

1. Which of the following Defence Exercise are between India and USA?

1. Vajra Prahar
2. Shakti Exercise
3. Yudh Abhyas
4. Nomadic Elephant

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Vajra Prahar is conducted between Special forces of India and USA.
- Shakti Exercise is conducted between India and France.
- Yudh Abhyas is an annual exercise between armies of India and USA.
- Nomadic Elephant is a military exercise between India- and Mongolia.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Companies Act, 2013 regulates incorporation, responsibilities and dissolution of a company.
2. The rights of the minority shareholders of a private company are protected under the Companies Act, 2013.

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:

- The Companies Act, 2013 is an Indian company law which regulates incorporation of a company, responsibilities of a company, directors, dissolution of a company.
- The provisions contained in the Companies Act 2013 only protects the rights of small shareholders (and not of minority shareholders) of listed companies by asking such companies to have on their board at least one director elected by such small shareholders.
- According to the Companies Act, small shareholders is a shareholder or group of shareholders who hold shares of nominal value of not more than Rs. 20,000.
- The Minority Shareholders are the equity holders of a firm who do not enjoy the voting power of the firm by virtue of his or her below 50% ownership of the firm's Equity Capital.

3. Consider the following statements, with regard to Millet:

1. It is a drought-resistant crop referred to as Superfood.
2. India does not grow any indigenous variety of Millet Crop.
3. Millet crops contain high calcium and Protein Content.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Millets, often referred to as Superfood, are nutritionally rich crops having high protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals like iron content. They are also rich in calcium and magnesium.
- Ragi is known to have the highest calcium content among all the food grains.
- They are also harder and drought-resistant crops, which has to do with their short growing season (70-100 days, as against 120-150 days for paddy/wheat) and lower water requirement (350-500 mm versus 600-1,200 mm).

- The three major millet crops currently grown in India are jowar (sorghum), bajra (pearl millet) and ragi (finger millet).
- Along with that, India grows a rich array of bio-genetically diverse and indigenous varieties of “small millets” like kodo, kutki, chenna and sanwa.
- Major producers include Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana.

4. 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.**

5. Which of the following is/are left bank Tributaries of Brahmaputra?

1. Kameng
2. Manas
3. Dibang
4. Lohit
5. Dhansiri

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The important left bank tributaries of Brahmaputra are, Dibang, Lohit, Dhansiri and Ko-lang, while the right bank

tributaries include Kameng, Manas, Teesta, Subansiri, Raidak and Jaldhaka.

6. 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.
- 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. 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;

8. Which of the following banks was established through the Fortaleza Declaration of 2014?
- (a) Asian Development Bank
(b) New Development Bank
(c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(d) African Development Bank

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- NDB was set up by the BRICS nations in 2014 at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil through the Fortaleza Declaration of 2014.
- In the Fortaleza Declaration, the leaders stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will

supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development.

- It is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Vajra Prahar:

1. It is a bilateral exercise between the special forces of India and the US.
2. Vajra Prahar started off in 2010 and has been held Every Year Ever since.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Vajra Prahar is a bilateral exercise between the special forces of India and the US.
- The joint military exercise Vajra Prahar between India and the US started off in 2010. Between 2012 and 2015, the exercise Vajra Prahar did not take place.
- Exercise Vajra Prahar takes place alternately between the two countries – India and the US.

- Its aim is to promote military relations between the two countries by enhancing interoperability and mutual exchange of tactics between Special Forces.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to the TAPI gas pipeline:

1. It starts at the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan.
2. It passes through Herat, Kandahar, Quetta and Multan.
3. Asian Development Bank Participated in the Development of the Gas Pipeline.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Personal law subjects like marriage, divorce, inheritance come under the Concurrent List.
2. The term, 'Uniform Civil Code' is not mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
3. Goa is the only Indian state to have a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the form of Common Family Law.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Personal law subjects like marriage, divorce, Inheritance come under the Concurrent List.
- The term, 'Uniform Civil Code' is explicitly mentioned in Part 4, Article 44 of the Indian Constitution. Article 44 says, "The State shall Endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India."

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Most Favored Nation (MFN) status:

1. It requires a country to provide any concessions, privileges, or immunities Granted to one nation in a Trade Agreement to all other World Trade Organization member countries.

2. MFN provides exclusive trading privileges.
3. India revoked the MFN status given to Pakistan in 2019.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The title of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) is a status or level of treatment given by one country to another with respect to international trade. This ensures that the country conferring the title must give all sorts of trade benefits to the most-favoured nation.
- Most Favored Nation (MFN) is a non-discriminatory trade policy as it ensures equal trading among all WTO member nations rather than exclusive trading privileges.
- It requires a country to provide any concessions, privileges, or immunities granted to one nation in a trade agreement to all other World Trade Organization Member Countries.
- India revoked the MFN status given to Pakistan in 2019.

3. Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process was established to:

- (a) Broker the Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- (b) Address the shared challenges and interests of Afghanistan and its neighbours and Regional Partners.
- (c) Put an end to the Kurdish–Turkish conflict.
- (d) Broker a peace deal between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) was founded in 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- It provides a platform for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its centre.
- It was established to address the shared challenges and interests of Afghanistan and its neighbours and regional partners.

4. Who among the following were the Members of the State Reorganization Commission of 1953?

1. Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru
2. Fazal Ali
3. K M Panikkar
4. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
5. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
6. S.K Dhar

Choose the correct option:

(a) 1, 4, 5 and 6 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) was constituted by the Central Government of India on 22 December 1953 to recommend the reorganisation of state boundaries.
- In 1955, after nearly two years of study, the Commission recommended that India's state boundaries should be reorganised to form 14 states and 6 territories.
- States Reorganisation Commission consisted of Fazal Ali, K. M. Panikkar and H. N. Kunzru.
- Some of its recommendations were implemented in the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.

5. Consider the following statement with respect to Lord Louis Mountbatten:

1. He oversaw the appointment of two boundary commissions under Sir Cyril Radcliffe for the partition of Bengal and Punjab.
2. He served as the first Governor-General of India until June 1948.
3. He is associated with the August Offer.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Lord Louis Mountbatten was appointed as the Viceroy of India in 1947 to oversee the Partition of British India into India and Pakistan.
- He oversaw the appointment of two boundary commissions under Sir Cyril Radcliffe for the partition of Bengal and Punjab.
- He served as the first Governor-General of India until June 1948.
- Lord Linlithgow is associated with the August Offer in 1940.
- The August Offer was an offer made by Viceroy Linlithgow in 1940 promising the expansion of the Executive Council of the Viceroy of India to include more Indians, the establishment of an advisory war council, giving full weight to minority opinion, and the recognition of Indians' right to frame their own constitution.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The provisions related to Human Rights are provided in Part-III and Part-IV of the Indian Constitution.
2. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a statutory body that steers the Human Rights Courts for better protection of Human 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: c)

Explanation:

- Human Rights are the rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status.
- These include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more.
- The provisions related to Human Rights are enunciated in the Constitution of India via:
 - Fundamental Rights (Part-III): Articles 12 to 35 of the Constitution.
 - Directive Principles of State Policy (Part-IV): Article 36 to 51 of the Constitution.

- The Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 provided for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission at the Union level, which steers State Human Rights Commission in States and Human Rights Courts for better protection of Human Rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Moreover, India took active part in drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

- The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- The MPC determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target (4%).
- It is the Central Government of India that determines the Inflation Target.
- An RBI-appointed committee led by the then deputy governor Urjit Patel in 2014 recommended the establishment of the Monetary Policy Committee.

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

1. It was established under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
2. The Finance Secretary of India is the chairman of the committee.
3. The MPC is responsible for determining the Inflation Target.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

8. In context to the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific report, consider the following statements:

1. It is the oldest World Bank report on the region's progress.
2. The study of the report focuses on a significant aspect or challenge relevant to the economies of the Asia-Pacific 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: b)

Explanation:

- A report 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-Covid-19 resilient economies' has recently been released by the United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

- According to the report, India is estimated to record an economic growth of 7% in 2021-22, over a contraction of 7.7% witnessed in the previous fiscal on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity
- The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific report is annually produced since 1947.
- It is the oldest United Nations report on the region's progress.
- The Survey monitors regional progress, provides cutting-edge analyses and guides policy discussion on the current and emerging socio-economic issues and policy challenges to support inclusive and sustainable development in the region.
- Since 1957, the Survey has also contained a study or studies focusing on a significant aspect or challenge relevant to the economies of the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Survey of 2021 studies the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and provides insights for post-Covid-19 Resilient Economies.

9. In context to the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

2. India is one of the top performers in the South Asia Region.

3. India has declined on the political Empowerment Index.

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: b)

Explanation:

- India has fallen 28 places in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the WEF.
- It benchmarks 156 countries on their progress towards gender parity in four dimensions:
 - Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment.
- Over the Index, the highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality).
- India is now one of the worst performers in South Asia, it is now ranked 140 among 156 countries.
- In South Asia, Bangladesh ranked 65, Nepal 106, Pakistan 153, Afghanistan 156, Bhutan 130 and Sri Lanka 116.

- India was ranked 112th among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020.

Political Empowerment:

- India has declined on the political empowerment index as well by 13.5 percentage points, and a decline in the number of women ministers, from 23.1% in 2019 to 9.1% in 2021.
- However, it has still performed relatively well compared to other countries, ranking at 51 in women's participation in politics.
- Education Attainment:
- In the index of education attainment, India has been ranked at 114.

Economic Participation:

- The report notes that the economic participation gender gap actually widened in India by 3% this year.
- The share of women in professional and technical roles declined further to 29.2%.
- The share of women in senior and managerial positions also is at 14.6% and only 8.9% firms in the country have top Female Managers.
- The estimated earned income of women in India is only one-fifth of men's, which puts the country among the bottom 10 globally on this Indicator.
- In Pakistan and Afghanistan, the income of an average woman is below 16% of that of an average man, while in India it is 20.7%.

Health and Survival index:

- On this India has fared the worst, ranking at 155.
- The only country to have fared worse is China.
- The report points to a skewed sex ratio as the major factor.
- It says the ratio can be attributed to norms of son preference and gender-biased prenatal sex-selective practices.
- China and India together account for about 90 to 95% of the estimated 1.2 to 1.5 million missing female births annually worldwide due to gender-biased prenatal sex selective practices.

10. Consider the following statements, with reference to Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):

1. They are positive rights and impose positive obligations on the state.
2. The DPSPs are not justiciable.
3. The principles laid down in DPSPs are Fundamental in Governance.

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: d)

Explanation:

- Part-IV of the constitution deals with Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- They are positive rights and impose positive Obligations on the state
- DPSP as defined in Article 37, are not justiciable (not enforceable by any court).
- The principles laid down under DPSPs are Fundamental in Governance.



1. In context to a ‘star campaigner’, consider the Following Statements:

1. Expenditure incurred on electioneering by a star campaigner is borne by the concerned political party and not by an individual candidate.
2. When the Prime Minister is a Star Campaigner the expenditure incurred on security is borne by the government.

