every two years.

3. 'Pegasus, recently seen in news refers to

- (a) a deadly virus in East Africa
- (b) A Spyware developed by Israel
- (c) a fungal infection in plants
- (d) Sea monster that lived million years ago

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The spyware named 'Pegasus' is developed by the Israeli cyber arms firm NSO in 2016.
- Pegasus exploited a weakness in WhatsApp's video-call feature that allowed attackers to inject the spyware on to phones simply by ringing the number of targets' device. It enters the phone even if the call is not answered.
- Once Pegasus is installed, it can access the targeted users' private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps.

- It can also turn the phone into a spying device by switching on its camera or microphone.

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Intersex Children:

1. India became only the fourth country after Malta, Taiwan and Germany, to have a legal regime which protects the rights of intersex children.
2. Intersex refers to people born with biological or physical characteristics that are more diverse than stereotypical male or female bodies.
3. Individuals who identify as transgender or transsexual have a gender that is as same as of the one traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Which of the statements given above are **Incorrect**?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The demand for a nation-wide ban on unnecessary medical surgeries conducted on children with intersex traits comes months after the Tamil Nadu government banned normative surgeries on infants and children except in life-threatening

situations after a historic judgment of the Madras High Court on April 22, 2019.

- If adopted nationally, India could become only the fourth country after Malta, Taiwan and Germany to have a legal regime which protects the rights of intersex children.

India still not yet adopted.

- The World Health Organisation and the United Nations Human Rights Council have called upon Member States to end invasive and irreversible medical surgeries and other medical treatment on intersex children.

- While the term intersex is confused with transgender, the two in-fact have very different meanings.

- Individuals who identify as transgender or transsexual have a gender that is **different from the one traditionally associated** with the sex they were assigned at birth.

- **Intersex refers to people born with biological or physical characteristics that are more diverse than stereotypical male or female bodies.**

5. Consider the following, with reference to 'GloLitter Partnerships Project':

1. It is launched by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. It aims to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from shipping and fisheries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The GloLitter Partnerships Project was launched by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with initial funding from the Government of Norway.
- It aims to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from shipping and fisheries. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It will also assist developing countries in reducing marine litter, including plastic litter, from within the maritime transport and fisheries sectors, and to decrease the use of plastics in these industries.
- Also assist in identifying opportunities to reuse and Recycle Plastics.

6. Consider the following statement:

1. The provision of providing free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society is mentioned under Article 39 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Under the Tele-Law programme, all those who are eligible for free legal Aid under the

Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 can seek free legal advice.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Article 39A of the Indian Constitution provides for free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity.
- Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before the law.
- In 1987, the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act was enacted to give free and competent legal services to the poor.
- Free legal services under LSA Act are available to a person belonging to Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste, woman, child, victim of human trafficking, differently abled person, industrial workman, and person in custody in a protective home and the poor.
- The Tele-Law programme enables anyone to seek legal advice without wasting precious time and money.
- The service is free for those who are eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned

under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

- For all others a nominal fee is charged.

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to River Nile :

1. The River Nile originates north of the equator in Burundi.
2. The Nile River forms an arcuate delta as it empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is constructed on the River Blue Nile.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The River Nile is in Africa. It originates in Burundi, south of the equator, and flows northward through north-eastern Africa, eventually flowing through Egypt and finally draining into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The source of the Nile is sometimes considered to be Lake Victoria, but the lake itself has Feeder Rivers of considerable size like the Kagera River.
- The Nile River is considered as one of the longest rivers in the world.

- The Nile is formed by three principal streams: the Blue Nile, the Atbara, and the White Nile.
- The Nile basin is huge and includes parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo (Kinshasa), Kenya.
- The Nile River forms an arcuate delta as it empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Deltas with triangular or fan-shape are called arcuate (arc-like) deltas.
- Ethiopia has started the second phase of filling a Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam's (GERD) reservoir on the upper Blue Nile, which raised tensions from Sudan and Egypt ahead of an upcoming UN Security Council meeting on the issue.
- Ethiopia began the construction of the GERD in 2011 on the Blue Nile.
- Blue Nile is a tributary of the Nile river and it carries about two-thirds of the river's water volume and most of the silt.
- This 145-meter-tall hydropower project is Africa's biggest dam project and will have lasting impacts on its longest river- Nile.

8. The term ‘Safe harbour immunity’ seen in news refers to:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

9. The term ‘Digital Single Market Strategy’ seen in the news refers to

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

1. Consider the following statements:

1. APMC is a statutory market committee constituted by a Central Government in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act.
2. Agriculture is placed in the Concurrent List under the VII Schedule of the constitution.
3. The Gujarat government recently promulgated an Ordinance expanding the purview of the Act to include livestock under agricultural produce and to provide better market access to farmers.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- APMC is a statutory market committee constituted by a **State Government** in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act issued by that **state government**. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Agriculture is placed in the State List under the VII Schedule of the constitution. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Following the Centre's directive to States to amend their Agricultural Produce Markets (APMC) Acts, the Gujarat government has promulgated an Ordinance expanding the purview of the Act to include livestock under agricultural produce and to provide better market access to farmers. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is a central sector scheme which are 100% funded by the Central government and implemented by the Central Government machinery.
2. Its aim is to provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.

3. The Union Cabinet recently extended the Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are factual regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

3. With respect to the Detention Laws, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. In general the person arrested has to be informed for the cause he has been arrested, but in the case of the National Security Act, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
2. Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner, but under the NSA, he is not allowed for a lawyer during the period.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Typically, if a person is arrested, then he/she enjoy certain rights bestowed by the Indian Constitution. The person has to be informed of the reason for the arrest. Under Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the person arrested has to be informed.
- However, in the case of the NSA, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.

- Sections 56 and 76 of the same penal code guarantee the detained person to be produced before a court within 24 hours. Apart from this, Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner. However, under the NSA, none of these above mentioned basic rights is permitted to the suspect.

• **So both the statements are correct.**

4. Which of the following diseases are transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitos?

1. Malaria
2. Zika
3. Dengue
4. Chikungunya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Usually, people get malaria by being bitten by an infective female **Anopheles mosquito**. Only Anopheles mosquitoes can transmit malaria and they must have been infected through a previous blood meal taken from an infected person.

- **Aedes aegypti mosquitoes** are responsible for transmitting dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus. **So, answer is c.**

5. In context to Integrated Child Development Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to improve only the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
2. It is a central sector scheme implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a centrally sponsored scheme (not central sector) implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in 1975.

Objectives of ICDS:

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
- To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child.

- To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout.
- To achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development.
- To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child.
- To facilitate, educate and empower Adolescent Girls (AGs) so as to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens.
- It is clear that the objective of the scheme is not only to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years, but also other aspects related to child and maternal health.

6. In context to aquaculture in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Matsya Setu is a certification scheme for aquaculture products.
2. Aquaculture refers to breeding, raising, and harvesting fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has launched the Online Course Mobile App “Matsya Setu” for fish farmers. It aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country, thus increasing productivity and income.
- Shaphari is a certification scheme for aquaculture products developed by the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) based on the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization’s technical guidelines on aquaculture certification. Shaphari is a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.
- Aquaculture is breeding, raising, and harvesting fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

7. Authorised Economic Operators Programme, sometimes seen in news related to
- (a) Cryptocurrency
 - (b) Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
 - (c) Supply Chain and Global Trade
 - (d) Money Laundering

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has inaugurated the online filing of Authorised Economic

Operators (AEO) applications. AEO is a programme (2007) under the aegis of the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade.

- It aims to enhance international supply chain security and facilitate the movement of goods. Under this, an entity engaged in international trade is approved by WCO as compliant with supply chain security standards and granted AEO status.

8. Consider the following statements:

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

The country in question is:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

9. Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

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

1. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Parliament.
2. The nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President can be enquired by the courts.
3. President can remove a minister only on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of India.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

1. In the context to the Bhima Koregaon battle, consider the following statements:

1. The Battle of Koregaon was fought between the Mughal forces under Aurangzeb and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima.
2. The Jaystambh built by the British acts as a symbol of power of Mahars and serves as a memorial for them.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Battle of Koregaon was fought on 1 January 1818 between the British East India Company and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima.
- The 28,000-strong Marathas, led by **Peshwa Baji Rao II** intended to attack Pune. On their way, they were met by an 800-strong Company force that was on its way to reinforce the British troops in Pune.

2. Which of the following best describes the democratic principle ‘Right to Dissent’?

- (a) A strong difference of opinion on a particular subject, especially about an

official suggestion or plan or a popular belief.

- (b) Protesting against the laws and regulations made by the government.
- (c) Mobilizing school and college students for a common purpose.
- (d) Overthrowing the current government and people taking the rule of their nation

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Dissent means “a strong difference of opinion on a particular subject, especially about an official suggestion or plan or a popular belief”. **So, the answer is a).**
- India’s constitutional democracy is predicated on the people’s right to call state power to account.
- Even at Household level also, there is no family without dissent between parents and the children, or between the siblings. A family which learns to deal with dissent rather than authoritatively dismissing it is a more harmonious family.
- The Right to Dissent is an important addition of expressing one’s view, and on many of its most important constituent elements.
- It will enable practitioners and citizens to claim their rights and participate more effectively in the project of democracy.
- Disagreeing with each other is a fundamental human trait. There is not a

single individual who does not disagree with something or the other all the time.

3. Which among the following are correct with regard to Council of Ministers and Cabinet?

1. Council of Ministers does not meet, as a body, to transact government business. It has no collective functions.
2. Cabinet meets, as a body, frequently and usually once in a week to deliberate and take decisions regarding the transaction of government business. Thus, it has collective functions.
3. Council of Ministers enforces the collective responsibility of the council of ministers to the Lower House of Parliament.
4. Cabinet is collectively responsible to the Lower House of the Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Council of Ministers does not meet, as a body, to transact government business. It has no collective functions.
- Cabinet meets, as a body, frequently and usually once in a week to deliberate and take decisions regarding the transaction of

government business. Thus, it has collective functions.

- Cabinet enforces the collective responsibility of the council of ministers to the Lower House of Parliament.
- Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lower House of the Parliament.
- **So, answer is a.**

4. The terms, '90-90-90 strategy', 'National Strategic Plan 2017-24', 'Mission SAMPARK', are related to?

- (a) Non-performing assets
- (b) Swachh Bharat Mission
- (c) Civil aviation sector
- (d) HIV/AIDS

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **90:90:90 Strategy:** It is a new HIV treatment narrative of UNAIDS programme which has set targets of 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status (90% diagnosed), 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (90% on HIV treatment) and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (90% suppressed).
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Strategic Plan 2017-24 aimed at eradicating HIV/AIDS by 2030. It was launched on the

occasion of World AIDS Day (1st December) on 2017.

- Mission SAMPARK was also launched to trace those who are Left to Follow Up and are to be brought under antiretroviral therapy (ART) services.

5. Consider the following statements about Planet Saturn:

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

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

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

1. Dandi march
2. Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre

3. Establishment of Swaraj party
4. Kakori Train Robbery
5. Malabar rebellion

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

7. 'Basel III Accord' or simply 'Basel III', often seen in the news, seeks to

- (a) Develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- (b) Improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial and economic stress and improve risk management
- (c) Reduce the Greenhouse gas emissions but places a heavier burden on developed countries
- (d) Transfer technology from developed countries to poor countries to enable them

to replace the use of chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration with harmless chemicals

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Zika virus:

1. It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in monkeys.
2. The infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with Microcephaly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Transmission:

- ZVD is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes (AM), mainly Aedes aegypti.
- This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- Zika virus is also transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly (smaller than normal head size) and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome.
- Symptoms are generally mild and include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.
- Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms.
- There is no vaccine or medicine for Zika. Instead, the focus is on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration and acetaminophen for fever and pain.

9. In context to Sparsh (System for Pension Administration Raksha), consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions.
2. It is a pensioner portal available for pensioners to view their pension related

information, access services and register complaints.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha) is implemented by the Ministry of Defence.
- It is a pensioner portal available for pensioners to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints, if any.
- SPARSH envisages establishment of Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal.
- The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.

2. India is not a member but has an observer status in OIC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest Intergovernmental organization after the United Nations (UN) with a membership of 57 states.
- It is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
- India is neither a member nor an observer of the OIC.

10. In context to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:

1. It is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations (UN)

1. Consider the following:

1. Yaks are endemic to the Tibetan Plateau.
2. Wild Yak is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.
3. Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh are the only two Yak-rearing states of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Yak belong to the Bovini tribe, which also includes bison, buffaloes, and cattle. It can tolerate temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius.
- Yaks are highly valued by Himalayan peoples. According to Tibetan legend, the first yaks were domesticated by Tibetan Buddhism founder Guru Rinpoche.
- They are endemic to the Tibetan Plateau and the adjacent high-altitude regions.
- Yaks are most comfortable above 14,000 feet. They climb to an elevation of 20,000 when foraging and usually don't descend any lower than 12,000 feet.
- The yak-rearing states of India are Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

- The countrywide population trend shows that the yak population has been decreasing at an alarming rate. The total yak population in India is about 58,000.
- Protection Status of Wild Yak (*Bos mutus*):
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable.
- IUCN considers the wild species of yak under *Bos mutus*, while the domestic form is considered under *Bos grunniens*.

2. In context to Forest Rights Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

1. Forest rights can be claimed by members who have been living for at least two generations prior to the cutoff date.
2. The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Forest Rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognizes the forest rights in Forest land for Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such Forests for Generations.