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:

- A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party. This person can be anyone, a politician or even a film star. Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added to a candidate’s poll expenditure. According to the Representation of People’s Act, these expenses will be borne by the political parties.
- However, for an individual candidate to get relief from campaign expenditure, the star campaigner has to limit oneself to general campaigning for the party.

- Prime Minister as Star Campaigner:
- The MCC guidelines say when a prime minister or a former prime minister is star campaigner, the expenditure incurred on security including on the bullet-proof vehicles will be borne by the government and will not be added to the election expenses of the party or the individual candidate.

2. In context to the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator), Consider the Following Statements:

1. It is a global collaboration launched by the G20 Countries.
2. It aims to end the Covid-19 pandemic and restore full societal and Economic Activity Globally.

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:

- ACT-Accelerator was launched in the month of April, 2020 at an event co-hosted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the President of France, the President of the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

- It brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and Philanthropists and global health Organizations.
- The participants include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CEPI, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Gavi, The Global Fund, Unitaid, Wellcome Trust (London), the WHO and the World Bank.
- It aims to end the pandemic, restore full societal and economic activity globally and Facilitate high-level control of Covid-19 disease
- The ACT-Accelerator is organized into Four Pillars of work:
- Diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health System Strengthening.
- Each pillar is vital to the overall effort and Involves Innovation and Collaboration.

3. Consider the following, with reference to Lingayats:

1. The sect was founded by social reformer and philosopher Basavanna in vedic period.
2. The Lingayats are strict monotheists and worship only Vishnu.

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 term Lingayat denotes a person who wears a Personal Linga, the aniconic form of god Shiva, on the body, which is received during the Initiation Ceremony.
- The tradition of Lingayatism is known to have been founded by social reformer and philosopher Basavanna in 12th century Karnataka (not in vedic period).
- The Lingayats are strict monotheists. They enjoin the worship of only one God, namely, Linga (Shiva).
- The word ‘Linga’ does not mean Linga established in temples, but universal consciousness qualified by the universal Energy (Shakti).

4. Consider the following statements with respect to BIMSTEC:

1. It was formed through the Bangkok Declaration.
2. Nepal and Pakistan are not members of BIMSTEC.
3. The platform helps India fulfil its ‘Neighbourhood First’ and ‘Act East’ Policies.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- BIMSTEC was formed in 1997, originally with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and later included Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.
- BIMSTEC now includes five countries from South Asia and two from ASEAN.
- It includes all the major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- For India, it is a natural platform to fulfil its key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Vishuva Milan is celebrated annually to mark the formation of the state of Odisha.
2. Odisha was the first Indian state formed on a linguistic basis post-independence.
3. Madhusudan Das and Gopabandhu Das are credited for having played a crucial role in the unification of different Odia-speaking Tracts.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- On April 1, 1936, Orissa (now Odisha) became a separate state to be formed on a linguistic basis, and the date since then is commemorated as Utkal Divas.
- This Day is also known as Vishuva Milan.
- The leaders of the movement demanding a separate state for all the Odia-speaking regions were Madhusudan Das, Gopabandhu Das, Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo and others.
- Andhra Pradesh was the first Indian state to be created on a linguistic basis post-independence.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. A recognised political party can have 40-star campaigners.
2. A registered unrecognised political party cannot have any star campaigners.
3. The Election Commission of India has defined "star campaigner" in the Model Code of Conduct.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Star campaigners are the people nominated by parties to campaign in a given set of

constituencies. They are usually prominent and popular faces within the party.

- A recognised (mainstream) party can field a Maximum number of 40-star campaigners while unrecognised political parties can field up to 20 campaigners.
- A Star Campaigner, by standard definition, is a candidate chosen by a political party to contest in a Given Constituency.
- He/she is chosen usually on the basis of popularity but there is no specific definition under Indian law and the Election Commission (EC).

7. Myanmar recently faced a Military Coup against the democratically elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Which of the states of India is bordered by Myanmar?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nagaland
3. Tripura
4. Manipur
5. Mizoram

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) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:



8. 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) and European Union (EU). 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.
- When Donald Trump became president, he withdrew from the deal and called it a “horrible, one-sided deal that should have never, ever been made”.
- The U.S. State Department recently said that the U.S. and Iran will take part in indirect talks shortly on how to return to the 2015 nuclear deal, to revive diplomacy.

9. 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.

10. Which of the following is **not** a compulsory Feature of Panchayati Raj?
- (a) Organisation of Gram Sabha
 - (b) Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the district, block and Village levels
 - (c) Providing reservation for backward Classes.
 - (d) Reservation for Women in Panchayats up to 33% and reservation of Seats for SC/ST, in Panchayats, in proportion to their population.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

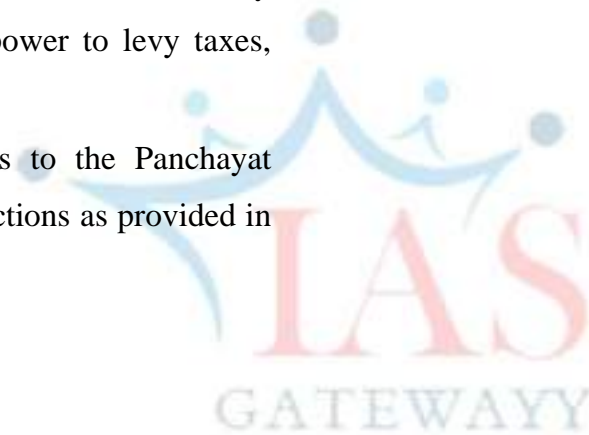
Compulsory Provisions Include:

- Organisation of Gram Sabha;
- Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the district, block and Village levels;
- All the Seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons Chosen by direct elections from territorial Constituencies in the Panchayat area;
- The minimum age for contesting elections to Panchayats to be 21 years.
- Reservation for Women in Panchayats up to 33%
- Reservation of Seats for SC/ST, in Panchayats, in proportion to their population;

- Creation of a State Election Commission to conduct elections.
- Fixed 5 years tenure of Panchayats.
- Each State is to Constitute a State Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayat.

Voluntary Provisions Include:

- Giving Voting rights to members of the Union and State Legislatures in these bodies;
- Providing reservation for backward Classes.
- Giving the Panchayats financial autonomy and there under the power to levy taxes, fees, etc.
- Devolution of Powers to the Panchayat bodies to perform functions as provided in the XI Schedule.



1. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Bose–Einstein Condensate?

1. It is observed at very low temperatures very close to absolute zero ($-273.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$)
2. It is characterized by relatively higher density.
3. It is also sometimes referred to as the fifth state of matter.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Bose–Einstein condensate (BEC)—the macroscopic ground-state accumulation of particles with integer spin (bosons) at low temperature and high density—has been observed in several physical systems, including cold atomic gases and solid-state Quasiparticles.
- In condensed matter physics, a Bose–Einstein condensate (BEC) is a state of matter (also called the fifth state of matter) which is typically formed when a gas of bosons at low densities is cooled to temperatures very close to absolute zero ($-273.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- A Bose-Einstein condensate is a group of atoms cooled to within a hair of absolute

- zero. When they reach that temperature, the atoms are hardly moving relative to each other; they have almost no free energy to do so. At that point, the atoms begin to clump together, and enter the same energy states.

2. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Diphtheria?

1. It is caused by strains of bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheria*.
2. It can lead to death if not treated with diphtheria antitoxin and proper antibiotics.
3. It is a vaccine Preventable Disease.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Diphtheria is a serious infection caused by strains of bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* that make toxin (poison). It can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and even death.
- The diphtheria toxin causes inflammation of heart muscle (myocarditis) and this can lead to death if not treated with diphtheria antitoxin and Proper Antibiotics.
- Diphtheria is a vaccine preventable disease – the toxoid vaccine elicits an immune

response against the toxin which is encoded by a tox gene of the pathogen.

- The increasing diversity of the bacterium species, emergence of variant toxin genes and progression of antimicrobial resistance may lead to an increase in the incidence of Diphtheria.

3. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the International Criminal Court?

1. It is based in Hague, Netherlands
2. It has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes
3. The Rome Statute serves as the court's Foundational and Governing Document.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the above statements are correct.

4. With reference to the Orphan Disease, consider the following statements:

1. An Orphan disease is a health condition of low prevalence that affects a small number of people compared with other prevalent diseases in the general population.

2. There is no universally accepted definition of rare diseases and the definitions usually vary across Different Countries.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A rare disease is a health condition of low prevalence that affects a small number of people compared with other prevalent diseases in the general population.
- ✓ There is no universally accepted definition of rare diseases and the definitions usually vary across different countries. So, both the statements are correct.
- Though rare diseases are of low prevalence and individually rare, collectively they affect a considerable proportion of the population.
- 80% of rare diseases are genetic in origin and hence disproportionately impact children.
- In India there are 56-72 million people affected by rare diseases.
- There is also a demand for the reformulation of National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases, 2017.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Article 42 of the Constitution of India states that the state shall endeavor to secure all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.
2. Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.

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 **Article 43 of the Constitution of India** states that the state shall endeavour to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way to all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of pleasure and social and Cultural Opportunities.
- Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the **Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule** where both the Central & State Governments are competent to Enact Legislation.

6. 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.**

7. South China Sea is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Philippines
2. Malaysia
3. Brunei
4. Thailand
5. Cambodia

Select the Correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Bordering states & territories of South China Sea (clockwise from north): The People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.

8. With reference to Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), consider the following

1. It is not extended to MUDRA borrowers.
2. The SIDBI is the guarantee provider under the ECLGS scheme.

3. It also includes the business enterprises under the Tourism and Hospitality sectors

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) provides fully

guaranteed and collateral free additional credit to MSMEs, business enterprises, MUDRA borrowers and individual loans for business purposes.

- National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) is the guarantee provider under the ECLGS scheme.
- NCGTC is a private limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 in 2014, established by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, as a wholly owned company of the Government of India, to act as a common trustee company for multiple credit Guarantee Funds.
- Recently, the government has extended the ECLGS until 30th June 2021, and also widened its scope to new sectors; covers business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Leisure & Sporting sectors:
- Which had, as on 29th February 2020,
- Whose total credit outstanding is not exceeding Rs. 500 crore and overdues, if any, were for 60 days or less.

9. In context to Prime Minister's Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
2. It focuses only on providing standalone solar-powered Agriculture Pumps.

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 PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in Rural Areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had in February 2019 approved the launch of the scheme with the objective of providing financial and water security.
- This will enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their barren lands and to sell it to the grid.

Components of the PM-KUSUM:

- PM-KUSUM consists of three components and aims to add a solar capacity of 30.8 GW by 2022.

The Three Components are:

- **Component-A:** 10,000 MW of decentralised ground-mounted grid-connected renewable power plants.

- **Component-B:** Installation of two million standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps. It is only one component.
- **Component-C:** Solarisation of 1.5 million grid-connected solar-powered agriculture Pumps.
- Current Account Deficit could be reduced by boosting exports and Curbing non-essential imports such as Gold, Mobiles, and Electronics.

10. Consider the following, with reference to Current Account Deficit (CAD):

1. Current account records exports and imports in Goods and Services Only.
2. It can be reduced by curbing non-essential imports such as Gold, Mobiles, and Electronics.

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 current account records exports and imports in Goods and Services and Transfer Payments.
- It represents a country's transactions with the rest of the world and, like the capital account, is a component of a country's Balance of Payments (BOP).
- There is a deficit in Current Account if the value of the goods and services imported exceeds the value of those exported.

1. Consider the following statements with respect to Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):

1. It is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
2. All its members except for the chairman are selected from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS).
3. It is administered by the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the given statement/s is/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:

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the authority vested with the responsibility of the administration of laws related to direct taxes through the Department of Income Tax.
- It is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
- All its members including the chairman are selected from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS).
- It is administered by the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN):

1. The scheme provides financial assistance to poor patients living below poverty line

and suffering from life-threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, etc. for their treatment at government hospitals.

2. Financial assistance to such patients is provided only through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism and no other means.
3. It is a central sector scheme.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The scheme provides financial assistance to poor patients living below poverty line and suffering from life-threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, etc. for their Treatment at Government Hospitals.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of a 'one-time grant', which is released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital in which the treatment has been/is being received.

3. The Global Gender Gap Report is published by:

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide
- (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (d) International Monetary Fund

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Global Gender Gap Report is published by the World Economic Forum.

4. In context to National Security Act (NSA)-1980, consider the Following Statements:

1. The NSA is a Preventive Detention law.
2. Only the Centre Government can detain a person to Prevent him from acting in any Manner Prejudicial to National Security.
3. The maximum period for which one may be Detained is Six Months.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The National Security Act, 1980 is a Preventive Detention Law.
- Preventive Detention involves the detainment of a person in order to keep

him/her from committing future crimes and/or from escaping future prosecution.

- Article 22 (3) (b) of the Constitution allows for preventive detention and restriction on personal liberty for reasons of state security and public order.
- The NSA empowers the Centre or a State Government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to National Security.
- The Maximum period for which one may be detained is 12 months. But the term can be Extended if the Government Finds fresh Evidence.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Racism:

1. Racism is the discrimination against a person belonging to a foreign community or nation.
2. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution prohibit discrimination on ground of race.
3. India is signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

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:

- The stark difference is Racism and Xenophobia is that racism is discrimination based on Physical Characteristics whereas xenophobia is discrimination based on the perception that someone is foreign or originating from another community or nation.
- The word Xenophobia originates from the Greek word Xeno.
- Xenophobia and Racism are often overlapped.
- Article 15, Article 16 and Article 29 of the Constitution of India prohibit discrimination on ground of “race”.
- Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) also refers to “race”.
- Article 24 of the Indian Constitution deals with Prohibition of Child Labour.
- India also ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) in 1968.

6. Consider the following statements, with reference to the “Sankalp se Siddhi”-Village and Digital Connect Drive:

1. It is launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
2. It aims to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages.

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 Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched “Sankalp se Siddhi” - Village and Digital Connect Drive.
- The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages.
- The drive will entail 150 teams (10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/Mentoring Agencies/Partners) visiting ten villages each.
- Thus, 100 villages in each region and 1500 villages in the country will be covered.
- The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as TRIFOOD, and SFURTI units as larger enterprises

7. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of India?

1. The Judges Inquiry Act mandates the outgoing Chief Justice of India to select the

most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge as the next CJI.

2. The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.

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:

- The Chief Justice of India is traditionally appointed by the outgoing Chief Justice of India on the day of his (or her) retirement.
- By convention, the outgoing Chief Justice of India selects the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge.
- Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by:
 - ✓ The date a judge was appointed to the Supreme Court.
 - ✓ If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day.
 - ✓ The one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another.
 - ✓ If both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would ‘win’ in the seniority stakes.
- ✓ An appointment from the bench would ‘trump’ in seniority an appointee from the bar.
- The Constitution of India does not have any provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI. Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution says there “shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India”.
- The closest mention is in Article 126, which deals with the appointment of an acting CJI. In the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure relies on custom and convention.
- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:
 - ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
 - ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.
 - ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to

the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.

- ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.

8. Who among the following are included in the selection committee for appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and Vigilance Commissioners in India?

1. Prime Minister
2. Minister of Home Affairs
3. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha
4. Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha
5. A cabinet minister nominated by Prime Minister
6. A serving or retired Supreme Court Judge

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is a multi-member Commission consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners (Member).
- It is the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising

various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.

- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Member).

9. Consider the following statements regarding Tea Cultivation:

1. This requires a cool climate and well distributed high rainfall throughout the year for the growth of its tender leaves.
2. It needs well-drained loamy soils and gentle slopes.
3. China is the Leading Producer followed by India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Tea is a beverage crop grown on plantations. This requires a cool climate and well distributed high Rainfall throughout the year for the growth of its tender leaves.
- It needs well-drained loamy soils and gentle slopes. Labour in large numbers is required to pick the leaves. Kenya, India, China, Sri Lanka produce the best quality tea in the world.

10. With respect to the generic medicine, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 generic medicines are those which contain same amount of active ingredient(s) in same dosage form and are intended to be administered by the same route of as that of branded medicine.
2. Drugs manufactured in India, irrespective of whether they are generic or branded, are required to comply with the same standards as prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made there under for their quality.

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:

- There is no definition of generic or branded medicines under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made there under. However, generic medicines are generally those which contain same amount of same active ingredient(s) in same dosage form and are intended to be administered by the same route of administration as that of branded medicine. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The price of an unbranded generic version of a medicine is generally lower than the price of a corresponding branded medicine because in case of generic version, the pharmaceutical company does not have to spend money on promotion of its brand.
- Drugs manufactured in the country, irrespective of whether they are generic or branded, are required to comply with the same standards as prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made there under for their quality. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Chenab river:

1. It rises in the lesser Himalayas.
2. It flows through the states of Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.
3. The Pong Dam is built on the Chenab river.

Which of the statements given above is/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:

- The Chenab river rises in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state.
- The river is formed by the confluence of two rivers, Chandra and Bhaga, at Tandi, 8 km southwest of Keylong, in the Lahaul and Spiti district.
- The Bhaga river originates from Surya taal lake, which is situated a few kilometers west of the Bara-lacha la pass in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Chandra river originates from glaciers east of the same pass (near Chandra Taal).
- Chenab flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River.

- Some of the important projects/dams on Chenab:

Ratle Hydro Electric Project

- Salal Dam- hydroelectric power project near Reasi
- Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Plant- power project in Kishtwar District
- Pakal Dul Dam (under construction)- on a tributary Marusadar River in Kishtwar District
- The Pong Dam is built on the Beas river.

2. Consider the following, with regard to the Central Bureau of Investigation:

1. It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
2. It is a statutory body.
3. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

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:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of

Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

- The Establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- It is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.
- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

3. In content to the World Economic Outlook, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
2. It is an Annual Publication.
3. It Analyzes and predicts global economic Developments during the near and medium Term.

Which of the statements given above is/are not 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 World Economic Outlook is a survey by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- It is usually published twice a year in the Months of April and October.
- It analyzes and predicts Global Economic developments during the near and Medium Term.

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA):

1. COBRA is a special operation unit of the National Security Guard.
2. It is proficient in guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare.
3. It was originally established to counter the Naxalite problem.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- COBRA is a special operation unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) of India proficient in guerrilla tactics and Jungle Warfare.
- It's one of the few Indian Special Forces, that's exclusively trained in guerrilla warfare.

- Originally it was established to counter the Naxalite problem.
- COBRA is deployed to address insurgent Groups Engaging in Asymmetrical Warfare.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to None of The Above (NOTA):

1. NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections.
2. The Election Commission has no power to call a Fresh Election even if NOTA secures Highest Votes.
3. NOTA option was first used in 2013 assembly elections held in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court, in 2018, held that the NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not for polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.
- The Election Commission has no power to call a fresh election even if NOTA secures highest votes.

- NOTA option was first used in 2013 assembly elections held in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

6. Consider the following Reports and Organisations:

1. World Economic Outlook – World Economic Forum
2. Global Gender Gap Report – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3. World Cities Report – United Nations Population Fund
4. Global Corruption Report – Transparency International

Which of the given pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- World Economic Outlook – International Monetary Fund
- Global Gender Gap Report – World Economic Forum
- World Cities Report – UN Habitat
- Global Corruption Report – Transparency International

7. Which of the following country is not bordered by Red Sea?

- (a) Djibouti
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Yemen
- (d) Israel

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- An Iranian cargo ship believed to be a base for the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and anchored for years in the Red Sea off Yemen has been attacked recently.
- The Red Sea (also the Erythraean Sea) is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- The connection to the ocean is in the south through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden.
- To the north lie the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal). The sea is underlain by the Red Sea Rift which is part of the Great Rift Valley.
- The salinity of the Red Sea is greater than the world average, approximately 4 percent. This is due to several factors:
 - ✓ Lack of significant rivers or streams draining into the sea.
 - ✓ Limited connection with the Indian Ocean, which has lower water salinity.
 - ✓ High rate of evaporation and very little precipitation.

- The six countries bordering the Red Sea proper are Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the Eastern shore and Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti in the Western shore.



8. Consider the following statements:

1. The rate at which banks buy back the securities they keep with the RBI at a later period is called as Repo Rate.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio corresponds to the percentage of cash each bank has to keep as cash reserve with RBI (in their current accounts) corresponding to the deposits they have.
3. The banks and other financial institutions in India have to keep a fraction of their total net time and demand liabilities in the form of liquid assets to be called as statutory liquidity ratio.

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:

- **REPO rate** (now 4%) denotes Re Purchase Option – the rate by which RBI gives loans to other banks. In other words, it is the rate at which banks buy back the securities they keep with the RBI at a later period. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Bank gives loan to the public at a higher rate, often 1% higher than REPO rate, at a rate known as **Bank Rate** (now 4.25%).
- RBI at times borrows from banks at a rate lower than REPO rate, and that rate is known as **Reverse REPO rate** (now 3.35%).
- **CRR or Cash Reserve Ratio** corresponds to the percentage of cash each bank has to keep as cash reserve with RBI (in their current accounts) corresponding to the deposits they have. For example, say if State Bank of India (SBI) got a total deposit of Rs. 1 crore with them, they need to keep 3 % of that as cash reserve with RBI (around 3 lakh rupees). **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- The banks and other financial institutions in India have to keep a fraction of their total net time and demand liabilities in the form of liquid assets such as G-secs, precious metals, approved securities etc. The Ratio of these liquid assets to the total demand and time liabilities is called **Statutory Liquidity Ratio** (18%). **So, statement 3 is correct.**

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

1. Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.
2. Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.

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:

- The scheme aims to make India a global hub for manufacturing telecom equipment.
- Its eligibility criteria include achievement of a minimum threshold of cumulative

incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods.