- Forest rights can also be claimed by any member or community who has for at least three generations (75 years) prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 (cut-off date) primarily resided in forest land for bona fide livelihood needs.
- The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD.

3. In context to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
2. The funds under this scheme are extended only to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs).
3. A credit guarantee coverage will be available under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved some modifications in the Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'.
- It was launched in 2020 as a part of the Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced in response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- It aims to provide a medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The funds will be provided for setting up of cold stores and chains, warehousing, grading and packaging units, e-marketing points linked to e-trading platforms, besides PPP (Public Private Partnership) projects for crop aggregation sponsored by central/state/local bodies.
- Duration: Extended to 13 years upto 2032-33.
- Eligible Beneficiaries: They are Farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored PPP Projects.

- Eligibility has been extended to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), as well as federations of cooperative organisations, FPOs and SHGs. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries.
- Moratorium for repayment may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.
- Loans will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

4. With respect to the governance of OTT Platforms, consider the following statements:

1. India has three-tier grievance redressal mechanism which one will be at the level of each OTT provider.
2. The complaints will have to be addressed within 15 days, which on failing the complainant can scale it up to a self-regulatory body collectively established by the OTTs.

3. An inter-ministerial committee will be at the third level which is equipped itself with overriding powers in the form of oversight mechanism.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The new rules lay down a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism.
- One will be at the level of each OTT provider. Each complaint will have to be addressed within 15 days.
- If the complaint is not satisfactorily addressed, then the complainant can scale it up to a self-regulatory body collectively established by the OTTs.
 - ✓ This body will be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, a High Court, or an independent eminent person from the field of media, broadcasting, entertainment, child rights, human rights or other relevant fields.
 - ✓ This self-regulatory body also has “censuring” powers in case of any
 - ✓ incriminating content if it is satisfied that there is a need for taking action to delete or modify the content for

preventing incitement to the commission of a cognizable offence relating to public order.

- To top this, at the third tier, the government has equipped itself with overriding powers in the form of “oversight mechanism”. An inter-ministerial committee will perform this function and it will largely have the same powers as the collective self-regulatory body of the OTTs.

Is there any Emergency Powers?

- Over and above all this, the government has equipped itself with “emergency” powers.
- The rules state, “in case of emergency nature” the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may, “if he is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient and justifiable” give orders to block public access of any information.
- The rules state that he or she has to record the reason for doing so in writing and it will be an interim measure.
- Importantly, such orders can be released “without giving an opportunity of hearing” to the publishing platform.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.
2. The regulatory authority in India is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Vaccines and medicines, and even diagnostic tests and medical devices, require the approval of a regulatory authority before they can be administered.
- In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. The regulatory authority is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- For vaccines and medicines, approval is granted after an assessment of their safety and effectiveness, based on data from trials.
- So, both statements are correct.

6. Which of the following fall under the capital receipts component of government of India?

1. Interest Receipts.
2. Recovery of loans and advances made by union government to PSUs.
3. User charges
4. Disinvestment proceed
5. Dividends from PSUs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A break up of the finances into Revenue and Capital streams. Revenue receipts are recurrent receipts includes taxes and non tax sources.
- Revenue account enditure is essentially the non plan enditure that does not create assets i.e. interest payments, defense, subsidies and public administration.
- Capital account receipts are recoveries of loans and advances made by the Union Government to States, UTs and PSUs; fresh borrowing from inside the country and from abroad; disinvestment proceeds etc.

- Capital account enditure is loans made to States, UTs and PSUs. Dividends from PSUs and user charges are Non-Tax revenues.

7. Consider the following statements related to organisation of Panchayats and select the correct answer:

1. A Gram Sabha consists of all the adults i.e. voters living in the area of a Gram Panchayat.
2. Gram Sabha is executive committee but not a legal body.
3. Gram Panchayat is the village assembly of Gram Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Village Panchayat or Gram Panchayat is the executive committee of Gram Sabha.
- A Gram Sabha or Village Assembly consists of all the adults i.e. voters (persons above the age of 18 years) living in the area of a Gram Panchayat i.e., village or a group of small villages.
- The Gram Sabha has now been recognized as a legal body.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

- The right to freedom of religion (article 25-28) is available to both citizens and foreigners except enemy aliens.

9. Consider the following statements:

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

The above statements best describe:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

- (c) Both
(d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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



1. Which of the following conditions are criteria to declare as a heat wave?

1. Heat Wave need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Hilly regions and at least 30°C for Plains.
2. When the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 5°C to 6°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 7°C or more.
3. When the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 4°C to 5°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 6°C or more.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Heat Wave need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least **40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- When the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 5°C to 6°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 7°C or more.
- When the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 4°C to 5°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 6°C or more.

- 6°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 7°C or more. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- When the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 4°C to 5°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 6°C or more. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- When the actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, heat waves should be declared.

2. As provided by the Constitution, the Speaker Pro Tem of a state legislature:

1. Is selected by the leader of the single largest party in the state legislative assembly
2. Has all the powers of the Speaker
3. Presides over the first sitting of the newly-Elected Popular House.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Speaker of the last Lok Sabha vacates his office immediately before the first meeting of the newly- elected Lok Sabha.

- Therefore, the President appoints a member of the Lok Sabha as the Speaker Pro Tem. Usually, the senior most member is selected for this.
- The President himself administers oath to the Speaker Pro Tem. The Speaker Pro Tem has all the powers of the Speaker.
- He presides over the first sitting of the newly-elected Lok Sabha.
- His main duty is to administer oath to the new members. He also enables the House to elect the new Speaker.
- When the new Speaker is elected by the House, the office of the Speaker Pro Tem ceases to exist. Hence, this office is a temporary office, existing for a Few Days.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. A heat dome occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap.
2. High-pressure circulation in the atmosphere acts like a dome or cap, trapping heat at the surface and favoring the formation of a heat wave.
3. This happens when strong, high-pressure atmospheric conditions combine with influences from El Nino.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

What Is a Heat Dome?

- A heat dome occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap.
- The scorching heat is ensnared in what is called a heat dome.
- High-pressure circulation in the atmosphere acts like a dome or cap, trapping heat at the surface and favoring the formation of a heat wave.

Causes of Heat Dome:

- This happens when strong, high-pressure atmospheric conditions combine with influences from La Niña.
- This creates vast areas of sweltering heat that gets trapped under the high-pressure “dome“.
- The main cause is a strong change (or gradient) in ocean temperatures from west to east in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

How is it created?

- In a process known as convection, the gradient causes more warm air, heated by the ocean surface.
- This rises over the western Pacific, and decreases convection over the central and eastern Pacific.
- As prevailing winds move the hot air east, the northern shifts of the jet stream trap the air.

- Thus winds move it toward land, where it sinks, resulting in heat waves.

Impact of a heat dome:

- Lead to a sudden rise in fatalities due to extreme heat like conditions.
- Trapping of heat can also damage crops, dry out vegetation and result in droughts.
- The heat wave will also lead to rise in energy demand, especially electricity, leading to pushing up rates.
- Heat domes can also act as fuel to wildfires, which destroys a lot of land area in the US every year.
- Heat dome also prevents clouds from forming, allowing for more radiation from the sun to hit the ground.

4. Nepal’ PM lost confidence in the house and SC of Nepal directed the President to make another as PM. Which of the states of India is bordered by Nepal?

1. Uttarakhand
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Bihar
4. West Bengal
5. Sikkim

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:



5. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Jagannath Temple:

1. It was constructed by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of Chalukya Dynasty.
2. It is also called Yamanika Tirtha.
3. It is a part of Char Dham Pilgrimages.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Jagannath Temple is believed to have been constructed in the 12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

- Jagannath Puri temple is called ‘Yamanika Tirtha’ where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of ‘Yama’, the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- This temple was called the “White Pagoda” and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).

6. In context to the Acute Encephalopathy Syndrome (AES), consider the following statements:

1. It is caused by the Japanese Encephalitis virus.
2. It is Characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.
3. It can be prevented by Vaccination.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) is a broad term involving several infections and affects young children. The syndrome can be caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi. In India, the most common cause is the virus that causes Japanese Encephalitis (JE).
- Acute encephalitis syndrome is a severe case of encephalitis transmitted by

mosquitoes and is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.

- The disease most commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- Viruses are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as bacteria, fungi, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins, and non-infectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades. It is not vaccine-preventable.
- Japanese Encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
- Herpes simplex virus, Nipah virus, Zika virus, Influenza A virus, West Nile virus, Chandipura virus, mumps, measles, dengue, scrub typhus, S.pneumoniae are also found as causative agents for AES.

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to SAHI Portal:

1. It is an AYUSH sector portal which showcases inscriptions, classical texts and advanced Archeo Genetic studies.
2. The portal offers online public access for Indian medical heritage books through NIC’s (National Informatics Centre) e-granthalaya platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Five new portals on Ayush Sector have been launched - CTRI (Clinical Trial Registry of India), RMIS (Research Management Information System), SAHI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints), AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository), and e-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession).
- **Meaning of 'Ayush':** Traditional & Non-Conventional Systems of Health Care and Healing Which Include Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy etc.
- **Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI):** It is a primary Register of Clinical Trials under the World Health Organization's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform.
- **Research Management Information System (RMIS):** It will be a one stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda based studies.
- **Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints (SAHI):** It showcases inscriptions, Archeo-botanical Information, Sculptures, classical texts and advanced Archeo Genetic studies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository (AMAR): It has digitized information on rare and hard to find Manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa in libraries or in individual collections across India or in other parts of the world.
- **e-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession):** Online public access catalog for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's (National Informatics Centre) e-granthalaya platform. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **e-Granthalaya:** It is a Digital Platform developed by NIC for Government Libraries for Automation of In-house activities as well as member services and Networking for resource sharing.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

9. Which of the following best describes/describe the aim of the ‘Green India Mission’ of the Government of India?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Green India Mission comes under the umbrella of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It was launched in 2014.

- Its aim is restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation Measures

10. Consider the following statements about Lok Adalat:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The establishment of the Lok Adalat system of dispute settlement system was brought about with the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 for expediting the system of dispute settlement.
- It can deal with cases pending before a court and also with disputes at the pre-litigation stage.

- It is one of the components of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system.
- Lok Adalat shall have no jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to divorce or matters relating to an offence not Compoundable under any law.



1. Consider the following, with reference to Cryptogam:

1. It is a plant that reproduces with the help of spores.
2. They are also called "flowerless" or "seedless plants".
3. Algae and fungi can be categorized as cryptogams.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The word "Cryptogamae" implies 'hidden reproduction', referring to the fact that they do not produce any reproductive structure, seed, or flower. Thus, a cryptogam is a plant that reproduces with the help of spores.
- They are called "flowerless" or "seedless plants" or 'lower plants'. They need a moist environment to survive.
- These are present in aquatic and terrestrial places. Algae, bryophytes, lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of Cryptogams.

2. Consider the following, with Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)?

1. The initiative was launched by the Indian Prime Minister at the East Asia Summit in November 2019.
2. The initiative is centred around issues like maritime security, disaster risk reduction and Trade Connectivity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) is an initiative launched by Indian Prime Minister at the East Asia Summit in Thailand in November 2019.
- The initiative is centred around seven pillars including maritime security; maritime ecology; maritime resources; capacity building and resource sharing; disaster risk reduction and management; science, technology, and academic cooperation; and trade connectivity and Maritime Transport.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Government Security (G-Sec):

1. The short-term G-Sec is called dated securities whereas the long term G-Sec is called treasury bills.
2. In India, only the Central Government issues both treasury bills and dated securities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A Government Security or G-Sec is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments

- issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

4. Which of the following Tiger Reserves are present in the state of Rajasthan?

1. Satkosia Tiger Reserve
2. Mukundhira Tiger Reserve
3. Ranthambore Tiger Reserve
4. Ramgarh Tiger Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Rajasthan government will develop a tiger corridor connecting the newly proposed 'Ramgarh Tiger Reserve', Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve. Sariska Tiger Reserve is another Tiger reserve in Rajasthan.

5. With respect to Tiger Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) conducts a tiger census across India once every Two Years.
2. The first tiger census was conducted in the year 2006.

3. According to results of the Tiger census report, released in July 2019, the total count of tigers has risen to 33% in four years.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Every 4 years the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) conducts a tiger census across India.
- The first was conducted in 2006, followed by 2010, 2014 and 2018.
- According to results of the Tiger census report, released in July 2019, the total count of tigers has risen to 2,967 from 2,226 in 2014 — an increase of 741 individuals (aged more than one year), or 33%, in four years.
- India has achieved the target of doubling the tiger count four years ahead of the deadline of 2022.
- This is by far the biggest increase in Tiger count in terms of both numbers and percentage (since the four-yearly census using camera traps and the capture-mark-recapture method began in 2006).
- India accounts for majority of the 3,500-odd tigers that are scattered among

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand and Vietnam.
- India's five tiger landscapes are: Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains, Central Indian Landscape and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-East Hills and Brahmaputra Plains, and the Sundarbans.

6. Which of the following Right is *not* entitled under Article 19 of Indian Constitution?

- (a) to freedom of speech and expression
- (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms
- (c) to acquire, hold and dispose of property
- (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Article 19 (1) of Indian Constitution states that every citizen of India has
 - (a) Right to freedom of speech and expression;
 - (b) Right to assemble peaceably and without arms;
 - (c) Right to form associations or unions;
 - (d) Right to move freely throughout the territory of India;
 - (e) Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and
 - (f) Omitted
 - (g) Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business

- ←----->
- The Forty Fourth Constitutional Amendment, 1978, deleted Articles 19(1)(f) and 31 from Part III, the chapter on Fundamental Rights in the Constitution. Instead, it inserted Article 300A in a new chapter IV of Part XII of the Constitution, thereby depriving the 'right to property' of its 'fundamental right' status.
7. Consider the following statements regarding Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:
1. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals and can be charged even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
 2. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- UAPA passed in 1967 aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
 - Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India.
 - The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
 - It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.
 - Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The 2004 amendment, added “terrorist act” to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned. Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
 - In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists if the individual

- commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
- The Act also empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Hawa Mahal, also known as the “Palace of Breeze”, was built in 1799 as an extension to the Royal City Palace of Jaipur.
- It was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh.
- Mr. Lal Chand Usta was the architect of Hawa Mahal.

- The five-storey palace was built in the form of Krishna’s crown because Sawai Pratap Singh was devoted to Krishna.

9. Consider the following statements about Contempt of Court:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Contempt of court is the offence of being defiant or disrespectful to the court.
- Section 20 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 states that “No court shall initiate any proceedings of contempt, either on its own motion or otherwise, after the expiry of a period of one year from the date on which the contempt is alleged to have been committed”.

- The Supreme Court or High Court can take the cognizance of criminal contempt on its own motion or on a motion made by the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General.
- Truth can be a valid defence in any contempt proceedings if such a defence is in the public interest and the request for invoking the defence is bona fide.

10. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

1. In context to Convention on Biological Diversity, consider the following statements:

1. It is a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity.
2. The CBD Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. The Aichi Targets are a set of goals proposed under CBD to conserve biodiversity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993.

It has 3 Main Objectives:

- The conservation of biological diversity.
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- The CBD at COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework for action by all countries to save biodiversity.

- Officially known as “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”, it provided a set of 20 ambitious yet achievable targets collectively known as the Aichi Targets for biodiversity.

2. Consider the following statements, with regard to Superfluidity of Helium:

1. Superfluidity is the frictionless flow of electrons observed in liquid helium at room temperature.
2. A Single Electron Bubble (SEB) is created when an electron is injected into the superfluid form of Helium.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Superfluidity is the frictionless flow and other exotic behaviour of electrons observed in liquid helium at temperatures near absolute zero (-273.15°C), and similar frictionless behaviour of electrons in a Superconducting Solid.
- An electron injected into a superfluid form of helium creates a Single Electron Bubble (SEB) — a cavity that is free of helium atoms and contains only the Electron.

- An electron bubble is the empty space created around a free electron in a cryogenic gas or liquid, such as neon or helium. They are typically very small, about 2 nm in diameter at atmospheric Pressure.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Karman line is a point from where the boundary of space starts.
2. The suborbital trajectory allows the space flight to escape the gravity of earth.
3. The VSS Unity spaceship is launched by NASA to operate commercial space flights.

Which of the statements given above are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, a six-person crew on Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity spaceship undertook a brief trip to the "edge of space" which is known as Suborbital Flight.
- Virgin Galactic is a British-American spaceflight company, operating in the United States.
- When an object travels at a horizontal speed of about 28,000 km/hr or more, it goes into orbit once it is above the atmosphere.

- Such a satellite would be accelerating towards the Earth due to gravity, but its horizontal movement is fast enough to offset the downward motion so that it moves along a circular path.
- Any object travelling slower than 28,000 km/hr must eventually return to Earth.
- Any object that launches to space but does not reach sufficient horizontal velocity to stay in space falls back to Earth. Hence they fly in a suborbital trajectory.
- It means that while these vehicles will cross the ill-defined boundary of space, they will not be going fast enough to stay in space once they get there.
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The most widely accepted boundary of space is known as the Karman line. The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) defines Karman Line as the altitude of 100 kilometres above Earth's mean sea level. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is named after Theodore von Karman (1881–1963), a Hungarian American engineer and physicist, who was active primarily in aeronautics and astronautics.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Women officers are not eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.

2. Discriminating women in the army posts is not violation of Fundamental Right as Armed Forces has discretionary powers regarding the Appointment.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court recently declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.
- The Supreme Court dismissed the Union government's submissions that women are physiologically weaker than men as a "sex stereotype".
- It also declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The court found the remarks in the note not only constitutionally invalid but discriminatory, affecting the dignity of women officers.

- Article 15 states that the State shall not **discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth** or any of them.
- So, the SC ordered not to discriminate women on the basis of gender and ordered to appoint them in command posts in the Army. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.
2. Inflation is indicative of the decrease in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency which would ultimately lead to a deceleration in economic growth.
3. A moderate level of inflation is required in the economy to ensure that production is promoted.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use, such as food, clothing, housing, recreation, transport, consumer staples, etc.

- Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Inflation is indicative of the decrease in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency. This could ultimately lead to a deceleration in economic growth. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, a moderate level of inflation is required in the economy to ensure that production is promoted. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- In India, the NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation measures inflation.
- In India, inflation is primarily measured by two main indices — WPI (Wholesale Price Index) and CPI (Consumer Price Index) which measure wholesale and retail-level price changes, respectively.

6. Consider the following statements regarding 'Article 44 of the Indian Constitution':

1. The article states that 'The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'.
2. It is one of the Liberal-Intellectual Principle of DPSP in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.
3. Although the Indian constitution was compiled by Dr. BR Ambedkar, it was

Pandit Nehru who introduced Article 44 to the constitution which sought to establish India's status as a secular state.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Article 44 states that 'The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is one of the Liberal-Intellectual Principle of DPSP in Part IV of the Indian Constitution. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Although the Indian constitution was compiled by Dr. BR Ambedkar, it was Pandit Nehru who introduced Article 44 to the constitution which sought to establish India's status as a 'secular state'. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

7. Which among the following are the state's own tax revenues?

1. Taxes on agricultural income
2. Taxes on Land Revenue
3. Taxes and duties and electricity
4. Entertainment Tax

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Taxes on Income (agricultural income tax and taxes on professions, trades, callings and employment)
- Taxes on Property and Capital Transactions (land revenue, stamps and registration fees, urban immovable property tax)
- Taxes on Commodities and Services (sales tax, state sales tax/VAT, central sales tax, surcharge on sales tax, receipts of turnover tax, other receipts, state excise, taxes on vehicles, taxes on goods and passengers,
- taxes and duties on electricity, entertainment tax, state GST, and “other taxes and duties”).

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pulichintala Project is a multipurpose project serving irrigation needs,

hydropower generation and flood control. It is constructed across river Krishna near Pulichinta Village.

- It has been a source of interstate water dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

9. Which of the given statements is/are **Incorrect?**

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

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

10. In the context of which one of the following are the terms pyrolysis and plasma gasification mentioned?

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

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Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

1. With reference to Anti-Defection Law, consider the following statements:

1. It is included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
2. A defection by one-third of the elected members of a political party is exempted from the purview of the Anti-Defection law.
3. Election commission of India is the final adjudicating authority for Anti-Defection law.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Tenth Schedule — popularly known as the Anti-Defection Act — was included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
- As per the 1985 Act, a ‘defection’ by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a ‘merger’ and exempted under the proceeding of Anti-Defection law.

- However, the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, changed this and now at least two-thirds of the members of a party have to be in favour of a “merger”. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, and his decision is final. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

2. Consider the following statements regarding ‘National Thermal Power Corporation Limited Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL)’:

1. It is a 100% subsidiary of NTPC.
2. It is going to set up India’s first Green Hydrogen Mobility project in Rann of Kutch.
3. NTPC REL will set up India’s largest Solar Park in the city of Leh.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) is a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power.

- National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) is a 100% subsidiary of NTPC. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Recently, NTPC REL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Territory of Ladakh to set up the country's first Green Hydrogen Mobility project. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- NTPC REL has planned to ply 5 hydrogen buses, to start with, in the region and the company will be setting up a solar plant and a green hydrogen generation unit in Leh towards this end.
- This will put Leh as the first city in the country to implement a green hydrogen based mobility project. This would be zero emission mobility in true sense.
- NTPC REL will also set up a solar park at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat from where it will also generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale under the Ultra-Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks (UMREPP) scheme.
- NTPC REL will set up a 4.75 gigawatt (GW) renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer of the country. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the owner of the highest number of livestock globally.
2. The contribution of Livestock in agriculture and allied sectors has declined in the last decade.
3. The National Livestock Mission (NLM) is being implemented as a sub scheme of White Revolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India is the highest livestock owner of the world. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- As per the 20th Livestock Census, the total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012.
- A large number of farmers depend upon animal husbandry for their livelihood. It supports the livelihood of almost 55% of the rural population.
- As per the Economic Survey-2021, the contribution of Livestock in total agriculture and allied sector Gross Value Added (at Constant Prices) has increased from 24.32% (2014-15) to 28.63% (2018-19). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- The National Livestock Mission (NLM) was launched in the 2014-15 financial year and seeks to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders.
- The scheme is being implemented as a sub scheme of White Revolution – Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana from April 2019. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

4. Tenth Schedule of the constitutions deals with which of the following?

- (a) Panchayati Raj
- (b) Municipalities and Corporations
- (c) Three legislative lists
- (d) Anti-Defection Laws

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Tenth Schedule of Indian Constitution is popularly known as the **Anti-Defection Act**.
- Original constitution had no such provisions. It was included in the Constitution in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi Government.
- The main intent of the law was to deter “the evil of political defections” by legislators motivated by the lure of office or other Similar Considerations.
- The grounds for disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law includes

- a) If an elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party.
- b) If he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorized to do so, without obtaining prior permission.
- c) Going against the party whip.
- As a pre-condition for his disqualification, his abstention from voting should not be condoned by his party or the authorized person within 15 days of such incident.
- Articles 102 (2) and 191 (2) deals with anti-defection.
- The law disallows MPs/ MLAs to switch parties after elections, make the members follow the whips issued by their party.
- It also applies to a nominated member if he/she join a political party after 6 months of nomination and to an independent candidate if he/she joins a party after the Election.

5. Which of the following is/are **not** the safeguards for the anti-defection law?

1. The Anti-Defection Law provides a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences.
2. It accepts split within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect.
3. It also allows the formation of a new party or merger with other political party if not

less than two-thirds of the party's members commit to it.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Anti-Defection Law provided a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences.
- It accepted “split” within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect, and allowed the formation of a new party or “merger” with other political party if not less than two-thirds of the party's members commit to it.
- **The 91st Constitutional Amendment introduced in 2003 deleted the provision allowing split.**
- The 91st Amendment also barred the appointment of defectors as Ministers until their disqualification period is over or they are re-elected, whichever is earlier.
- But, obviously, such laws have not put to rest the trend of defections.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the e-Commerce Models in India:

1. In the marketplace model the e-commerce firm simply acts as a platform that connects buyers and sellers.
2. In the inventory-based the inventory of goods sold on the portal is owned or controlled by the e-commerce company.
3. FDI is allowed only in the marketplace model and not in the inventory-based model.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- E-commerce companies can operate under two different models in India.
- The first is the marketplace model where the e-commerce firm simply acts as a platform that connects buyers and sellers. FDI is allowed in e-commerce companies in this model.
- The second model is inventory-based where the inventory of goods sold on the portal is owned or controlled by the e-commerce company. FDI is not allowed under this model.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

7. With reference to 'Deposit Insurance on Bank's Deposit', consider the following statements:

1. Deposit insurance is providing insurance protection to the depositor's money by receiving a premium.
2. Insurance Regulator Development Authority (IRDA) is responsible to issue the depositor's money in case of bank's failure.
3. Under the scheme it insures all types of bank deposits including savings, fixed and recurring with an insured bank.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Deposit insurance is Providing Insurance protection to the depositor's money by receiving a premium. So Statement 1 is correct.
- The Government has set up Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) under RBI to protect depositors if a bank fails. So, statement 2 is Incorrect.
- Every insured bank pays premium amounting to 0.001% of its deposits to DICGC every year.

- This scheme insures all types of bank deposits including savings, fixed and recurring with an insured bank. So, statement 3 is correct.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- On April 1, 2014, India became the first country to legally mandate corporate social responsibility.
- The new rules in Section 135 of India's Companies Act make it mandatory for companies of a certain turnover and profitability to spend two percent of their average net profit for the past three years on CSR.

- As per Section 135 of the Act and rules issued thereunder, CSR norms are applicable on companies that has –
- net worth of Rs 500 Crore or more;
- turnover of Rs 1000 Crore or more; or
- net profit of Rs 5 Crore or more.
- Contribution of any amount directly or indirectly to any political party under section 182 of the Act shall not be considered as CSR activity.
- Also, expenses incurred by companies for the fulfillment of any Act/Statute of regulations would not count as CSR expenditure under the Companies Act.

9. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

- The Vaal River is the largest tributary of the Orange River in South Africa.