- The incentive structure ranges between 4% and 7% for different categories and years. Financial year 2019-20 will be treated as the base year for computation of cumulative incremental sales of manufactured goods net of taxes.
- Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.
- Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- As per Article 343(1) of the Constitution of India, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 343(2) provided that English shall also be continued to be used in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years from the date of commencement of the constitution, i.e., up to the 25th of January 1965. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Again, article 343(3) made provisions for the continuation of English even after 25th January 1965 by empowering the parliament to make laws to that effect. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Accordingly, the Official Languages Act, 1963 was passed which provided for the continued use of English even after the said date in 1965.
- As per the Act, both English and Hindi shall be used for certain specified purposes like resolutions, rules, general orders, notifications, press communiqués, administrative and other reports, licenses, tenders, etc.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. As per Article 343(1) of the Constitution of India, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union.
2. Article 343(2) provided that English shall also be continued to be used in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years from the date of commencement of the constitution.
3. According to the Official Languages Act, 1963 use of English was continued even after the said date in 1965.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

1. GI Tagged Bhavani Jamakkalam is a GI Tagged product of which state?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Located in the heart of western Tamil Nadu, Bhavani is famous for the art of making handloom Jamakkalams.
- Bhavani Jamakkalam refers to blankets and carpets manufactured in Bhavani in Erode district, Tamil Nadu.
- It has been recognized as a Geographical Indication by the Government of India in 2005-06.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to IMPRINT India Initiative:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It is designed to address all major engineering challenges relevant to India through an inclusive and sustainable mode of translational research.
3. The programme is a joint initiative of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

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

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

(d) None of the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) initiative is a national initiative of the Ministry of Education designed to address all major engineering challenges relevant to India through an inclusive and sustainable mode of translational research.
- IMPRINT India Programme is a joint initiative of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- It seeks to develop a road map for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in 10 technology domains relevant for country.
- These domains include health care, information and Communication Technology, energy, Sustainable habitat, Nano-technology Hardware, water resources and River Systems, advanced materials, Manufacturing, Security and Defence, and Environment and climate.

3. Fast patrol vessel PS Zoroaster was gifted by India to which country?

- (a) Seychelles
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Maldives
- (d) Mauritius

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Fast Patrol Vessel named PS Zoroaster is the fourth ship to be gifted by India to Seychelles.
- The other vessels gifted by India include PS Topaz (2005), PS Constant (2014), Patrol Boat Hermes (2016).

4. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the Collegium system?

1. It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
2. The Second Judges Case expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-Most Colleagues.

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 the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.
- The government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.
- ✓ **Intelligence Bureau (IB):** It is a reputed and established intelligence agency. It is authoritatively controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

←----->

Evolution of the Collegium System:

- **First Judges Case (1981):**
 - ✓ It declared that the “primacy” of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)s recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for “cogent reasons.”
 - ✓ The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.
- **Second Judges Case (1993):**
 - ✓ SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”.
 - ✓ It added that it was not the CJI’s individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.
- **Third Judges Case (1998):**
 - ✓ SC on President’s reference expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

5. Spratly and Paracel Islands are sometimes seen in news. They are present in which of the following seas?

- (a) Ross Sea
- (b) South China Sea
- (c) Yellow Sea
- (d) Arabian Sea

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The two disputed archipelagos of the **Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands** is in the middle of the South China Sea waters, between the territory of Vietnam and the Philippines.
- Beijing unilaterally renamed 80 islands and other geographical features in the area, drawing criticism from neighbouring countries who have also laid claim to the same territory.
- The on-going territorial dispute is between China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia concerning the ownership of the Spratly Islands archipelago and nearby geographical features like corals reefs, cays etc.
- Brunei has contained its objections to the use of its maritime waters for commercial fishing.
- Paracel Island is located in the South China Sea, almost equidistant from China and Vietnam.
- Beijing says that references to the Paracel Islands as a part of China sovereign territory can be found in 14th century writings from the Song Dynasty.
- Vietnam on the other hand, says that historical texts from at least the 15th century show that the islands were a part of its territory.

- With increased tensions accelerated by Colonial powers, China and Vietnam fought over their territorial disputes in January 1974 after which China took over control of the islands.
- In retaliation, in 1982, Vietnam said it had extended its administrative powers over these islands.
- In 1999, Taiwan jumped into the fray laying its claim over the entire archipelago.
- Since 2012, China, Taiwan and Vietnam have attempted to reinforce their claims on the territory by engaging in construction of government administrative buildings, tourism, and land reclamation initiatives and by establishing and expanding military presence on the archipelago.

6. Which of the following statements is/are **Incorrect** regarding the process of elections in India?

1. The Constitution contains provisions for qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures.
2. The Constitution has provided for the powers of Election Commission in connection with inquiries as to Disqualifications of Members.

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:

- The Representation of the People Act, 1950 did not contain all the provisions relating to elections but merely provided for the allocation of seats in and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of People and Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voter at such election and the preparations of electoral rolls.
- The provisions for the actual conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these Houses, the corrupt practices and other election offences, and the decision of election disputes were all left to be made in a subsequent measure.
- In order to provide for these provisions, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was enacted.
- Broadly speaking, this Act contains provisions relating to the following electoral matters:
 - ✓ Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures.
 - ✓ Notification of General Elections.

- ✓ Administrative machinery for the conduct of elections.
 - ✓ Registration of political parties.
 - ✓ Conduct of elections.
 - ✓ Free supply of certain material to candidates of recognised political parties.
 - ✓ Disputes regarding elections.
 - ✓ Corrupt practices and electoral offences.
 - ✓ Powers of Election Commission in connection with inquiries as to disqualifications of members.
 - ✓ Bye-elections and time limit for filling vacancies.
 - ✓ Miscellaneous provisions relating to elections.
 - ✓ Barring the jurisdiction of civil courts.
- Hence both the statements are incorrect.

- (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.**

7. 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:

8. In context to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), consider the following statements:

1. It provides refinance support for building rural infrastructure.
2. It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

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:

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) came into existence on 12th July 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
- It is a statutory body established under 'National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981'.
- It is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country.
- It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.

Major Functions of NABARD:

- It provides refinance support for building rural infrastructure. Refinancing institutions are important institutions who give loans to other institutions who ultimately give loans to the end customers.
- NABARD provides short-term, medium-term and long-term refinance to Cooperative banks and RRBs to supplement their resources for providing adequate credit for supporting investment activities of farmers and rural artisans.

- It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and helps them develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the CBS (Core Banking Solution) platform.

9. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX):

1. It is a publicly listed company with National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
2. It is regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
3. The CERC is a statutory body functioning with quasi-judicial status.

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:

- The electricity market at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) achieved an all-time high volume of 8,248.52 MU (million units) in the month of March 2021 surpassing all the previous milestones.
- IEX is the first and largest energy exchange in India providing a nationwide, automated trading platform for physical delivery of

electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates.

- The exchange platform enables efficient price discovery and increases the accessibility and transparency of the power market in India while also enhancing the speed and efficiency of trade execution.
- It is a publicly listed company with National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- It is approved and regulated by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and has been operating since 2008.
- It is a statutory body functioning with quasi-judicial status under the Electricity Act 2003.
- CERC is a regulator of the power sector in India.
- It intends to promote competition, efficiency and economy in bulk power markets, improve the quality of supply, promote investments and advise the government on the removal of institutional barriers to bridge the demand supply gap.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

1. It was established by the Washington Treaty to provide security against the Soviet Union.
2. NATO's protection does not extend to members' civil wars or internal coups.

3. It is headquartered in Washington, USA.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of 4th April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.
- A key provision of the treaty, the so-called Article 5, states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members. That effectively put Western Europe under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.
- NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on 12th September, 2001, following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.
- NATO's protection does not extend to members' civil wars or Internal Coups.

1. 'COVIFOR' a medicine used to treat COVID-19, was sometimes seen in news is a generic version of

- (a) Hydroxy-Chloroquine
- (b) Chloroquine
- (c) Paracetamol
- (d) Remdesivir

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval to Hetero, a generic pharmaceutical company for manufacturing and marketing of the investigational antiviral medicine 'Remdesivir' from for the treatment of COVID-19.
- Hetero's generic version of **Remdesivir** will be marketed under the brand name 'COVIFOR' in India.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI):

1. DCGI lays down standards and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India.
2. It acts as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding quality of drugs.
3. It also trains Drug Analysts deputed by State Drug Control Laboratories and other Institutions.

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:

- DCGI under gamut of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is responsible for approval of licenses of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, vaccines, IV fluids and sera in India.
- DCGI lays down standards and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It acts as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding quality of drugs. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- It prepares and maintains national reference standard.
- It brings about uniformity in enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- It trains Drug Analysts deputed by State Drug Control Laboratories and other Institutions. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

3. Pangong Tso Lake, a disputed lake is sometimes seen in news. With respect to the same, consider the following statements:

1. Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake in the Himalayas is situated at an elevation of 4,225 m extends from Ladakh, India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China.

2. It is also a part of the Indus River basin area.

3. This is the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the Ramsar convention.

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:

- Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an **endorheic lake** (also called closed or terminal basins or internal drainage systems or basins) in the Himalayas is situated at an elevation of 4,225 m (13,862 ft).
- It is 134 km (83 mi) long and extends from Ladakh, India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. **So, statement 1 is correct**
- Approximately 60% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- The lake is 5 km (3.1 mi) wide at its broadest point. All together it covers 604 km². During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being **saline water**.
- It is **not a part of the Indus River basin** area and geographically a separate landlocked river basin. **So, statement 2 is not correct**

- The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. This will be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. With reference to the Foreigners Tribunal, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a foreigner or not.
2. Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, both Foreigners Tribunals and Ministry of Home Affairs are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.
3. A rejected person would have 120 days from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for Judging their Citizenship Status.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

- The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a “foreigner” or not. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals (FT).
- Assam has set up FTs, specifically to handle the cases of 19.06 lakh people left out of the updated NRC.
- Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, **only Foreigners Tribunals** are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Assam Police Border Organisation, a wing of the State police tasked with detecting foreigners, readies the cases for the tribunals to decide who is a foreigner and who is not.
- According to the Centre's standard operating procedures, a rejected person would have **120 days** from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for judging their citizenship status. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to E9 Partnership:

1. The E9 Partnership was established to achieve the goal of UNESCO's Education for All (EFA).
2. India is a member of the E9 partnership.

3. The EFA initiative was first launched at the World Conference on Education for All in 1990.

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:

- The E9 Partnership was first established in 1993, formed to achieve the goals of UNESCO's Education for All (EFA).
- A group of E9 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan) aims at strengthening political will and collective effort to ensure quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- E9 Partnership is working for the achievement of SDG4 – Education 2030.
- The Education for All initiative first launched at the World Conference on Education for All by UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank in Thailand in 1990. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

6. In context to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, consider the following statements:

1. It is signed and ratified by all the members of the United Nations (UN).
2. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends 200 nautical miles from the shore of the Coastal State.
3. The coastal state has the responsibility to conserve and manage, both living and non-Living Resources of EEZ.

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: c)

Explanation:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS) is an international treaty that provides a regulatory framework for the use of the world's seas and oceans.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
- It enshrines the notion that all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole.

- The Convention was opened for signature in December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- The Convention entered into force in accordance with its article 308 in November 1994, 12 months after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession.
- Today, it is the globally recognized regime dealing with all matters relating to the law of the sea.
- The convention has been ratified by 168 parties, which includes 167 states (164 United Nations (UN) member states plus the UN Observer state Palestine, as well as the Cook Islands and Niue) and the European Union.
- An additional 14 UN member states have signed, but not ratified the convention.
- While India ratified UN Law of the Seas in 1995, the US has failed to do it so far.

Exclusive Economic Zone:

- According to UNCLOS, the EEZ is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal State and the rights and freedoms of other States are governed by the relevant provisions of this Convention.
- It is defined as generally extending 200 nautical miles from shore, within which the coastal state has the right to explore and

- exploit, and the responsibility to conserve and manage, both living and non-living resources.

7. In context to the Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consider the following statements:

1. The SDG-4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
2. The SDGs are legally binding on the member states of the United nations.

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:

- To bring sustainable development in the mainstream, the United Nations (UN) member states, in 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- There are 17 goals and 169 specific targets to be achieved by 2030.
- SDGs are not legally binding.
- SDG-4 is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

1. It defines a distance of 12 nautical miles from the baseline as Territorial Sea limit and a distance of 200 nautical miles as Exclusive Economic Zone limit.
2. An Exclusive Economic Zone is an area of the sea over which a sovereign state has full sovereignty over the waters.
3. Both India and the U.S are signatories to UNCLOS.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) defines the distance of 12 nautical miles from the baseline as Territorial Sea limit and a distance of 200 nautical miles as Exclusive Economic Zone limit.
- EEZ is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind.

- “Territorial Sea” confers full sovereignty over the waters, whereas “Exclusive Economic Zone” is merely a sovereign right that refers to the state’s rights below the surface of the sea.
- While India ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1995, the U.S. has failed to do it so far.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Neutrinos are fundamental particles belonging to the Lepton Family.
2. Neutrinos have a higher mass than Neutrons.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In particle physics, a lepton is an Elementary particle of half-integer spin that does not undergo strong interactions.
- Two main classes of leptons exist: charged leptons (also known as the electron-like leptons or muons), and neutral leptons (better known as neutrinos).
- Neutrons have a higher mass than neutrinos.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to NanoSniffer:

1. It is the world’s first micro sensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD).
2. It is a 100% Made in India product in terms of research, development & manufacturing.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- NanoSniffer is the world’s first microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD) developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup.
- NanoSniffer is a 100% ‘Made in India’ product in terms of research, development & manufacturing. The core technology of NanoSniffer is protected by patents in the U.S. & Europe.
- NanoSniff has passed tests conducted by DRDO’s High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune; and by the National Security Guard (NSG) as well.

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to brucellosis?

1. It is a zoonotic infection.
2. The disease is caused by a group of Bacteria.
3. People are infected by eating raw or Unpasteurized Dairy Products.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Brucellosis is a disease caused by a group of bacteria from the genus *Brucella*. These bacteria can infect both humans and Animals.
- Brucellosis is a zoonotic infection. It is a bacterial infection that spreads from animals to people. It affects thousands of people worldwide.
- Most commonly, people are infected by eating raw or unpasteurized dairy products. Sometimes, the bacteria that cause brucellosis can spread through the air or through direct contact with infected animals.

2. The Umngot River is associated with which of the following Indian states?

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Sikkim

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Umngot, considered India's clearest river is associated with the state of Meghalaya.

3. The 'muon g-2' experiment is being carried out in which of the following countries?

- (a) China
- (b) U.S.
- (c) Japan
- (d) France

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Fermilab, housing the American particle accelerator, has released the first results from its 'muon g-2' experiment.
- These results spotlight the anomalous behaviour of the Elementary Particle called the muon.
- The muon is considered as a heavier cousin of the electron.
- Muon g-2 is a particle physics experiment at Fermilab to measure the anomalous magnetic dipole moment of a muon to a precision of 0.14 ppm, which will be a sensitive test of the Standard Model. It

might also provide evidence of the existence of entirely new particles.

4. Gorkha Soldiers Regiment is sometimes seen in news is in the context of which of the Following Countries?

1. India
2. Britain
3. Nepal
4. Bhutan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Currently, the Gorkhas comprise up to 3% of the British Army, and in 2015 completed 200 years of service there.
- Impressed by their discipline and ferocity in Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16, the British decided to recruit Gorkha soldiers starting in 1815. Since then, the Gurkhas have fought on the side of the British Empire in almost every war, including both World Wars.
- Upon Independence in 1947, the question of allotting the 10 regiments of Gorkha soldiers arose. This was settled by the **Britain-India-Nepal Tripartite Agreement. So, answer is b.**

- In 1948, India created an 11th Gorkha Rifles regiment to accommodate the Gorkhas who refused to depart with the now-British regiments.
- Later, the British Army amalgamated their four regiments into a combined Royal Gorkha Rifles (RGR) regiment consisting of three battalions. The RGR was subsequently deployed in Britain's remaining colonies in Asia, including Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong, to fill the vacuum created by departing Indian regiments such as the Sikhs, which were stationed there earlier.

5. Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong sometimes seen in news are related to

- (a) Areas filled with Gorkhas demanding Gorkhaland
- (b) More arsenic contamination in drinking water
- (c) Places which became plastic free completely
- (d) None of these

Answer: a)

Explanations:

- Gorkhaland consists of Nepali-speaking people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and other hilly districts of West-Bengal. The people belonging to these areas have ethical, cultural and language differences with the Bengali community of West-Bengal.

- The demand of Darjeeling as a separate administrative region dates back to 1907. But, the term “Gorkhaland” was coined recently, in the 1980s, by Subhash Ghising, the founder of Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).
- The Gorkhaland Movement is a movement mainly focused in the Darjeeling Hills of West Bengal, which demands the creation of a separate state of Gorkhaland.
- The area covers Duars and Terai region of West Bengal. And is famous for its tea and beauty, which are the main sources of its income.

6. With respect to the Election Commission of India, consider the Following Statements:

1. The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
2. The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any Further Appointment by the Government.

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:

- All the three statements are correct.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Index of Industrial Production is monthly production volume index considered as lead indicator of monthly industrial performance.
2. It is compiled and released by Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
3. The eight infrastructure sectors constitute 40.27% of total index of industrial production (IIP) with Refinery in the top.

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 and 3 only

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- It is monthly production volume index considered as lead indicator of monthly Industrial Performance.
- It measures performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Natural Gas, Coal, Crude Oil, Fertilizers, Petroleum Refinery Products, Steel, Cement and Electricity. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is compiled and released by Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The eight infrastructure sectors constitute 40.27% of total index of industrial production (IIP) with Refinery Products in the top. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

8. With reference to the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced due to an increase in the number of Zero Tax Paying Companies.
2. Only domestic companies in India are covered under the Provision of MAT.

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:

- At times it may happen that a taxpayer, being a company, may have Generated Income during the year, but by taking the advantage of various provisions of Income-tax Law (like exemptions, deductions, depreciation, etc.), it may have reduced its tax liability or may not have paid any tax at all.

- Due to an increase in the number of zero tax paying companies, Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) was introduced by the Finance Act, 1987 with effect from assessment year 1988-89. Later on, it was withdrawn by the Finance Act, 1990 and then reintroduced by Finance Act, 1996.
- MAT is calculated at 15% on the book profit (the profit shown in the profit and loss account) or at the usual corporate rates, and whichever is higher is payable as tax.
- All companies in India, whether domestic or foreign, fall under this provision. MAT was later extended to cover non-corporate entities as well.
- MAT is an important tool with which tax Avoidance can be prevented.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. It is headquartered in Kerala.

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:

- Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) is a nodal coordinating, state-owned agency engaged in fishery production and allied activities.
- It was established in 1972 under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act (MPEDA), 1972.
- It functions under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is headquartered in Kochi, Kerala
- Its mandate is to increase exports of seafood including fisheries of all kinds, specifying standards, marketing, processing, extension and training in Various Aspects.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Jyotirao Phule:

1. He was the founder of Satyashodhak Samaj.
2. He was bestowed with the title of Mahatma.
3. His ideologies were based upon Libertarianism and Egalitarianism.

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:

- Jyotirao Phule was an Indian social activist, thinker, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra. He is also known as Jyotiba Phule.
- His Ideology was based on: Liberty; Egalitarianism; Socialism.
- Phule was influenced by Thomas Paine's book titled The Rights of Man and believed that the only solution to combat the social evils was the enlightenment of women and members of the Lower Castes.
- In 1848, Phule along with his followers formed Satyashodhak Samaj which meant 'Seekers of Truth' in order to attain equal social and economic benefits for the lower castes in Maharashtra.
- He was bestowed with the title of Mahatma on 11th May, 1888 by a Maharashtrian social activist Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.

1. Consider the following statements about the GATI initiative:

1. It aims to establish a Gender Equality Framework in STEM.
2. It incorporates a system of grading institutes depending on the enrolment of women and the advancement of the careers of Women Faculty and Scientists.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) is a system of grading institutes depending on the enrolment of women and the advancement of the careers of women faculty and scientists.
- The Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) will develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM.
- It is intended to create a level-playing field for meritorious girls in high schools to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in their higher education.

2. Which of the following statements best describes the ‘Shaphari’ Scheme?

- (a) A certification scheme for aquaculture products.
- (b) A Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters.
- (c) A Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises.
- (d) A Scheme for ensuring sustainable capture of fishery to Harness Marine and inland Water Resources.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Shaphari Scheme is a certification scheme for aquaculture products. ‘Shaphari’ is a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.

3. Which of the following cities are associated with the nuclear weapons programme of Iran?

1. Natanz
2. Arak
3. Fordow

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Natanz, Fordow and Arak house Iran’s major nuclear facilities.

4. Which of the following were the outcomes of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that took place in 1919?

1. General Dyer was removed from command and exiled to Britain.
2. Mahatma Gandhi, as a sign of condemnation, renounced his British Knighthood.
3. In 1922, the Rowlett Act was repealed by the British.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Considered the ‘The Butcher of Amritsar’ in the aftermath of the massacre, General Dyer was removed from command and exiled to Britain. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, as a sign of condemnation, renounced their British Knighthood and Kaiser-i-Hind medal respectively. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In 1922, the infamous Rowlett Act was repealed by the British. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Michael O’Dwyer, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, who had approved the

actions of Dyer, was assassinated by Udham Singh in London in 1940 as revenge against the massacre.

5. Which of the following are considered as the protected areas under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020?

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary
5. Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Launched in 2005, Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the Year 2020.
- Seven protected areas are Kaziranga, Pobitora, Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary, Burachapori wildlife sanctuary and Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary.
- It is a collaborative effort between various Organisations, Including the International

Rhino Foundation, Assam's Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, World Wide Fund - India, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

6. Which of the following magazines was published by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

- (a) Mook Nayak
- (b) New India
- (c) Young India
- (d) Tribune

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- New India was a Newspaper founded by Annie Besant.
- Young India was a Newspaper founded by Gandhi.
- Tribune was a Newspaper founded by Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia.

7. 'Stage 3 Pandemic' of a viral outbreak implies which of the following?