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

1. Seed cost is very low in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.
2. Drip irrigation can be practised very effectively in this.
3. There is no application of chemical/inorganic fertilizers at all in this.
4. The scope for intercropping is more in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

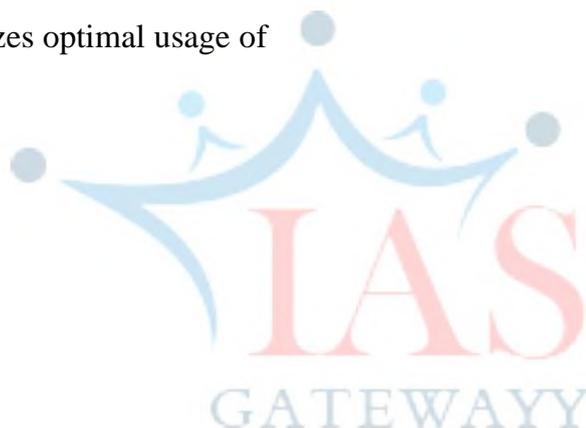
Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

Major principles of SSI:

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



1. With reference to the Indra Sawhney case, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The Court rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, but it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
2. No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
3. The carry forward rule in case of unfilled vacancies should not violate 50% rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In the famous **Mandal case (Indra Sawhney v. Union of India 1992)**, the scope and extent of **Article 16(4)**, which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court.
- Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions, viz,

- ✓ The advanced sections among the OBCs (the creamy layer) should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation.
- ✓ No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only. Any existing reservation in promotions can continue for five years only (i.e., upto 1997).
- ✓ The total reserved quota should not exceed 50% except in some extraordinary situations. This rule should be applied every year.
- ✓ The 'carry forward rule' in case of unfilled (backlog) vacancies is valid. But it should not violate 50% rule.
- ✓ A permanent statutory body should be established to examine complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.
- However, it is also to be noted that the Parliament has passed the 124th Constitution Amendment Bill (10% Quota Bill) to provide for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) among the general category candidates in higher education and government employment in the year 2019.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

2. With reference to the Socially Educational and Backward Class (SEBC), which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The President alone is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1) of the Constitution.
2. The States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.
3. Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The President (that is the Central government) alone, to the exclusion of all other authorities, is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1), which shall be deemed to include SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory for the purposes of the Constitution.

- The States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.
- The Central List is to be the “only list” for the SEBC.
- Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament, by virtue of Article 342A (2).
- In the task of identification of SEBCs, the President shall be guided by the Commission (National Commission for Backward Classes) set up under Article 338B; its advice shall also be sought by the State in regard to policies that might be framed by it.
- If the commission prepares a report concerning matters of identification, such a report has to be shared with the State government, which is bound to deal with it, in accordance with provisions of Article 338B. However, the final determination culminates in the exercise undertaken by the President (i.e. the Central Government, under Article 342A (1).
- However, “the President’s prerogative as far as the identification and inclusion of SEBCs in the List would not affect the States’ power to make reservations in favour of particular communities or castes,

- the quantum of reservations, the nature of benefits and the kind of reservations, and all other matters falling within the ambit of Articles 15 and 16”.

3. Cauvery River was recently seen in news. Which of the following are the tributaries of the Cauvery River?

- Amravati
- Bhavani
- Hemavati
- Kabini

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Cauvery is a sacred river of southern India. It rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats and falls in the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu.
- It forms the sacred islands of Srirangapatna and Shivanasamudra and Shivanasamudra falls and also a wide delta.
- Total Length of the river is about 760 km.
- Its main tributaries are Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati, Kabini, Shimsha, and Lakshmana Tirtha.
- Its basin drains parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.



4. Which of the following?

- Right to equality
- Right to constitutional remedies
- Right to practise and propagate religion
- Right to privacy

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has held that there is no fundamental right to conversion.
- In the case of Stanislaus vs State of Madhya Pradesh (1977), the court made a clear distinction between the right to propagate one’s religion or faith and the right to convert.
- The former is guaranteed by Article 25 of the Constitution. Conversion enjoys no such protection.

5. Consider the following statements:

- Parliamentary committees do not find a mention in the Constitution of India.
- The consultative committees are not a part of parliamentary committees.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Parliamentary committees are mentioned in the Constitution of India.
- The consultative committees which consist of Member of Parliaments are not a part of parliamentary committees, they are Distinct in Nature.

6. Consider the following statements about the Indian Ocean Commission:

1. The Indian Ocean Commission is an initiative of India with the ASEAN nations.
2. The Commission was established immediately after the 2004 tsunami.
3. Japan and the European Union are observers on this platform.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Indian Ocean Commission is the only intergovernmental body in Africa composed of island nations alone.
- The nations belong to the African/Western Indian Ocean.

- The IOC was formed in 1982 in Port Louis in Mauritius, where its secretariat is also based.
- The chief objective of the Commission is to foster ties of friendship among the member countries and also spread solidarity among the populations of the entire island countries of the African Indian Ocean.
- The IOC defends the member-nations' interests in Africa and also in international fora.
- It has many projects in arenas such as sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem preservation, maritime security, entrepreneurship, public health, culture and renewable energies.

7. With reference to the Amazon Rainforests, consider the following statements:

1. They are tropical rainforests found in Northern South America .
2. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Amazon Rainforests are large tropical rainforests occupying the drainage basin of

the Amazon River and its tributaries in northern South America.

- It is a vast region that spans eight rapidly developing countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, an overseas territory of France.
- Tropical forests are closed-canopy forests growing within 28 degrees north or south of the equator.
- They are very wet places, receiving more than 200 cm rainfall per year, either seasonally or throughout the year.
- Temperatures are uniformly high - between 20°C and 35°C.
- Such forests are found in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and on many of the Pacific Islands.
- Comprising about 40% of Brazil's total area, it is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west (not Pacific Ocean), the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Youth Skills Day was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2014.
2. In India, the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) have been sanctioned to provide vocational

training to non-literates and school dropouts in rural areas.

3. 'Going Online as Leaders' -GOAL is an initiative for the skill development of India's tribal community.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Every year, 15th July is observed as the World Youth Skills Day.
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2014.
- The aim is to equip young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work, and entrepreneurship.
- According to the estimates of UNESCO, schools were shut down for over 30 weeks in 50% of the countries between March 2020 and May 2021.
- Youth employment fell 8.7% last year, compared with 3.7% for adults.
- The Prime Minister of India announced the 75 newly sanctioned Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) and also launched a portal made specifically for JSS.

- JSSs aim to provide vocational training to non-literates, neo-literates as well as school dropouts in rural areas, by identifying skills that might be relevant to the market of that region.
- Special Initiatives for Skill Development of the Tribal Community:
- 'Going Online As Leaders' -GOAL are helping tribal population with areas like art and culture, handicraft, textiles and digital literacy among tribal areas leading to entrepreneurship development among the tribal population.
- Similarly, Van Dhan Yojna is effectively connecting the tribal society with new opportunities.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by India and France on the side-lines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris.
2. PM- KUSUM scheme aims to provide financial and water security to farmers through harnessing Solar Energy Capacities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- International Solar Alliance was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21), with 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as Prospective Members.

PM- KUSUM:

- KUSUM stands for Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan.
- It's objective is to provide financial and water security to farmers through harnessing solar energy capacities of 25,750 MW by 2022.

10. Consider the following pairs:

- | River | Disputed states |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Narmada | - Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan |
| 2. Krishna | - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana |
| 3. Vamsadhara | - Chhattisgarh, Odisha |
| 4. Cauvery | - Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry |

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Major Inter-State River Disputes	
River (s)	States
Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha
Mahanadi	Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka
Periyar	Tamil Nadu, Kerala

1. Consider the following, with regard to School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP):

1. It is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
2. It provides training to the school teachers in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and product development.
3. The program provides training in online mode only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have jointly launched the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched an Adi-Prashikshan portal which is also a repository of training inputs.
- The innovative and one-of-its-kind training program for school teachers aims at training 50,000 school teachers in innovation, entrepreneurship, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), design thinking, product development, idea generation, among others.

- It will make Indian teachers, change-agents and ambassadors of innovation to make our students future-ready.
- It has been designed by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for school teachers based on its Innovation Ambassador Training Program for Higher Educational Institution's faculty members.
- The training will be delivered in online mode only.

2. In context to 'Fit for 55 package', consider the following statements?

1. It is a new climate proposal released by the European Commission.
2. The package attempts to deliver the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and carbon neutrality goal.
3. It includes a new emissions trading system for transport and buildings and a carbon border price on Imported Goods.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the European Commission released a new climate proposal, the Fit for 55 package.
- The European Commission is the executive branch of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, enforcing EU laws and directing the union's administrative operations.
- The EU in December 2020 submitted a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- It also set a long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The new package attempts to deliver the NDC and carbon neutrality goal through proposed changes that would impact the economy, society and industry, as well as ensure a fair, competitive and green transition by 2030 and beyond.
- It claims to achieve a balance between “regulatory policies” and market-based carbon pricing to avoid the pitfalls of each.
- It includes a new emissions trading system for transport and buildings, a ban on the sale of polluting cars from 2035 and a carbon border price on Imported Goods.

3. Consider the following, with regard ‘Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative’?

1. The initiative is proposed by G7 countries to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower Income Countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The G7 (Group of Seven) Countries proposed a ‘Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative’ at the recent 47th G7 summit to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower income countries - the space which has been increasingly captured by China through 2,600 BRI projects with trillions of dollars of investment.
- This infrastructure plan is being led by the United States. B3W initiative will provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow about \$40 trillion needed by developing nations by 2035.

- It calls for spending hundreds of billions of dollars in collaboration with the private sector while adhering to climate standards and labour practices.
- However, the announcement is yet to be made about how exactly the plan would work or how much capital it would ultimately allocate.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
2. Malware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.
3. A spyware can access the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- Malicious software or malware can be described as unwanted software that is installed in your system without your consent.
- Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A spyware app accesses the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Midday Meal Scheme:

1. The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madaras supported under Samagra Shiksha.
2. Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
3. The Scheme comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madaras supported under Samagra Shiksha. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Scheme comes under the Ministry of HRD. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It was launched in the year 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE), a centrally sponsored scheme. In 2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- The Scheme is also covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

6. An objective of the National Food Security Mission is to increase the production of certain crops through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner in the identified districts of the country. What are those crops?

- (a) Rice and wheat only
- (b) Rice, wheat, and pulses only
- (c) Rice, wheat, pulses, and oilseeds only
- (d) Rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is a Central Scheme of GOI launched in 2007 for 5 years to increase production and productivity of wheat, rice and pulses on a sustainable basis so as to ensure food security of the country.
- In view of the stagnating food grain production and an increasing consumption need of the growing population, Government of India has launched this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' in October 2007. Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007.
- The Mission met with an overwhelming success and achieved the targeted additional production of rice, wheat and pulses.
- The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India.
- It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System option 'b' is correct answer.

7. Which of the following statements are correct about judicial activism?

1. It is the process of lawmaking by judges
2. It is the practice in the judiciary of protecting Individual Rights
3. Judges depart from strict adherence to Judicial Precedents

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In judicial activism, judicial power is exercised by judges in favour of progressive social policies calling for social engineering, by departing from the principle of strict adherence to a judicial precedent.
- It is meant to protect or expand individual rights and therefore, also referred as the process of lawmaking by judges.

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

1. The fund comes from the Universal Service Levy (USL) charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).

2. The fund is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

3. USOF is funding the Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

9. Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

1. Consider the following, with regard to School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP):

1. It is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
2. It provides training to the school teachers in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and product development.
3. The program provides training in online mode only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have jointly launched the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched an Adi-Prashikshan portal which is also a repository of training inputs.
- The innovative and one-of-its-kind training program for school teachers aims at training 50,000 school teachers in innovation, entrepreneurship, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), design thinking,

product development, idea generation, among others.

- It will make Indian teachers, change-agents and ambassadors of innovation to make our students future-ready.
- It has been designed by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for school teachers based on its Innovation Ambassador Training Program for Higher Educational Institution's faculty members.
- The training will be delivered in online mode only.

2. In context to 'Fit for 55 package', consider the following statements?

1. It is a new climate proposal released by the European Commission.
2. The package attempts to deliver the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and carbon Neutrality Goal.
3. It includes a new emissions trading system for transport and buildings and a carbon border price on imported goods.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the European Commission released a new climate proposal, the Fit for 55 package.
- The European Commission is the executive branch of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, enforcing EU laws and directing the union's administrative operations.
- The EU in December 2020 submitted a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- It also set a long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The new package attempts to deliver the NDC and carbon neutrality goal through proposed changes that would impact the economy, society and industry, as well as ensure a fair, competitive and green transition by 2030 and beyond.
- It claims to achieve a balance between “regulatory policies” and market-based carbon pricing to avoid the pitfalls of each.
- It includes a new emissions trading system for transport and buildings, a ban on the sale of polluting cars from 2035 and a carbon border price on Imported Goods.

3. Consider the following, with regard ‘Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative’?

1. The initiative is proposed by G7 countries to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower Income Countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The G7 (Group of Seven) Countries proposed a ‘Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative’ at the recent 47th G7 summit to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower income countries - the space which has been increasingly captured by China through 2,600 BRI projects with trillions of dollars of investment.
- This infrastructure plan is being led by the United States. B3W initiative will provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow about \$40 trillion needed by developing nations by 2035.

- It calls for spending hundreds of billions of dollars in collaboration with the private sector while adhering to climate standards and labour practices.
- However, the announcement is yet to be made about how exactly the plan would work or how much capital it would Ultimately Allocate.

Tag: Rivers

4. Cauvery River was recently seen in news. Which of the following states/UTs have dispute over the Cauvery River?

1. Puducherry
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Karnataka
4. Kerala
5. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Cauvery is a sacred river of southern India. It rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats and falls in the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu.
- It forms the sacred islands of Srirangapatna and Shivanasamudra and Shivanasamudra falls and also a wide delta.

- Total Length of the river is about 760 km.
- Its main tributaries are Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati, Kabini, Shimsha, and Lakshmana Tirtha.
- Its basin drains parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

5. With respect to Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), consider the following statements:

1. Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
2. Revenues from non-core telecom operations are excluded from the AGR.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the **usage and licensing fee** that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is divided into **spectrum usage charges and licensing fees**, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.
- **Spectrum usage charges** is the charge that is required to be paid by the licensees

providing mobile access services, as a percentage of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).

- The spectrum slabs/rates for the same are notified by the Government from time to time.
- While telecom companies argued that it should comprise revenue from telecom services, the DoT's stand was that the AGR should include all revenue earned by an operator, including that from non-core telecom operations. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- The AGR directly impacts the outgo from the pockets of telcos to the DoT as it is used to calculate the levies payable by operators.
- Currently, telecom operators pay 8% of the AGR as licence fee, while spectrum usage charges (SUC) vary between 3-5% of AGR.

6. With reference to the Spectrum Auction, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Reliance Jio was the greatest bidder of 5G airwaves in the spectrum auctions which was conducted recently.
2. Foreign companies will have to either set up a branch in India and register as an Indian company, or tie up with an Indian company to be able to retain the airwaves after winning them.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- 5G airwaves are not for sale in this auction. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- All three private telecom players, Reliance Jio Infocomm, Bharti Airtel, and Vi are eligible contenders to buy additional spectrum to support the number of users on their network.
- Apart from these three, new companies, including foreign companies, are also eligible to bid for the airwaves.
 - ✓ Foreign companies, however, will have to either set up a branch in India and register as an Indian company, or tie up with an Indian company to be able to retain the airwaves after winning them. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

7. '27 Point Action Plan', sometimes seen in News is related to

- (a) FATF
- (b) EU
- (c) G20
- (d) UNEP

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The **International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG)** of the Financial Action

Task Force (FATF) recently recommended that Pakistan should be retained on the “**Grey List**” as it had failed to implement the **27 Point Action Plan**.

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 during the **G7 Summit** in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- FATF has two lists:
 - ✓ **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
 - ✓ **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

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

1. He took the help of the French to set up an arms factory at Dindigul.

2. The Third Anglo-Mysore War fought by Tipu ended with the Treaty of Madras.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The moon wobble is a regular swaying/cyclical shift in the moon’s orbit. It was first documented in 1728.

- This wobble takes over an 18.6-year period to complete and continues to occur in a cyclic fashion.
- One half of the 18.6-year cycle suppresses the tides, which means that the high tides get lower, while the low tides get higher than normal. Once this cycle completes, the situation flips with high tides getting higher and low tides, lower.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

1. With regards to Contempt of Court, consider the following statements:

1. Civil contempt is a contempt is the publication whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation.
2. Criminal contempt is a ‘willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other processes of a Court or willful breach of an undertaking given to the court’.
3. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, very clearly states that fair criticism of any case which has been heard and decided is not contempt.

Which of the statements given above are *not* correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In India, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, divides contempt into civil contempt and criminal contempt.
- ‘Civil contempt’ is a ‘willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other processes of a Court or willful breach of an undertaking given to the court’.

- ‘Criminal contempt’ is ‘the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:

- ✓ Scandalizes or tends to scandalize, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court.
- ✓ Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding.
- ✓ Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.’

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, very clearly states that fair criticism of any case which has been heard and decided is not contempt.

- The statute of 1971 has been amended by the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Act, 2006 to include the defence of truth under Section 13 of the original legislation.

- Section 13 that already served to restrict the powers of the court in that they were not to hold anyone in contempt unless it would substantially interfere with the due process of justice, the amendment further states that the court must permit ‘justification by truth as a valid defence if it is satisfied that it is in public interest and the request for invoking the said defence is bona fide.’

2. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.
2. The United Nations General Assembly had declared the year 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives.

Which of the statements is/are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.
- There are many types of cooperatives such as Consumer Cooperative Society, Producer Cooperative Society, Credit Cooperative Society, Housing Cooperative Society and Marketing Cooperative Society.

- The United Nations General Assembly had declared the year 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives.
- India is an agricultural country and laid the foundation of World's biggest cooperative movement in the world.
- In India, a Co-operative based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.

3. Recently Farmers have raised their concerns or grievance against farm laws made by the government. They are protected under which article of the Indian constitution?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 15
- (c) Article 18
- (d) Article 19

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The right to protest, to publicly question and force the government to answer, is a fundamental political right of the people that flows directly from a democratic reading of **Article 19**.
- The courts have continuously reiterated that the right to protest is a fundamental right.
- One may examine and find that the word 'protest' is missing in the Indian Constitution. But Article 19 has mentioned it implicitly.

- For example, the right to free speech and expression may be taken to mean that everyone has a right to express their personal opinion on, say, a film, or on the condition of the city they inhabit.
- The right to associate to mean the right to form self-regulating clubs, professional associations or societies.
- The right of peaceful assembly to mean the right to have a picnic in a park or to participate in religious festivals.

4. With reference to increase in income inequality over advanced economies, which of the following are correct?

1. Adverse impact in National Income per capita
2. Little impact in Life Expectancy
3. Adverse impact over Health
4. Adverse Impact over Education

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Studies in the advanced economies show that higher inequality leads to adverse socioeconomic out-comes (health, education, life expectancy etc) but income per capita, a measure that reflects the

impact of Economic Growth, has little Impact.

5. Consider the following statements, which most appropriately describe mountain ranges :

1. These mountains emerged near the end of the Mesozoic Era .
2. They are the most prominent of western Europe’s physiographic regions.
3. Mont Blanc is the highest peak of this **Mountain Range.**

The above statements?

- (a) Rockies
- (b) Urals
- (c) Andes
- (d) Alps

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Alps Mountains:

- The Alps emerged during the Alpine orogeny (mountain-building event), an event that began about 65 million years ago as the Mesozoic Era was drawing to a close.
- They are the most prominent of western Europe’s Physiographic Regions.
- The Alps form part of France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and Albania.
- Only Switzerland and Austria can be considered true Alpine countries.

- The Alps extend north from the subtropical Mediterranean coast near Nice, France, to Lake Geneva before trending east-northeast to Vienna, Austria.
- There they touch the Danube River and meld with the adjacent plain.
- Mont Blanc is the highest peak in the Alps and in Europe, reaching a lofty 4,804 meters above sea level. It is located in the Graian Alps and lies within France, Switzerland, and Italy.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. NEA Scout is a miniaturized spacecraft developed under NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) Program.
2. NEA Scout is envisaged to collect data from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced that its new spacecraft, named Near-Earth Asteroid Scout or NEA Scout, has completed all required tests and has been

safely tucked inside the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket

- Near-Earth Asteroid Scout, or NEA Scout, is a miniaturized spacecraft, known as a CubeSat, developed under NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) Program. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- AES pioneers new approaches for rapidly developing prototype systems, demonstrating key capabilities, and validating operational concepts for future human missions beyond low-Earth orbit.
- Its main mission is to fly by and collect data from a near-Earth asteroid. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It will take about two years to cruise to the asteroid and will be about 93 million miles away from Earth during the asteroid encounter.
- It will also be America's first interplanetary mission using a special solar sail Propulsion.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the only tripartite United Nation (UN) agency.
2. The ILO became an affiliated agency of the United Nations (UN) by the Treaty of Versailles.
3. The International Labour Conference is organized by ILO every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the only tripartite United Nation (UN) agency. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States (India is a member), to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- ILO received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
- ILO was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It became the first affiliated specialized agency of the UN in 1946.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Indian Labour Conference (ILC) also known as the ‘labour parliament’ of the country formed on the lines of International Labour Conference is the apex level tripartite (Government, Employers and Workers) consultative committee in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

- International Labour Conference also known as International Parliament of Labour is a conference organized by ILO every year. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

- Foehn is a hot wind of local importance in the Alps. With the arrival of these winds, there is a rapid rise in temperature.
- Switzerland and Austria have a warmer climate due to the Föhn, as moist winds off the Mediterranean Sea blow over the Alps.
- Föhn is responsible for rapid temperature rise, melting snowfall and the avalanche risk.

10. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A foehn or foehn is a type of dry, warm, down-slope wind that occurs in the lee (downwind side) of a mountain range.

1. In the Context to the Domicile rule of the J&K, who are considered as the domicile of the UT?

1. Anyone who has resided for a period of fifteen years in the UT of J&K.
2. Anyone has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K.
3. Those registered as migrants and their children.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Anyone “who has resided for a period of fifteen years in the UT of J&K”. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Or has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Or those registered as migrants and their children. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Or the children of those central government officials, All India service officials, Officials of Public sector undertaking,

- Autonomous body of central government, public sector banks, officials of statutory bodies officials of central universities and recognized research institutes of central government who have served in J&K for a period of ten years.
- Or children of residents of J&K who reside outside the Union Territory in connection with employment or business or for other professional or vocational reasons, but whose parents fulfil any of the conditions provided in the latest gazette notification will also be entitled to domicile status.
- The entire above mentioned are the domicile of the UT.

2. With respect to the Detention Laws, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. In general the person arrested has to be informed for the cause he has been arrested, but in the case of the National Security Act, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
2. Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner, but under the NSA, he is not allowed for a lawyer during the period.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

←----->

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Typically, if a person is arrested, then he/she enjoy certain rights bestowed by the Indian Constitution. The person has to be informed of the reason for the arrest. Under Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the person arrested has to be informed.
 - However, in the case of the NSA, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
 - Sections 56 and 76 of the same penal code guarantee the detained person to be produced before a court within 24 hours. Apart from this, Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner. However, under the NSA, none of these above mentioned basic rights is permitted to the suspect.
 - **So both the statements are correct.**
3. A person being under trial is being denied his speedy trial for years. Which of the following Fundamental Right is being affected?
- (a) Article 21
(b) Article 19
(c) Article 14
(d) Article 21 A

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, highlighting the issue of undertrials, the Supreme Court has said that “speedy trial is a fundamental right”.
 - The main aim of the Right to Speedy trial is to inculcate Justice in the society.
 - It was first mentioned in that landmark document of English law, the Magna Carta.
 - In India, it is covered under Article 21 which declares that “no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure laid by law.”
4. In the context to the Encryption of messages, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
1. Encryption technology involves scrambling or jumbling of the data being transferred in such a way that it can be deciphered or read only by the sender and the receiver
 2. Once the data leaves the starting point, it gets encrypted, and then it can be decrypted only at its intended destination and nowhere in between the sender and the receiver.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **End-to-End Encryption (E2EE)** is a new security feature that keeps the people's information out of the hands of hackers and cyber-criminals.
- Encryption technology involves scrambling or jumbling of the data being transferred in such a way that it can be deciphered only by the sender and the receiver. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- In a communication system with end-to-end encryption feature, once the data leaves the starting point, it gets encrypted, and then it can be decrypted only at its intended destination and nowhere in between. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the first step, when a sender sends a message, it is in the form of Plaintext that is ordinary readable text.
- Second, as soon as the data gets onto the network, it gets encrypted that is a process of converting ordinary readable text into a code with the help of special keys (a very long string of numbers generated by the software).
- Third when the same data reaches its intended destination, it is decrypted that is
- a process of converting back the coded data to readable text with the help of special keys.

- Finally, the intended receiver gets the message in the form of Cipher text that is the readable text obtained after decryption.

5. In context to the cooperatives in India, consider the following statements:

1. The term cooperatives was added in Part III of the Constitution through the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011.
2. Article 43B was added in the Directive Principles of State Policy regarding the promotion of cooperative societies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Provisions of Indian Constitution related to Cooperatives:
- The Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 added a new Part IXB right after Part IXA (Municipals) regarding the cooperatives working in India.
- The word “cooperatives” was added after “unions and associations” in Art. 19(1)(c)
- under Part III of the Constitution. This enables all the citizens to form cooperatives by giving it the status of fundamental right of citizens.

- Article 43B was added in the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) regarding the “promotion of cooperative societies”.
- Entry 32 of the State List: Incorporation, regulation and winding up of corporations, other than those specified in List I, and universities; unincorporated trading, literary, scientific, religious and other Societies and associations; co-operative Societies.

6. Consider the following statements , with regard to Lokpal:

1. A Lokpal is an anti-corruption authority who represents the public interest at national level.
2. The Lokpal has jurisdiction over all Members of Parliament in cases of corruption.
3. The First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) of India recommended the setting up of Lokpal for the redressal of citizens’ grievances.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A Lokpal is an anti-corruption authority or ombudsman who represents the public interest.
- The Lokpal is responsible for enquiring into corruption charges at the national level while the Lokayukta performs the same function at the state level.
- India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- The concept of an ombudsman was borrowed from Sweden.
- The Lokpal, the apex body to inquire and investigate graft complaints against public functionaries, came into being with the appointment of its chairperson and members in March 2019.
- The First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) of India (1966– 1970) recommended the setting up of two special authorities designated as ‘Lokpal’ and ‘Lokayukta’ for the redressal of citizens’ grievances.
- The Lokpal has jurisdiction over all Members of Parliament and central Government Employees in cases of Corruption.

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to Solar energy:

1. Solar PhotoVoltaic uses concentrated solar radiation as a high temperature energy source to produce Electricity.
2. Solar Thermal Power systems convert solar radiation directly into Electricity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Solar PhotoVoltaic (SPV):** SPV cells convert solar radiation (sunlight) directly into electricity.
- A SPV is a semi-conducting device made of silicon and/or other materials, which, when exposed to sunlight, generates electricity.
- **Solar Thermal:** Solar Thermal Power systems, also known as Concentrating Solar Power systems, use concentrated solar radiation as a high temperature energy source to produce Electricity.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

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

1. Asian Development Outlook is an annual Publication of ADB.
2. Under its voting system, each member nation has a single vote irrespective of its capital subscriptions.