- (a) Community spread transmission
- (b) Cases reported in the non-originated country
- (c) Virus transmitted being locally
- (d) Disease become endemic in a country

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In the **First Stage** of a disease epidemic that eventually takes the form of a pandemic sweeping the globe, cases are imported into a country in which the

infection did not originate. An infection whose spread is contained within the boundaries of one or a few countries is obviously not a pandemic.

- The **Second Stage** is when the virus starts being transmitted locally. Local transmission means that the source of the infection is from within a particular area and the trajectory the virus has taken from one person to the next is clearly established.
- The **Third Stage** is that of community transmission.
- **Fourth Stage** is when the disease becomes endemic in some countries. Among diseases that are currently endemic in India — meaning they occur round the year across the country — are malaria and dengue.

8. In context to the military exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena', consider the following statements:

1. It was a United Nations mandated counterterrorism exercise.
2. It was a bilateral exercise between India and Bangladesh.

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:

- Multinational military exercise Shantir Ogroshena was organised to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's Father of the Nation and celebrate the golden jubilee of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- It was held at Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh.
- 'Shantir Ogroshena' 2021 means "Front Runner of the Peace".
- The theme of this exercise was to strengthen defence ties and enhance interoperability amongst neighbourhood countries to ensure effective peacekeeping operations.
- It was a UN (United Nations)- mandated counterterrorism exercise.
- Troops from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka participated in the exercise with observers from the USA, UK, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, along with Election Commissioners, is appointed by the President of India.
- The CEC has a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They can resign anytime or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.
- The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament.
- Judges of High Courts and SC, CEC, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) may be removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of 'proved misbehaviour or incapacity'.
- Removal requires a special majority of 2/3rd members present and voting supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house.

9. Consider the following statements, with reference to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):

1. He is appointed by the President of India.
2. He can resign anytime or can be removed even before the expiry of his/her term.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Kazakhstan:

1. It shares land borders with Russia, China and Uzbekistan.
2. It is India's largest trading partner in Central Asia.

3. KAZIND is the joint military exercise of India and Kazakhstan.

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

- The latest edition of KAZIND (fourth edition) was conducted in 2019 in Uttarakhand, India.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kazakhstan lies to the northeast of the Caspian Sea, bordered by the Russian Federation to the north, China to the east, and Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the south.
- Kazakhstan's geo-political existence between Russia and Asia, along with long borders with China, makes it a country of great strategic importance.
- Relations between India and Kazakhstan are ancient and historical going back to more than 2000 Years.
- India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan. Diplomatic relations were established in February 1992.
- India and Kazakhstan have been strategic partners since 2009.
- Kazakhstan is India's largest trade and investment partner in Central Asia.
- KAZIND is the Joint Military Exercise between India and Kazakhstan.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the NATO:

1. NATO is a military alliance established by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
2. Montenegro became the latest member to join NATO in 2017.
3. Recently US have withdrawn from the alliance after the dispute regarding operating budget in NATO.

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: b)

Explanation:

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- A key provision of the treaty, the so-called Article 5, states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members.

- That effectively put Western Europe under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.
- NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on September 12, 2001 following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.
- As of 2019, there are 29 member states, with Montenegro becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017.
- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization. However, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.
- The U.S. has recently announced that it would cut its contribution to NATO's operating budget.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear Enrichment increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of Isotope Separation.
2. For nuclear reactors, enrichment is required up to 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade Uranium.

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:

- Natural uranium consists of Two Different isotopes - nearly 99% U-238 and only around 0.7% of U-235.
- U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a chain reaction in a nuclear reactor.
- Enrichment process increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation (U-238 is separated from U-235).**So, statement 1 is correct.**
- For nuclear weapons, enrichment is required up to 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/weapons-grade uranium.
- For nuclear reactors, enrichment is required up to 3-4% which is known as Low Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade uranium.
So, statement 2 is not correct.

- At the end of 19th Century, the Power of Afghani king had declined so he had no choice but to accept it.
- Fast forward to 1947, India-Pakistan gain independence. But Afghans refuse to recognize Durand line as the international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- In 1947, at the UN General Assembly meeting, Afghanistan even cast a vote against the admission of Pakistan to the United Nations.



3. Durand Line is a disputed line between which of the following countries?

- (a) Afghanistan and India
- (b) Afghanistan and Pakistan
- (c) India and Pakistan
- (d) India and Nepal

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Durand Line is the 2,600 km border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- This line is named after Sir Mortimer Durand, the Foreign Secretary of then undivided British India. He negotiated this border with the King of Afghanistan.

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

1. India became only the third country after Malta and Taiwan, 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 *not* correct?

- (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 third country after Malta and Taiwan, to have a legal regime which protects the rights of intersex children. **India has still not yet adopted. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 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. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- Intersex refers to people born with biological or physical characteristics that are more diverse than stereotypical male or female bodies. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

5. In context to India Energy Dashboards (IED), consider the Following Statements:

1. It is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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:

- India Energy Dashboards (IED) is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.
- It is an initial step towards building a comprehensive, open, and freely accessible energy data portal for India.

- Recently, the government think tank NITI Aayog has launched India Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0.
- NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to electronic platform named e-SANTA:

- (a) To Connect aqua farmers and the buyers.
- (b) To Provide online education to rural students.
- (c) To Facilitate the foreign investors in india.
- (d) To Bringing transparency in the power sector.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently the Union Commerce and Industry Minister has inaugurated an electronic platform named e-SANTA, which will connect aqua farmers and the buyers.
- The term e-SANTA was coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture.
- e-SANTA is a digital bridge to end the market divide and will act as an alternative marketing tool between farmers & buyers by Eliminating Middlemen.
- The farmers can freely list their produce and quote their price while the exporters have the freedom to list their requirements and also to choose the products based on

their Requirements such as desired size, location, harvest dates etc.

- The Platform is available in many languages, which will help the local Population

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Himalayas:

1. It is the highest and youngest fold mountain ranges of the world.
2. It is a series of three mountain ranges Namely Himadri, Himachal and Shiwaliks.

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:

- The Himalayas are the highest and the youngest fold Mountain Ranges of the world.
- Their Geological Structure is young, weak and Flexible since the Himalayan uplift is an ongoing process, making them one of the highest earthquake-prone regions of the world.
- It separates India, along its north-central and north-eastern frontier, from China (Tibet).

- The Himalayas are a series of parallel mountain ranges extending along the North-West to the South-East direction (known as the Strike of the Himalayas). They include:
 - Trans-Himalayas
 - The Greater Himalayas or Himadri
 - The Lesser Himalayas or Himachal
 - Shiwaliks or the Outer Himalayas
 - The Eastern Hills or Purvanchal

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) as well as the other Election Commissioners are appointed by the President.
2. The Chief Election Commissioner and the two other election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary, allowances and other Perquisites.
3. In case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other election commissioners, CEC's Decision Prevails.

Which of the given statement/s 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 Chief Election Commissioner as well as the other Election Commissioners are Appointed by the President.
- The Chief Election Commissioner and the two other election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary, allowances and other perquisites.
- In case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other election commissioners, the matter is decided by the Commission by a Majority. The chief election commissioner is provided with security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he can be removed by the President on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with a special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or Incapacity.
- Thus, he does not hold his office until the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds:

1. AT-1 bonds are unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel norms.

2. They carry call options that allow banks to Redeem them after five or 10 years.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

• Wheat, mustard, gram, rapeseed and barley are Rabi crops.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- AT-1 bonds are unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel norms.
- They carry call options that allow banks to redeem them after Five or 10 Years.
- But banks are not obliged to use this call option and can opt to pay only interest on these bonds for Eternity.

10. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Rabi crops are sown in summer and are Harvested in Winter.
- 2. Wheat, mustard and barley are Rabi crops.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Rabi crops are sown in the winter season and harvested in spring.

1. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the appointment of Supreme Court Judges?

1. To appoint the judges of the SC, the proposal is initiated by the CJI.
2. The CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended Person belongs.

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:

- For other judges of the SC, the proposal is initiated by the CJI.
- The CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.
- The consultees must record their opinions in writing and it should form part of the file.
- The Collegium sends the recommendation to the Law Minister, who forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of India's external debt is owed by government entities.
2. All of India's external debt is denominated in US dollars.

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:

- India's External Debt is the total debt the country owes to foreign creditors such as private banks, foreign governments, and international financial institutions like International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.
- The debtors can be the Central or State governments, corporations or citizens of India as well. India's external debt is held in several currencies, the largest share is of the US dollar.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The debt-to-GDP ratio indicates how likely the country can pay off its debt.
2. The NK Singh Committee on FRBM had envisaged a debt-to-GDP ratio of 40 per cent for the general government debt-to-GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The debt-to-GDP ratio indicates how likely the country can pay off its debt. Investors often look at the debt-to-GDP metric to assess the government's ability of finance its debt. Higher debt-to-GDP ratios have fuelled economic crises worldwide.
- The NK Singh Committee on FRBM had envisaged a debt-to-GDP ratio of 40 per cent for the central government and 20 per cent for states aiming for a total of 60 per cent general government debt-to-GDP.

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:

- In November 2020, 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. Consider the following statements with respect to Raisina Dialogue:

1. It is an inter-government security forum.
2. It is hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
3. It is designed to explore prospects and opportunities for Asian integration as well as Asia's integration with the larger world.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Raisina Dialogue is an annual geo-political Event.
- It is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- It is designed to explore prospects and opportunities for Asian integration as well as Asia's integration with the larger world.
- Every year, leaders in politics, business, media, and civil society converge in New Delhi to discuss the state of the world and explore opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of contemporary matters.

- The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral Discussion.

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

6. Which of the following magazines were started by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

1. Mooknayak
2. Equality Janta
3. Bahishkrit Bharat
4. Udbodhana
5. Hindoo Patriot

Choose the correct options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar started magazines like Mooknayak, Equality Janta and Bahishkrit Bharat.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Rhino Vision 2020 aimed at attaining a population of 3,000 wild greater one-horned rhinos in seven of Assam's protected areas by the Year 2020.
2. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of greater one-horned rhinos.
3. Kaziranga National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a tiger reserve hosting greater one-horned rhinos.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Indian Rhino Vision 2020 aimed at attaining a population of 3,000 wild greater one-horned rhinos in seven of Assam's protected areas by the year 2020.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest Density of greater one-horned rhinos.
- Kaziranga National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a tiger reserve Hosting greater one-horned rhino.
- It is also recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of Avifaunal Species.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Adenoviruses:

1. It is a DNA virus which induce many Illnesses in Humans like cold and Respiratory Infections.
2. It is used as a tool to deliver genes or vaccine antigens to the Target Host Tissue

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:

- Adenoviruses (ADVs) are DNA viruses ranging from 70-90 nanometre in size, which induce many illnesses in humans like cold, respiratory infection etc.
- Adenoviruses are preferred for vaccines because their DNA is double stranded which makes them genetically more stable and the chances of them changing after injection are lower.
- Rabies vaccine is an adenovirus vaccine.
- Adenovirus vaccines are a type of viral vector vaccine.
- In this vaccine, adenovirus is used as a tool to deliver genes or vaccine antigens to the target Host Tissue.
- However, there are drawbacks of adenovirus vector vaccines like pre-existing Immunity in Humans, Inflammatory Responses etc.
- Just as human bodies develop immune responses to most real viral infections, they also develop immunity to adenoviral vectors. Since adenoviral vectors are based on natural viruses that some humans might already have been exposed to, these vaccines might not work for everyone.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Currency Depreciation in India:

1. Currency depreciation increases the country's export activity.
2. Travel to India gets costly.

3. People Receiving Remittances from abroad are Gainers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Currency Depreciation is a fall in the value of a currency in a floating exchange rate system.
- In a floating exchange rate system, market forces (based on demand and supply of a currency) determine the value of a currency.
- Currency depreciation increases a country's export activity as its products and services become cheaper to buy.
- Foreign tourists are the gainers of currency depreciation, as travel to India gets cheaper (not costly).