3. The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

(d) Connecting all the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

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

- (a) Connecting the farmers, traders and buyers of GI tagged Agricultural Produce across the country.
- (b) Connecting aqua farmers and buyers across the country.
- (c) Facilitating grading, packing, providing logistic support to organic farmers to sell their agriculture produce directly to end customers.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

3. Yccorrhizal biotechnology has been used in rehabilitating degraded sites because

1. Mycorrhiza enables the plants to (UPSC 2013)
2. Resist drought and increase Absorptive Area
3. Tolerate Extremes of PH
4. Resist disease infestation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

4. Consider the following, with reference to Eco Niwas Samhita 2021:

1. It is the Energy Conservation Building Code for residential buildings.
2. Eco Niwas Samhita was launched as a part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021” was launched by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- These initiatives seek to enhance energy efficiency in the building sector and were launched as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.

Initiatives Launched:

- Eco Niwas Samhita 2021: It is an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R) to give a further fillip to India’s energy conservation efforts.
- It specifies code compliance approaches and minimum energy performance requirements for building services, and verification framework with Eco Niwas Samhita 2021.

- Hand Book for Learning: The web-based platform ‘The Handbook of Replicable Designs for Energy Efficient Residential Buildings’ as a learning tool, which can be used to create a pool of ready-to-use resources of replicable designs to construct energy-efficient homes in India.

- Online Directory of Building Materials: Creating an Online Directory of Building Materials that would envisage the process of establishing standards for energy efficient building materials.

- NEERMAN Awards: NEERMAN Awards, (National Energy Efficiency Roadmap for Movement towards Affordable & Natural Habitat) were announced, with the goal of encouraging exceptionally efficient building designs complying with BEE’s Energy Conservation Building Codes.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Digital Twins:

1. It is a virtual replica of the physical world to simulate real life situations and analyse its impact.
2. It integrate the historical data sets such as weather records and realtime dynamic interactions along with the digital representation of physical assets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Digital Twin is a virtual replica of the physical world, its dynamics, and processes, which allow us to simulate real life situations and analyse its impact.
- Digital twins are composed of Three Parts:
 - the physical entities in the physical world,
 - the virtual models in the virtual world, and
 - the connected data that tie the two worlds.
- Digital Twins not only integrate the digital representation of physical assets, like physical systems of pipes, pumps, valves, and tanks, but also include historical data sets such as weather records and realtime dynamic interactions, which allow them to be used for Multiple Analyses.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Akash missile:

1. It is India's first indigenously produced medium range Surface to Air missile.
2. It is supported by the indigenously developed radar called 'INDRA'.
3. Akash-NG is a new variant having air-to-air Missile Capabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Akash Missile is India's first indigenously produced medium range Surface to Air missile that can engage multiple targets from multiple directions.
- The missile is unique in the way that it can be launched from mobile platforms like battle tanks or wheeled trucks. It has nearly 90% kill probability.
- The missile is supported by the indigenously developed radar called 'Rajendra'.
- The missile is reportedly cheaper and more accurate than US' Patriot missiles due to its solid-fuel technology and high-tech radars.
- It can engage targets at a speed 2.5 times more than the speed of sound and can detect and destroy targets flying at low, medium and high altitudes.
- The Akash missile system has been designed and developed as part of India's 30-year-old Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- Akash Missile (Akash-NG) is a surface-to-air Missile.
- It is a new variant of the Akash missile that can strike targets at a distance of around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.
- Once deployed, the Akash-NG weapon system will prove to be a force multiplier

for the air defence capability of the Indian Air Force.

- It is developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- It is being produced by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Lokpal:

1. The Prime Minister has been brought under the jurisdiction of Lokpal
2. It enhances maximum punishment under Prevention of Corruption Act from 10 years to 14 years.
3. All entities receiving donations from foreign source in excess of ₹20 lakhs per year are brought under the jurisdiction of Lokpal.
4. The Lokpal act provides for selection of Director of CBI based on a high-powered committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The salient features of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) are as follows:
 - ✓ It seeks to establish the institution of the Lokpal at the Centre and the Lokayukta at the level of the State
 - ✓ The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✓ The Lokpal to consist of a Chairperson with a maximum of 8 members of which 50% shall be judicial members.
 - ✓ 50% of the members of the Lokpal shall come from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women.
 - ✓ The selection of the Chairperson and the members of Lokpal shall be through a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court Judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist to be nominated by the President of India on the basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee.
 - ✓ The Lokpal will have the power of superintendence and direction over any investigating agency, including the

CBI, for cases referred to them by the Lokpal.

- ✓ A High-Powered Committee chaired by the Prime Minister will recommend the selection of the Director of CBI. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- ✓ It enhances maximum punishment under the Prevention of Corruption Act from seven years to ten years. The minimum punishment under sections 7, 8, 9 and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act will now be three years, and the minimum punishment under section 15 (punishment for attempt) will now be two years. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- ✓ All entities receiving donations from foreign source in the context of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in excess of ₹10 lakhs per year are brought under the jurisdiction of Lokpal. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

8. Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) Judicial Reforms
- (b) Citizenship Amendment Act
- (c) Data Privacy
- (d) Non Performing Assets

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The **Justice Srikrishna committee** on data privacy has made specific mention of the need for separate and more stringent norms for protecting the data of children.
- It recommended that companies be barred from certain types of data processing such as behavioural monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising and any other type of processing which is not in the best interest of the child.
- It is widely accepted that processing of personal data of children ought to be subject to greater protection than regular processing of data.
- Safeguarding the best interests of the child should be the guiding principle for statutory regulation on protecting data of children.
- The committee noted that, at present, there were two types of entities processing the personal data of children.
- The first type was services offered primarily to children, such as YouTube Kids, Hot Wheels and Walt Disney, and the second were social media services such as Facebook and Instagram.
- The committee's recommends that the Data Protection Authority will have the power to designate websites or online services that process large volumes of personal data of children as "guardian data fiduciaries".

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The Paris Agreement of 2016 is an International accord that brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions in an effort to fight climate change.
2. A country can only give a notice for leaving at least three years after the Paris Agreement came into force
3. The US is the only country left out of the Global Protocol.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The U.S. was the only country left out of the global protocol which later on January 2021, the President Joe Biden signed an executive order to rejoin the agreement. Syria and Nicaragua, the last remaining countries who were earlier holding out, also became signatories in 2017.

10. With respect to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:

1. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.
2. It regulates control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs, clinical trials and approves licences to all kind of drugs in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- **Major Functions are as follows:**

- ✓ Regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials.
- ✓ Approval of certain licences as Central Licence Approving Authority
- **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI):** DCGI is responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines and sera in India. It comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. **So, statement 2 is correct.**



1. 'Right to strike', sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) Legal Right
- (b) Moral Right
- (c) Fundamental right.
- (d) Human Right

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Right to strike is recognized globally. Article 19(1) the Constitution of India guarantees the protection of certain freedoms as fundamental rights such as:
- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Assemble peaceably and without arms.
- Form associations or unions.
- Move freely throughout the territory of India.
- Reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.
- Practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- However, strike is not expressly recognized in the Constitution of India.
- The Supreme Court settled the case of Kameshwar Prasad v. The State of Bihar 1958 by stating that strike is not a fundamental right.
- Government employees have no legal or moral rights to go on strikes.
- India recognized strike as a statutory right under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

2. In context to World Heritage Site, consider the following statements:

1. The list of Sites is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme.
2. Once the site is included in the World Heritage List, we cannot be delisted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance. The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- It seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- The sites can be delisted from the World Heritage List.
- Eg. Recently, the city of Liverpool, England has been removed from UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) list of world heritage sites.

- Reasons for Delisting: The new buildings including a football stadium undermine the attractiveness of its Victorian docks and were destroying the heritage value of its waterfront.
- The over development would irreversibly damage the heritage of the historic port.
- Other Delisted Sites:
- Wildlife sanctuary in Oman in 2007.
- Reason: poaching and habitat loss.
- Dresden Elbe valley in Germany in 2009.
- Reason: A four-lane motorway bridge was built over the river.

3. The 'Nord Stream 2 Pipeline (NS2P)', sometimes seen in the news connects which of the following two countries?
- (a) Germany-Russia
 - (b) U.S-Mexico
 - (c) Germany-France
 - (d) Denmark-Sweden

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the US has approved the Germany-Russia Nord Stream 2 Pipeline (NS2P) project - which significantly increases Europe's energy dependence on Russia.
- The US had previously imposed sanctions to prevent the completion of this gas pipeline between Russia and Germany.
- This is a 1,200-km pipeline that runs from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in

Germany through the Baltic Sea. It will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year.

- Nord stream 1 system is already completed and together with NS2P, it will supply 110 billion cubic metre of gas a year to Germany.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. They can survive under high saline conditions.
2. They have special roots called breathing roots or pneumatophores.
3. They store fresh water in thick succulent leaves.

Which of the above statements most appropriately describe the following vegetation types?

- (a) Xerophytes
- (b) Alpine
- (c) Mangroves
- (d) Evergreen trees

Answer: c)

Explanation:

Features of Mangroves:

- **Saline Environment:** They can survive under extreme hostile environments such as high salt and low Oxygen Conditions.
- **Low Oxygen:** Underground tissue of any plant needs oxygen for respiration. But in a mangrove environment, the oxygen in soil is limited or nil. Hence the mangrove root

system absorbs oxygen from the atmosphere.

- Mangroves have special roots for this purpose called breathing roots or pneumatophores.
- These roots have numerous pores through which oxygen enters the underground tissues.
- **Succulent leaves:** Mangroves, like desert plants, store fresh water in thick succulent leaves.
- A waxy coating on the leaves seals in water and minimises evaporation.
- **Viviparous:** Their seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows into a propagule.
- The mature propagule then drops into the water and gets transported to a different spot, eventually taking root in a Solid Ground.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Mangroves:

1. It grows only in the intertidal regions of the tropical coastlines.
2. It covers in India has declined in the last five years.
3. West Bengal has the largest share of mangroves cover in India.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Mangroves can be found in over 118 countries and territories in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world.
- According to the State of Forest Report 2019, mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km, which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.
- Mangrove cover in the country has increased by 54 sq km (1.10%) as compared to the previous assessment (2017).
- The deltas of the Ganges, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, and the Cauvery rivers contain Mangrove Forests.
- The backwaters in Kerala have a high density of mangrove forest.
- The Sundarbans in West Bengal is the largest mangrove region in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Bhitarkanika mangrove system in Odisha is India's second largest mangrove forest.
- Pichavaram in Tamil Nadu has a vast expanse of water covered with mangrove forests. It is home to many aquatic bird species.

- West Bengal has 42.45% of India's mangrove cover, followed by Gujarat 23.66% and A & N Islands 12.39%.

6. Consider the following statements with respect to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

1. It was drafted and passed by the European Union (EU).
2. It imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
3. The GDPR provides for the 'right to be forgotten'.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a tough privacy and security law in the world though it was drafted and passed by the European Union (EU).
- It imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
- 'Right to be forgotten' is provided by the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

7. Consider the following statements with respect to the Question Hour:

1. Questions cannot be directed at the private members during this hour.
2. There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.
3. It is not mentioned in the parliamentary rules book.
4. Question Hour is not scheduled on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

Which of the given statement/s is/are **Incorrect?**

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- During the Question hour, Members of Parliament ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.
- The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers).
- There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.
- Question Hour is not scheduled on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

- Question Hour is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Mohiniyattam:

1. It is the classical solo dance form of Kerala.
2. Vyavaharamala written by Mazhamangalam Narayanan Namputiri has references of the art form.
3. In this the dancer usually stands on a brass plate locking the feet and moves the plate rhythmically with great dexterity.

Which of the given statement/s is/are **Incorrect?**

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Mohiniyattam is the classical solo dance form of Kerala.
- Vyavaharamala written by Mazhamangalam Narayanan Namputiri in 1709 has references to the art form.
- Ghoshayatra, written later by great poet Kunjan Nambiar also has its mentions.
- The dancer standing on a brass plate locking the feet and moving the plate rhythmically with great dexterity is a feature of Kuchipudi of Andhra Pradesh.

9. Which of the following is/are Indian Arctic Research Base/s?

1. Maitri
2. Himadri
3. Bharati

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- “Maitri” and “Bharati” are Indian Antarctic Research Bases.
- “Himadri” is an Indian Arctic Research Base.
- India launched its first scientific expedition to the Arctic Ocean in 2007 and opened a research base named “Himadri” at the International Arctic Research Base at Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Norway in July 2008 for carrying out studies in disciplines like Glaciology, Atmospheric sciences & Biological sciences.

10. Consider the following pairs:

Martial Art forms State

1. Kalaripayattu Kerala
2. Gatka Rajasthan
3. Thang Ta Arunachal Pradesh

Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala.
- Gatka is the name of an Indian martial art associated with the Sikhs of Punjab who practise an early variant of the martial art.
- Thang Ta is the popular term for the ancient Manipuri Martial Art.



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

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

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Hindu temples are built in the Panchayatana layout wherein the main

shrine is surrounded by four subsidiary shrines.

- Generally, Hindu temples are built along a west-east axis. So the four subsidiary shrines are at the north-east, south-east, south-west, north-west.

4. Consider the following statements, with regard to Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

1. They are exempted from the Income Tax and Minimum Alternate Tax.
2. They were established in India in 2000 under its Foreign Trade Policy.
3. Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ) was established in Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a territory within a country that is typically duty-free (Fiscal Concession) and has different business and commercial laws chiefly to encourage investment and create employment.
- Asia's first EPZ (Export Processing Zones) was established in 1965 at Kandla, Gujarat.
- EPZ is a type of SEZ.