Impact of Depreciating Rupee:

Losers:

- ✓ People Importing from outside.
- ✓ People seeking foreign education.
- ✓ People travelling abroad.
- ✓ People investing abroad.
- ✓ People seeking medical treatment abroad etc.

Gainers:

- ✓ People exporting from India.
- ✓ People receiving remittances from abroad or Non Resident Indian (NRI).

10. In context to the Bonded Labour in India, Consider the Following Statements:

1. It is the payment of wages that are below the prevailing market wages and legal Minimum Wages.
2. The Constitution of India prohibits forced labour under Article 23.

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 Supreme Court of India has interpreted bonded labour as the payment of wages that are below the prevailing market wages and Legal Minimum Wages.
- The Constitution of India prohibits forced labour under Article 23 (Fundamental Rights).
- **Article 23:** Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.
- Bonded labour was historically associated with Rural Economies where peasants from Economically Disadvantaged

Communities were bound to work for the landlords.

- Bonded labour is found to exist in both rural and urban pockets in unorganized industries such as brick kilns, stone quarries, coal mining, agricultural labour, domestic servitude, circus, and Sexual Slavery.



1. In the Context to the Monsoon in India, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. IMD's official definition on Normal Monsoon in India is designated as 89 cm of rainfall.
2. It also recently changed the official onset of monsoon dates in various cities but the onset of monsoon in mainland India remains the same.

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:

- IMD has also officially redefined the definition of what constitutes 'normal' rainfall and reduced it by 1 cm to 88 cm. So, statement 1 is not correct.
- ✓ "Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 100% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 5\%$. The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm.
- It also gave new dates for the monsoon's onset in several cities as part of an update, which it said was essential for a variety of economic activities ranging from agricultural planning to power distribution.

- The onset over Kerala, which marks the arrival of the monsoon into mainland India, will continue to be June 1. There is no change in the final withdrawal date over south India, i.e., 15th October". So, statement 2 is correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. A person can be named a Fugitive Economic offender if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape Legal Action.
2. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 seeks to confiscate properties of economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing criminal prosecution.
3. Offences involving amounts of Rs. 100 crore or more only fall under the purview of this law.

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 person can be named an offender under this law if there is an Arrest Warrant against him or her for committing any

offence listed in the schedule of the act and for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape Legal Action.

- Major criteria that have to be satisfied are:

✓ The Person has left the country to avoid facing prosecution.

✓ He refuses to return to India to face prosecution.

- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 seeks to confiscate properties of economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing criminal prosecution.

- Offences involving amounts of Rs. 100 crore or more fall under the purview of this law.

- Some of the offences listed in the schedule of the bill are-counterfeiting government stamps or currency, cheque dishonour for insufficiency of funds, money laundering, transactions defrauding creditors etc.

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

3. 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.**

4. 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.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Chilika lake:

1. It is the world's second-largest lagoon.
2. It is designated as the first Indian wetland under the Ramsar Convention.
3. It lies on the east coast of India.

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:

- Chilika is Asia's largest and the world's second-largest lagoon.
- It lies on the east coast of India in the state of Odisha, separated from the mighty Bay of Bengal by a small strip of sand.

- It spreads over Puri, Khurda, and Ganjam districts of Odisha on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 square kilometers.
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent and is home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- A major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off Satapada Island.
- The large Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds) covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987.
- Kalijai Temple - Located on an island in Chilika Lake.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Pterosaurs:

1. It was a reptile species, close to Dinosaurs.
2. It is the first animals after insects to evolve powered flight.
3. The Monkeydactyl fossil recently discovered belongs to the Pterosaur species.

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:

- The Pterosaur species were reptiles, close cousins of dinosaurs and the first animals after insects to evolve powered flight.
- They evolved into various species, while some were as large as an F-16 fighter jet, others were as small as paper airplanes.
- They flourished during all periods (Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous) of the Mesozoic Era (252.2 million to 66 million years ago).
- Recently, a new pterosaur fossil has been discovered in the Tiaojishan Formation of Liaoning, China, and is thought to be 160 million years old.
- It has been named as Kunpengopterus antipollicatus and dubbed Monkeydactyl. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- “Antipollicatus” in ancient Greek means “opposite thumbs”, and it was attached to the name because the researchers’ findings could be the first discovery of a pterosaur with an opposed thumb.
- It could likely be the earliest-known instance of the limb.

7. In context to Aahaar Kranti Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It will focus on addressing the problem of hunger and diseases in abundance across India and the world.
2. It will focus on training teachers who, in turn, will pass on the messages about nutrition to the students.

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 Government has launched 'Aahaar Kranti', a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition.
- The initiative 'Aahaar Kranti' will focus on addressing the problem of hunger and diseases in abundance across India and the world

Implementation Strategy:

- The messages will be imparted through the curriculum in the form of 'what's and 'why's of nutrition, or through the forms of games or as instructions such as 'how to'.
- The content will be provided both online and offline, in all vernacular languages besides English and Hindi.

- The programme will focus on training teachers, who, in turn, will pass on the message to the multitudes of students, and through them to their families and finally the Society at Large.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to public debt:

1. It is the total liabilities of the central Government contracted against the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. It excludes liabilities contracted against Public Account.
3. Government securities (G-Secs) and Treasury Bills are sources of public debt.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Union government classifies its liabilities into two broad categories.
- The debt contracted against the Consolidated Fund of India is defined as public debt and includes all other funds received outside Consolidated Fund of India under Article 266 (2) of the Constitution, where the government merely acts as a banker or custodian.

- The second type of liabilities is called Public Account.
- Public debt excludes liabilities contracted against Public Account.
- Government securities (G-Secs), treasury bills, External Assistance, and short-term borrowings are sources of public debt.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR):

1. It is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
2. India is not a signatory to ICESR.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The ICESCR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- India is a signatory to ICESR.
- The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) was set up in 1985 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

- It was constituted with an aim to monitor on its behalf the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR).

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Uranium:

1. Natural uranium consists of nearly 99% U-238 and only around 0.7% of U-235.
2. U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a Chain Reaction in a Nuclear Reactor.
3. Nuclear reactors require Highly Enriched Uranium with enrichment of up to 90% or more.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Natural uranium consists of nearly 99% U-238 and only around 0.7% of U-235.
- U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a chain reaction in a nuclear reactor.
- Enrichment of up to 3-4% is required for nuclear reactors, which is known as Low Enriched Uranium.
- Enrichment of up to 90% or more is required for nuclear weapons. This is known as Highly Enriched Uranium or weapons-grade Uranium.

1. Consider the following with respect to the Small Finance Banks (SFB):

1. The minimum paid-up equity capital is Rs. 1000 crores.
2. They have no obligations to meet the CRR and SLR requirements as they are not covered under the regular formal banking system.
3. Small finance banks can issue both credit and debit cards, as well as internet banking facilities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Eligibility – Professionals with 10 years of experience in banking / finance / Micro Finance Institutions.
- The minimum capital requirement is Rs 100 crore (minimum paid-up equity capital).
- Local focus and ability to serve smaller customers will be a key criterion in licensing such banks.
- The bank shall primarily undertake basic banking activities of accepting deposits and lending to small farmers, small businesses, micro and small industries, and unorganized sector entities. It cannot set up

subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities. After the initial stabilization period of five years, and after a review, the RBI may liberalize the scope of activities for Small Banks.

- The area of operations would normally be restricted to few districts (near-by) of a state. However, if necessary, it would be allowed to expand its area of operations beyond contiguous districts in one or more states with reasonable geographical proximity.
- Small Banks have to meet RBI's norms and regulations regarding risk management. They have to meet CRR and SLR requirements, like any other commercial bank.
- The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to single/group borrowers/issuers would be restricted to 15 per cent of capital funds.
- For the first three years, 25 per cent of branches should be in unbanked rural areas.
- Of the loans issued by Small Banks, 75% should be to the so-called priority sector which includes agriculture and small businesses. And half the loan portfolio of the banks should be loans and advances of up to Rs.25 lakh to micro finance businesses. A robust risk management framework should be followed and the banks would be subject to all prudential norms and regulations that are set by RBI.

- (These norms are similar to the ones that are applicable to the existing commercial banks, like maintaining CRR & SLR etc.,).
2. With reference to the difference between the Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks, consider the following statements:
1. While Payment banks can undertake both deposit and lending activity, the Small Finance Banks cannot lend loans.
 2. The Payment Banks cannot accept deposits more than Rs 1 lakh, while the Small Finance Banks has no restrictions like Payment Banks.

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:

- Both Payment Banks and Small Finance Banks are the differentiated banks which have been set up to promote financial inclusion. While Small Finance Banks can undertake both deposit and lending activity, the Payment banks cannot lend Loans.
- Further, the Payment Banks cannot accept deposits more than Rs 1 lakh. The Payment Banks need to invest 75 per cent of their deposits in government securities with

maturity up to one year, and the balance 25 per cent with the Commercial Banks.

3. *Eudiscopus denticulus*, a bat species was discovered for the first time in India in which state?
- (a) Meghalaya
 - (b) Arunachal Pradesh
 - (c) Kerala
 - (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A team of scientists of Zoological Survey of India, Shillong and scientists from a few European natural history museums have recently reported a very specialized bamboo dwelling bat species called *Eudiscopus denticulus* in Meghalaya.
- The bat species was found in Lailad, near Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary in Meghalaya has so far been unknown from India.
- The *Eudiscopus denticulus* is very distinctive in appearance with prominent disk like pads in the thumb and bright orange colouration.
- From the modifications in the feet, it was presumed to be a bamboo dwelling species which was later identified as a disk-footed bat.
- This bat is reported to roost inside bamboo Internodes aided by their adhesive disks.

- So far, this species is known from a few localities in Southern China, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar.
- This new locality in Meghalaya is about 1000km westward range extension of the species and the present record has added an additional genus (a category above species) and species to the bat fauna of India.

4. Recently India was put under the Currency Watch List by which of the following?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) European Union
- (c) IMF
- (d) U.S.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The U.S. Treasury has released the report on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States.
- The April 2021 edition of the semi-annual report is the first from the Biden Administration.
- The report is submitted to the U.S. Congress and reviews currency practices of the U.S.'s 20 biggest trading partners.
- India is one of the 11 countries on the 'Monitoring List' with regard to their currency practices.
- India was on the list in the December 2020 report as well.