- It is an area set up to enhance commercial and industrial exports by encouraging economic growth through investment from Foreign Entities.
- The Government of India began to establish SEZs in 2000 under the Foreign Trade Policy to redress the infrastructural and bureaucratic challenges that were seen to have limited the success of EPZs.
- The Special Economic Zones Act was passed in 2005. The Act came into force along with the SEZ Rules in 2006.
- However, SEZs were operational in India from 2000 to 2006 (under the Foreign Trade Policy).
- India's SEZs were structured closely with China's successful model.

Major Incentives and Facilities Available to SEZ:

- Duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZ units.
- Exemption from various taxes like Income Tax, minimum alternate tax, etc.
- External commercial borrowing by SEZ units upto US \$ 500 million in a year without any maturity restriction through recognized banking channels.
- Single window clearance for Central and State level approvals.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to NIMHANS Guidelines:

1. It is a set of guidelines on the management of mental health issues of the prisoners.
2. As per the guidelines, the ‘buddies/ listeners’ are trained psychologists/ psychiatrists that are appointed to provide social support to the Suicidal Prisoners.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Acting on the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, NIMHANS, an Institute of National Importance, issued a set of guidelines on the management of mental health issues of the prisoners and prison staff.
- In the Gatekeeper Model for Identification of Mental Illness, selected inmates, trained to identify prisoners at risk of suicide, would refer them to treatment or supportive services.
- Prisoners with mental disorders had to be regularly assessed for severity of suicidal risk and also put on regular and supervised medication.

Buddy System for Social Intervention:

- It is a type of social support through trained prisoners called “buddies” or “listeners”.
- It was found to have a good impact on the well-being of suicidal prisoners. Periodic telephone conversations with friends and family would also foster support.

6. In context to Secrecy of Vote, consider the following statements:

1. It is a part of the freedom of expression.
2. It is an integral part of a free and fair election.
3. It is also mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India held that in any election, be it to Parliament or State legislature, the maintenance of secrecy of voting is “a must”.
- It reiterated its 2013 judgement in the People's Union for Civil Liberties case.
- The court held that it is a part of Fundamental Right, as any arbitrary distinction between the voter who casts his vote and the voter who does not cast his

vote is Violative of Article 14, Article 19(1)(a) and Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

- The secrecy is a part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression.
- The Supreme Court in People's Union for Civil Liberties case, 2013, held that, there are the two main key components of right to secrecy of vote:
- Right to vote also includes a right not to vote i.e right to reject.
- Right to secrecy is an integral part of a free and fair election.
- Further, the confidentiality of choice strengthened democracy. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Article 21(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 25(b) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights deals with the “Right to secrecy”.

7. With respect to the Jal Jeevan Mission, which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
2. Since it is based on the Functional Household Tap Connections, traditional methods like Rain water harvesting, ground

water recharge are left behind which is one of the disadvantage of the mission.

3. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
- Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse, would be undertaken in convergence with other government programmes/schemes. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The Mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission.
- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- Funding Pattern: The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Vulture Conservation':

1. The first strategy of the Vulture Multi-Species Action plan was launched at the CMS COP 13 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
2. The Action plan for Vulture Conservation was approved by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) in October 2020, while the earlier one was formulated in 2006 for three years.
3. Slender-billed vulture is one among the Critically Endangered Vulture recognized by the IUCN.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are correct.

9. Recently Ramappa Temple got it's UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ramappa Temple is present in.

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Karnataka

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The historic Rudreswara Temple, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, near Warangal has received the coveted World Heritage status by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
- The Ramappa Temple is a jewel of the Kakatiya era and it stands out.
- An inscription in the temple dates it to the year 1213 AD and says it was built by a General Recherla Rudra, during the period of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva.
- The Siva temple is perhaps the only one in the country that is known by the name of the architect rather than the king who commissioned it or its presiding deity.
- The stunning dance sculptures and friezes of the temple appear as if they have been machined into shape on black dolomite, rather than being chiseled.

- The temple is built on a valley and it rests on bricks that are scientifically shown to float in Water.

A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

10. With reference to the Parliamentary Committees, consider the following statements:

1. The Committee on Public Undertakings consists elected only from Lok Sabha and a Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee.
2. The Committee on Public Accounts consists of members elected by both the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and a Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Committee on Public Undertakings consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of Rajya Sabha. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Committee on Public Accounts consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of the Rajya Sabha.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the FASTags:

1. The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
2. The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
3. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
- The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
- Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) is the use of radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object. A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not need to be within direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.

- The tag is valid for five years and comes in seven different colours — violet, orange, yellow, green, pink, blue, black. Each colour is assigned to a particular category of vehicles.
- To encourage the use of FASTags, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) refunds 5% of the total monthly transactions.
- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) (a company incorporated by National Highways Authority of India) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.
- FASTag is presently operational at both, national and state highways.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:

1. Bankruptcy is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor while insolvency is the legal declaration of bankruptcy.
2. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code can be triggered if there is a minimum default of Rs 1 crore.
3. The code will apply to all sorts of business entities including corporate companies, partnerships, and limited liability partnerships except the individuals.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Insolvency is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor.
- For a corporate firm, the signs of this could be a slow-down in sales, missing of payment deadlines etc.
- Bankruptcy is the legal declaration of Insolvency. So the former is a financial condition and latter is a legal position. All insolvencies need not lead to bankruptcy.
- The code will apply to all sort of business entities including corporate companies, partnerships, limited liability partnerships, individuals etc.
- In March 2020, the government raised the threshold for invoking insolvency under the IBC to Rs 1 crore from Rs 1 lakh with a view to prevent triggering of such proceedings against small and medium enterprises that are facing currently the heat of coronavirus pandemic.

3. Arrange the tributaries of Ganga River system from west to east:

1. Damodar
2. Bhagirathi
3. Son
4. Chambal

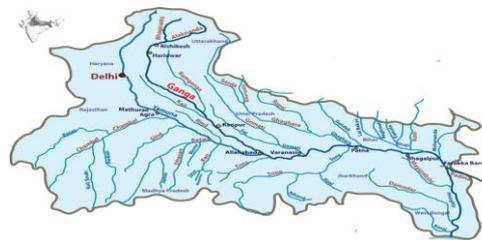
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Ganga is the most important river of India both from the point of view of its basin and cultural significance.
- It rises from the **Gangotri glacier near Gaumukh** (3,900 m) in the **Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand**. Here, it is known as the **Bhagirathi**.
- The important tributaries of Ganga are the **Ramganga, the Gomati, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, the Kosi and the Mahanada**.
- The river finally discharges itself into the **Bay of Bengal near the Sagar Island**.



4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

1. It was registered as a society in 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
2. It acted as the implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority

(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

- It was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It acted as the implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.
- Please note, NGRBA was dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to the constitution of the
- National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

What is Namami Gange Programme?

- It an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a ‘Flagship Programme’ in June 2014.

- It has a Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects.
- It seeks to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- It is being operated under Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Implementation:

- The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- National Ganga Council (NGC) was Created in October 2016 under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016. It is Headed by Prime Minister.

5. Which of the following Reports & Indices are released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)?

1. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
2. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
3. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for providing statistical information services to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.
- The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.

The Reports & Indices by NSO are:

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework Progress Report
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

6. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

2. The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted by the UNESCAP.
3. In 2021, India's performance in the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is better than many OECD countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is a regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region. India is also a member.
- **Established: 1947**
- **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand
- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2021 is conducted every two years by the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by

the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

- 58 measures include publications of existing import-export rules on the internet, risk management, advance ruling on tariff classification, pre-arrival processing, independent appeal mechanism, expedited shipments, Automated customs system, among others.
- A higher score for a country helps businesses in their investment decisions.
- The UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The Survey currently covers 143 economies around the globe. For Asia Pacific, it is conducted by UNESCAP.
- India is the best performing nation as compared to the South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).
- The overall score of India is also greater than many OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of the EU (European Union).

7. Consider the following statements regarding 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)':

1. It is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2. The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It acknowledges different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.
- The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' evolved from the notion of the 'common heritage of mankind'.
- The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- CBDR is based on two elements of **Responsibilities:**
- One is the common responsibility of all the states to cater to the concerns of Environmental Protection and sustainable development.
- Another is of differentiated responsibility enabling the states to act, for environment protection, in their national capacity and as per their national priority.

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

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Ramappa temple which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site is a temple that was built by Racherla Senapati Rudrayya, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapatideva, in the 13th century.
- Ramappa was the sculptor of the temple.

- Famous Italian merchant and explorer Marco Polo had visited the temple. Marco Polo, during his visit to the Kakatiya Empire, allegedly called the temple “the brightest star in the galaxy of temples”.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Artemis is NASA’s program to return astronauts to the lunar surface by 2024.
- NASA wants to send the first woman and the next man to the Moon by the year 2024, which it plans on doing through the Artemis lunar exploration program.
- ARTEMIS stands for Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of Moon’s Interaction with the Sun.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Population Register (NPR):

1. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.
2. It is not mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
3. As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory** for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or

a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

- To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
- The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- This will be a chip-embedded smart card containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual.
- The UID number will also be printed on the card.

2. With respect to the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD), consider the following statements:

1. BTAD includes four districts of western and northern Assam which comprises of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri
2. The President is the constitutional head of the BTAD that falls under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and is administered by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).
3. The BTAD and other areas mentioned under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution are exempted from the

Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- BTAD includes four districts of western and northern Assam which comprises of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The State's Governor is the constitutional head of the BTAD that falls under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and is administered by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The BTAD and other areas mentioned under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution were also exempted from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 which was passed recently. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) would include the villages which are dominated by Bodos but are outside BTAD presently. Villages with non-Bodo population would be excluded from it.
- Bodos living in the hills are conferred a Scheduled Hill Tribe status.

- Bodo language with Devanagari script is the associate official language for the entire Assam.

3. In the context to the Dholavira which was recently recognised as the UNESCO World Heritage Site, consider the following statements:

1. Dholavira became the fourth site from Gujarat and 40th from India to make the list, it is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the tag.
2. It is located in the Khadir Bet Island of the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in the Great Rann of Kutch.
3. Some of the significant findings from the site includes a stadium, dams, embankments, water harnessing system, water reservoirs, a stepwell three times as big as the Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Dholavira, the archaeological site of a Harappan-era city, received the UNESCO world heritage site tag recently.

- While Dholavira became the fourth site from Gujarat and 40th from India to make the list, it is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the tag.
 - All the sites under the Ministry are conserved as per ASI's Conservation Policy and are in good shape.
 - In Dholavira there has been found the inner enclosure of the citadel too which has not been found in any other cities of the Harappan culture.
 - Dholavira is located in Gujarat. It is located in the Khadir Bet Island of the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in the Great Rann of Kutch.
 - It is one of the largest Harappan sites.
 - Some of the significant findings from the site includes a stadium, dams, embankments, water harnessing system, water reservoirs, a stepwell three times as big as the Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro etc.
 - It is the only site that is divided into 3 parts as opposed to the usual two part system. Other findings include painted pottery, seals, stone figures, weights, sign board etc.
 - There are 8 major Harappan sites in the Indian subcontinent: Lothal, Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan, Rupnagar, Ganeriwala and Dholavira.
- Dholavira is the 5th largest of these sites. Rakhigarhi is the largest Harappan site. While Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro and Ganeriwala are in Pakistan, the rest are in India.
4. Consider the following statements:
1. The World Heritage Committee selects the sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger.
 2. It is composed of 21 states parties that are elected by the General Assembly of States Parties for a four-year term.
 3. India is also a member of this Committee.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The World Heritage Committee selects the sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It monitors the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates

financial assistance upon requests from States Parties.

- It is composed of 21 states parties that are elected by the General Assembly of States Parties for a four-year term. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- India is NOT a member of this Committee. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

5. With respect to the Enforcement Directorate, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. It is a Multi-Disciplinary Organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of both Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
2. The administrative control of the Directorate is under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is a Multi-Disciplinary Organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of both Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'. The administrative control of the Directorate was **transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to Department of Revenue** in 1960. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

6. Consider the following Statements:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

7. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

8. The term “core accretion” seen in News relates to:

- (a) Mechanism relating to the formation of a planet
- (b) Tectonic earthquake
- (c) Inflation trends in the economy
- (d) Formation of tropical cyclones

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

10. Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Service':

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

1. Which of the following Reports & Indices are released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)?

1. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
2. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
3. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for providing statistical information services to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.
- The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.
- The Reports & Indices by NSO are:
 - Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework Progress Report
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

2. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
2. The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted by the UNESCAP.
3. In 2021, India's performance in the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is better than many OECD countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is a regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region. India is also a member.
- **Established:** 1947
- **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand

- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2021 is conducted every two years by the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- 58 measures include publications of existing import-export rules on the internet, risk management, advance ruling on tariff classification, pre-arrival processing, independent appeal mechanism, expedited shipments, automated customs system, among others.
- A higher score for a country helps businesses in their investment decisions.
- The UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The Survey currently covers 143 economies around the globe. For Asia Pacific, it is conducted by UNESCAP.
- India is the best performing nation as compared to the South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).
- The overall score of India is also greater than many OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries including France, UK, Canada,

- Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of the EU (European Union).

3. Consider the following statements regarding 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)':

1. It is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It acknowledges different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing Climate Change.
- The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' evolved from the notion of the 'common heritage of mankind'.

- ←-----→
- The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
 - CBDR is based on two elements of responsibilities:
 - One is the common responsibility of all the states to cater to the concerns of Environmental Protection and sustainable development.
 - Another is of differentiated responsibility enabling the states to act, for environment protection, in their national capacity and as per their National Priority.
4. Which of the following Right is *not* entitled under Article 19 of Indian Constitution?
- (a) to freedom of speech and expression
 - (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms
 - (c) to acquire, hold and dispose of property
 - (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- Article 19 (1) of Indian Constitution states that every citizen of India has
- a) Right to freedom of speech and expression;
 - b) Right to assemble peaceably and without arms;
 - c) Right to form associations or unions;
 - d) Right to move freely throughout the Territory of India;
 - e) Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and
- f) Omitted
 - g) Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business
- The Forty Fourth Constitutional Amendment, 1978, deleted Articles 19(1)(f) and 31 from Part III, the chapter on Fundamental Rights in the Constitution. Instead, it inserted Article 300A in a new chapter IV of Part XII of the Constitution, thereby depriving the 'right to property' of its 'fundamental right' status.
5. Right to Health is enshrined in which of the articles of the Indian Constitution?
- 1. Article 21
 - 2. Article 41
 - 3. Article 44
 - 4. Article 47
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (d) All the above
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- Minimum healthcare is also assured under Articles 21, 41 and 47 of the Constitution and the international covenants. These rights were not available to the citizens because of inadequate public healthcare Infrastructure.

- Article 44 of the DPSP deals with the Uniform Civil Code.
6. With respect to the Chandrayaan Mission, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
1. ISRO is planning to land the Chandrayaan 3 lander at the same location as the Chandrayaan 2 – the lunar South Pole.
 2. It will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 but will only include a lander and rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2.
 3. Unlike its predecessor, Chandrayaan-3 will not have an orbiter.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Chandrayaan-1 Moon Mission, launched in 2008, data indicates that the Moon's poles are home to water.
- Chandrayaan-2, aimed at landing a rover on uncharted Lunar South Pole, was launched in 2019 on board the country's most powerful geosynchronous launch vehicle.
- ISRO is planning to land the Chandrayaan 3 lander at the same location as the Chandrayaan 2 – the lunar South Pole,

which is a singularly promising part of the moon's surface.

- It will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 but will only include a lander and rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2.
- Unlike its predecessor, Chandrayaan-3 will not have an orbiter.
- The lander for Chandrayaan-3 will have only four throttle-able engines unlike Vikram on Chandrayaan-2 which had five 800 N engines with a fifth one being centrally mounted and with fixed thrust.
- The Chandrayaan-3 lander will also be equipped with a Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV).

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Exercise Cutlass Express is a U.S. Naval Forces Africa led all-domain exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).
- It is an all-domain exercise in East African coastal regions and the West Indian Ocean.

- The 2021 edition of the exercise involves the participation of 12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and various international organisations like the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) and EUCAP Somalia.

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

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

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

9. “Nauka” recently seen in news is:

- (a) A space laboratory launched by Russia to be integrated with the International Space Station.
- (b) An orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope.

- (c) A module on the International Space Station used as a docking port for spacecraft and as a door for cosmonauts to go out on spacewalks, launched by JAXA.
- (d) India's mission to explore the deep ocean with a focus on deep-sea mining and underwater robotics-related technologies.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

- India shares 3488 km of border with China that runs along the states of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Ladakh too.
- After the bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, China now shares its border only with Ladakh.



10. Which of the Indian states/UTs share international border with China?

1. Sikkim
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Jammu & Kashmir
5. Ladakh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

1. Which of the following Reports & Indices are released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)?

1. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
2. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
3. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for providing statistical information services to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.
- The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.
- The Reports & Indices by NSO are:
 - Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework Progress Report
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

2. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
2. The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted by the UNESCAP.
3. In 2021, India's performance in the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is better than many OECD countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is a regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region. India is also a member.
- **Established:** 1947
- **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand

- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2021 is conducted every two years by the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- 58 measures include publications of existing import-export rules on the internet, risk management, advance ruling on tariff classification, pre-arrival processing, independent appeal mechanism, expedited shipments, automated customs system, among others.
- A higher score for a country helps businesses in their investment decisions.
- The UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The Survey currently covers 143 economies around the globe. For Asia Pacific, it is conducted by UNESCAP.
- India is the best performing nation as compared to the South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).
- The overall score of India is also greater than many OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries including France, UK, Canada,

- Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of the EU (European Union).

3. Consider the following statements regarding 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)':

1. It is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It acknowledges different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.
- The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' evolved from the notion of the 'common heritage of mankind'.

- The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- CBDR is based on two elements of responsibilities:
- One is the common responsibility of all the states to cater to the concerns of environmental protection and sustainable development.
- Another is of differentiated responsibility enabling the states to act, for environment protection, in their national capacity and as per their National Priority.

4. Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed region sometimes found in news is related to which of the following countries?
- (a) Israel and Palestine
 - (b) US and Mexico
 - (c) Armenia and Azerbaijan
 - (d) India and Pakistan

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- After six weeks of fierce fighting, Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to end military operations in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in a ceasefire brokered by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
5. Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which of the following countries are included to make a deal with Iran?

- 1. US

- 2. UK
- 3. Russia
- 4. France
- 5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in a 2015 deal struck with the US, UK, Russia, China, France and Germany (P5+1 countries). The United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the "Iran nuclear deal" or the "Iran deal", on May 8, 2018.
- Under the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
- The JCPOA established the Joint Commission, with the negotiating parties all represented, to monitor implementation of the agreement.
- Iran has said that it will “automatically” return to its nuclear commitments if U.S. President-elect Joe Biden lifts sanctions imposed over the past two years.

6. Which of the following country is not bordered by Iran?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Syria

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- There are seven countries that Iran shares this long land border with.
- These countries are Iraq, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.
- Of these countries, Turkmenistan shares the longest border with Iran, with the border between the two countries stretching 713 miles.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kathputli from Rajasthan and Putala Nach from Assam are forms of string puppets.

- Tholu Bommalata from Andhra Pradesh and Tolpavakoothu from Kerala are forms of shadow puppetry.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority:
- It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
- It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.
- Prime Minister's 15 point Programme for minorities is a programme launched by the Indian government for the welfare of Religious Minorities.

9. Consider the following statements about Raja

Mircha:

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

10. Which of the following countries share borders with both Armenia and Azerbaijan?

1. Georgia
2. Turkey
3. Russia
4. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Borders of Azerbaijan define the land and maritime borders of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has international land borders with 5 states.
- The neighbouring countries are **Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Iran to the south, Turkey to the west** (via the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the northwest) and **Armenia to the west** and via the **Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the north and east**. To the east, Azerbaijan is bordered by the **Caspian Sea** which is classified as the world's largest lake and also as a closed sea.
- Armenia is a landlocked country in Western Asia, situated in the Transcaucasus region, between the Black and Caspian Seas, bordered on the **north and east by Georgia and Azerbaijan and on the south and west by Iran, Azerbaijan's exclave Nakhchivan, and Turkey.**



1. Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserves **State**

1. Satkosia - Odisha
2. Srivilliputhur - Chahattisgarh
3. Periyar - Kerala
4. Orang - Assam

Which of the following pairs given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve is the fifth Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and 51st tiger reserve of the country which was accorded shortly before Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary received all clearances to become the Rajasthan's fourth and country's 52nd tiger reserve.
- Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve was established in February 2021. It was jointly declared by the Centre and Tamil Nadu governments.
- For this, the Megamalai WLS and the adjoining Srivilliputhur WLS were clubbed together.
- **Ecological Diversity:** Animals seen here are Bengal tiger, elephants, gaur, Indian giant squirrel, leopard, Nilgiri Tahrs, etc.

- It has a mix of tropical evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous forests and moist mixed deciduous forests, grassland.
- Other four Tiger reserves of Tamil Nadu:
 - ✓ Anamalai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Kalakkad - Mundanthurai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Mudumalai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Sathyamangalam tiger reserve

2. With reference to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, consider the following statements:

1. It is the statutory body constituted by National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.
2. It recommends to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluates the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted on 12th August 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National

Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993’.

- The act “The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993” lapsed in February 2004. **So statement 1 on not correct.**
- The Commission is acting as a non-statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment whose tenure is extended from time to time through Government Resolutions.
- It recommends to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc.
- Also as per the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

3. Consider the following reserves regarding the Tiger Reserves:

1. Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.
2. To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state Governments forward their Proposals in this regard to NTCA.
3. No alternation of boundary can be done without the recommendation of State Governments and without the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Tiger Reserves are declared by **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** via **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006** under centrally sponsored scheme called **Project Tiger**. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments can forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- Central Government via NTCA may also advise the state governments to forward a proposal for creation of Tiger Reserves.
- Tiger Reserves are managed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- No alternation of boundary can be done **without the recommendation of National Board for Wild Life** and **without the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

4. Which of the following vaccines are covered under the Universal Immunization Programme?

1. Tuberculosis
2. Diphtheria
3. Whooping cough
4. Chicken Pox
5. Hepatitis B
6. Diarrhoea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Launched by the government in 1985, UIP prevents mortality and morbidity in children and Pregnant Women against 12 vaccine Preventable Diseases.

- Under UIP free of cost vaccination is provided against twelve vaccine preventable diseases i.e. Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea.
- The programme was the one of largest health programme in the world. Despite being operational for many years, UIP has been able to fully immunize only 65% children under 1 year of age.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'Cloudbursts':

1. It occurs when the relative humidity is at the maximum level and the temperature is low.
2. In the Indian Subcontinent, cloudbursts generally occur when a monsoon cloud drifts northwards, from the Bay of Bengal/ Arabian Sea across the plains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Cloudbursts are short-duration, intense rainfall events over a small area.

- It is a weather phenomenon with unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm/h over a geographical region of approximately 20-30 square km.
- In the Indian Subcontinent, it generally occurs when a monsoon cloud drifts northwards, from the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea across the plains then on to the Himalaya that sometimes brings 75 millimetres of rain per hour.

Occurrence of Cloudbursts:

- The relative humidity and cloud cover is at the maximum level with low temperature and slow winds because of which a high number of clouds may get condensed at a very rapid rate and result in a cloudburst.
- As temperatures increase, the atmosphere can hold more and more moisture and this moisture comes down as a short very intense rainfall for a short duration probably half an hour or one hour resulting in flash floods in the mountainous areas and urban floods in the cities.

Cloudburst are Different from Rainfall:

- Rain is condensed water falling from a cloud while cloudburst is a sudden heavy rainstorm.
- Rain over 100mm per hour is categorised as a cloudburst.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Sutlej River:

1. It is the third longest tributary of the Indus River after Beas and Jhelum.
2. The river rises from the southern slope of the Himalayas.
3. The Sutlej River meets the Beas River in Harike before entering Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The ancient name of Sutlej River is Zaradros (Ancient Greek) Shutudri or Shatadru (Sanskrit).
- It is the longest of the five tributaries of the Indus River that give the Punjab (meaning “Five Rivers”) its name.
- Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are main tributaries of Indus.
- It rises on the north slope of the Himalayas in Lake La’nga in southwestern Tibet.
- Flowing northwestward and then west-southwestward through Himalayan gorges, it enters and crosses Himachal Pradesh before beginning its flow through the Punjab plain near Nangal.

- Continuing southwestward in a broad channel, it receives the Beas River (and forms 65 miles (105 km) of the India-Pakistan border before entering Pakistan and flowing another 220 miles (350 km) to join the Chenab River west of Bahawalpur.
- Sutlej River meets the Beas River in Harike in the Ferozpur district before entering Pakistan.
- The combined rivers then form the Panjnad, the link between the Five Rivers and the Indus.

7. Consider the following statements, with reference to Tiger Conservation,

1. Tiger conservation is a symbol of the Conservation of Forests.
2. The St. Petersburg Declaration is linked to Tiger Conservation.
3. International Tiger Day is celebrated every year on 29th July.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The tiger is a unique animal that plays a pivotal role in the health and Diversity of an Ecosystem.

- It is a top predator which is at the apex of the food chain and keeps the population of wild ungulates (primarily large mammals) in check.
- Tiger helps in maintaining the balance between prey herbivores and the vegetation upon which they feed.
- Thus, Tiger conservation is a symbol of the conservation of forests.
- St. Petersburg Declaration was adopted In November 2010, by the leaders of 13 tiger range countries (TRCs) assembled at an International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- It aimed at promoting a global system to protect the natural habitat of tigers and raise awareness among people on white Tiger Conservation.
- The International Tiger Day celebrated on 29th July is an annual event marked to raise awareness about tiger conservation.
- The first international Tiger's day was celebrated in 2010 at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit.

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

- (a) To detect Neutrinos
- (b) To detect Gravitational Waves
- (c) To detect the Effectiveness of Missile Defence System

(d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

9. Which of the following can lead to ‘crowding out’ effect?

1. Overseas issue of Sovereign Bonds
2. Government Increasing direct public sector Expenditure
3. Government funding Infrastructure development Projects
4. Government selling new bonds in the Money Market

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The crowding-out effect is a theory that argues increased government spending reduces private spending in the economy. It refers to increased government borrowing and spending causing a reduction in private spending.
- Because government borrowing increases the cost of private loans and uses up capital

that may have been deployed elsewhere, private sector investments go down.

- Borrowing overseas through the issue of sovereign bonds will not lead to crowding out effect.
- Government increasing direct public sector expenditure, government funding infrastructure development projects, government selling new bonds in the money market can lead to the crowding out of Private Investments.

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

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

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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