- The other 10 countries on the list with India are China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Mexico.
- India met two of the three criteria — the trade surplus criterion and the "persistent, one-sided intervention" criterion.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM):

1. NAM is a parallel marketing structure and an instrument to create a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online.
2. The launching of e-platform for marketing of agriculture products is being done with the aim to provide more options to farmers to sell their produce.
3. Farmers have actively involved in e-NAM since its introduction in 2016.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **NAM is an online platform with a physical market or mandi at the Backend.** NAM is not a parallel marketing

structure but rather an instrument to create a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online.

- It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level.
- The launching of e-platform for marketing of agriculture products is being done with the aim to provide more options to farmers to sell their produce.
- This initiative is part of implementation of the roadmap for doubling income of the farmers by 2022.
- Since its introduction in 2016, only 1.6 crore farmers have registered on the portal so far, from among the almost 12 crore cultivators in the country. According to data presented in the Lok Sabha in June, only about half of those registered have benefited from the platform.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Right to Freedom of Movement:

1. The Article 19 of the Indian Constitution provides the freedom to move inside as well as outside the country.
2. It is available to the citizens of India, foreigners and legal persons like companies.

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:

- Right to Freedom of movement is guaranteed under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
- The freedom of movement has two dimensions, viz, internal (right to move inside the country) and external (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country).
- Article 19 protects only the first dimension. The second dimension is dealt by Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).
- This right is protected against only state action and not private individuals. Moreover, it is available only to the citizens and to shareholders of a company but not to foreigners or legal persons like companies or corporations, etc.

Tag: Polity and Governance

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) system:

1. It is a Centralised Payment System of the RBI.

2. In this system, the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches.
3. It is generally used for transfers of up to Rs. 2 lakh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) system is the Centralised Payment Systems (CPSs) of the RBI.
- It is an electronic fund transfer system in which the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches.
- It is generally used for fund transfers of up to Rs. 2 lakh.
- The Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System is the Centralised Payment Systems (CPSs) of the RBI.
- It enables real-time transfer of funds to a beneficiary's account and is primarily meant for large-value transactions.
- Real time means the processing of instructions at the time they are received and gross settlement implies that settlement of funds transfer instructions occurs individually.

- The Cheque Truncation System (CTS) and the Express Cheque Clearing System (ECCS) are the decentralised payment systems of RBI.

Tag: Science and Technology

8. In context to Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), Consider the Following Statements:

1. It is a severe hyperinflammatory condition in children that occurs weeks after a Covid-19 infection.
2. Young people with the MIS-C syndrome may have neurological issues like Hallucinations and Confusion.

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:

- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is a rare but severe hyperinflammatory condition in children and adolescents that typically occurs 2-6 weeks after a Covid-19 infection.
- It is a potentially deadly condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or Gastrointestinal Organs.

- In a recent study, young people with the MIS-C syndrome have shown neurological issues which were life-threatening such as strokes or severe encephalopathy (any brain disease that alters brain function or structure).
- Neurological symptoms include Hallucinations, confusion, speech impairments, and problems with balance and Coordination.
- The new findings strengthen the theory that the syndrome is related to a surge of inflammation triggered by an immune Response to the Virus.

Explanation:

- Recently, the United States (US) placed 11 countries, including India in the Currency Practices Monitoring List (Currency Manipulators Watch List).
- India was on the list in the December 2020 report as well. In 2019, the US Treasury Department had removed India from its currency Manipulator watch list of major Trading Partners.
- Currency Manipulator is a label given by the US government to countries it feels are engaging in “unfair currency practices” by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar.
- The practice would mean that the country in question is artificially lowering the value of its currency to gain an unfair advantage over others.
- This is because the devaluation would reduce the cost of exports from that country and artificially show a reduction in trade Deficits as a result.

Tag: Economy

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to the USA’s Currency Manipulators Watch List:

1. A country included in the list is in suspicion of artificially increasing the value of its currency to gain an unfair advantage over others.
2. For the consecutive two years, India has stayed out of the Watch List.

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: c)

Tag: Science and Technology

10. In context to Ultra White Paint, consider the following statements:

1. It was created by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It reflects 99% of all light that hits it, remaining significantly cooler than the ambient temperature, even when sitting in Full Sunlight..

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, a team of researchers from Purdue University have created an ultra-white paint. The newer paint is whiter and keeps the surface areas it is painted on cooler and thus can act as a breakthrough in combating the woes of global warming.
- The new ultra white white paint reflects 99% of all light that hits it, remaining significantly cooler than the ambient temperature, even when sitting in full sunlight.
- Typical commercial white paint gets warmer instead of cooler and paints currently available in the market reflect only 80-90% of the sunlight and therefore, they can't make surfaces cooler than their surroundings.
- Older formulations of white paints were made of calcium carbonate, while the new one is made up of barium sulphate making it more white.

1. Which of the following statements are true regarding SARFAESI Act 2002?

1. It aimed at fast recovery of loans and brings down the NPA level of Indian banking and financial sector.
2. The law has given unprecedented powers to banks and financial institutions to take over management control of loan defaulter or even capture its asset.
3. It is not applicable to Agricultural Land.
4. It is applicable to loans only above 10 lakhs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- To edite recovery of loans and bring down the non-performing assets level of the Indian banking and financial sector, the government in 2002 made a new law that promises to make it much easier to recover bad loans from willful defaulters.
- The law has given unprecedented powers to banks, financial institutions and asset reconstruction companies to take over management control of loan defaulter or even capture its asset.
- It is not applicable to agricultural land.

- It is applicable to loans only above 10 lakhs.

2. What are the possible ways to recover the NPAs in India?

1. SARFAESI Act, 2002
2. Debt Recovery Tribunal
3. Lok Adalat
4. Compromise Settlement
5. Credit information Bureau

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

1. SARFAESI ACT, 2002

- ✓ The SARFAESI empowers banks to deal with NPAs, without the involvement of court, through three alternatives:

1. Asset Reconstruction
2. Enforcement of Security
3. Securitization

- Any outstanding amount of more than ₹1 lakh can be dealt under SARFAESI. However, an amount that is less than 20% or principal and the interest amount is not considered under the Act. The Act also allows banks to:

1. To release a notice to borrower (and their guarantor) asking them to release the payment within 60 days from the receipt of notice.

2. To release notice to anyone who acquires the borrower's secured assets to produce the same to the bank.

3. To advise any of the borrower's debtors to pay off the loan due with the bank.

- In case of failure from the borrower's end with respect to the issue notice, the bank may:

1. Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower

2. Sell or lease the security

3. Manage the borrower's security or appoint someone to manage the same.

2. Debt Recovery Tribunals

- Brought into being existence in year 1993 by the Indian Parliament, the Act allows financial institutions to speedily recover dues of ₹10 lakhs and above. DRTs are capable of handling larger number of cases as compared to regular courts by cutting down delays in the Initial Proceedings.

3. Lok Adalats

- Small loans of ₹5 lakhs and less can be recovered through the Lok Adalats as per the guidelines issued by RBI in year 2001.

- This alternative for dispute redressal mechanism covers both suit and non-suit filed cases.

4. Compromise Settlement

- This scheme helps in recovery of NPAs up to ₹10 crores through a simplified non-discretionary mechanism.

5. Credit Information Bureau

- Third party agencies such as CIBIL help banks with data on the financial health of the borrower. The Credit Information Bureau maintains records of individual defaulters and shares it with the respective banks to aid them in making effective lending decisions. For this, banks may be charged a fee.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the 'National Anthem':

1. The National Anthem was first sung at the Calcutta session of the Congress on December 27, 1911.

2. According to the constitution of India, reverence to the National Anthem is a Fundamental duty 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: c)

Explanation:

- 'Jana Gana Mana' is the first stanza of the Bengali hymns 'Bharoto Bhagyo

Bidhata, written by Nobel Laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**.

- A slightly varied version of the song was adopted by Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army in 1941 as the national anthem, called '**Shubh Sukh Chain**', which also became popular in India.
- '**Jana Gana Mana**' was adopted as the country's National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly of India on **January 24, 1950**, the last day of its last session.
- Reverence to the National Anthem is a **Fundamental duty** in India. According to **Article 51A (a)** of the Constitution: "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem".

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- EPFO is a statutory body of Union Government that comes under the aegis of Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It is one of the largest social security organisations in India in terms volume of financial transactions undertaken and the number of covered beneficiaries.
- Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- The main functions of the EPFO: Administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and Insurance Scheme (1976).

4. With reference to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), consider the following statements:

1. EPFO is a statutory body of Union Government that comes under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. It administers the compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and Insurance Scheme (1976).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to The Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

1. It is a state bird of Rajasthan.
2. Its population is confined only to Rajasthan and Gujarat.
3. It is listed as critically endangered in IUCN Red List.

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:

- The Great Indian Bustard (GIB), the state bird of Rajasthan, is considered India's most critically endangered bird.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- The bird is under constant threats due to collision/electrocution with power transmission lines, hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan), habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.

Protection Status:

- International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List: Critically Endangered.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): **Appendix 1**
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): **Appendix I**
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule 1

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Aditya-L1 Mission:

1. It is India's first scientific expedition to study the Sun.

2. It will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
3. It will be placed in polar sun synchronous orbit.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Aditya-L1 Mission is India's first scientific expedition to study the Sun. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It will be ISRO's (Indian Space Research Organisation) second space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat, which was launched in 2015.
- ISRO categorises Aditya L1 as a 400 kg-class satellite that will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in XL configuration. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1 (Lagrangian point 1), which is 1.5 million km from the Earth. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Lagrange Points, named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange, are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two-body system (like the Sun and the Earth) produce

enhanced regions of attraction and Repulsion.

7. In context to the Kalinga Architecture, Consider the Following Statements:

1. The Kalinga style of temples comes under the Nagara style.
2. The hall of the temple is called jagmohan.

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 Indian temples are broadly divided into Nagara, Vesara, Dravida and Gadag styles of architecture.
- However, the temple architecture of Odisha corresponds to altogether a different category for their unique representations called Kalinga style of temple architecture.
- This style broadly comes under the Nagara style. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- In Kalinga Architecture, basically a temple is made in two parts, a tower and a hall. The tower is called deula and the hall is called Jagmohan. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The walls of both the deula and the Jagmohan are lavishly sculpted with architectural motifs and a profusion of figures.

- The most repeated form is the horseshoe shape, which has come from the earliest times, starting with the large windows of the chaitya-grihas.
- It is the deula which makes three distinct types of temples in Kalinga Architecture:
 - Rekha Deula.
 - Pidha Deula.
 - Khakhara Deula.
- The former two are associated with Vishnu, Surya and Shiva temples while the third is mainly with Chamunda and Durga temples.
- The Rekha Deula and Khakhara Deula houses the sanctum sanctorum while the Pidha Deula constitutes outer dancing and Offering Halls.

8. 'Heparin' recently in News is:

- (a) A blood thinner that has long been used in patients vulnerable to blood clots in their legs, lungs, heart or other body parts.
- (b) A class of proteins present in the serum and cells of the immune system, which Function as antibodies.
- (c) An experimental antiviral made by American pharmaceutical firm Gilead Sciences that was first developed to treat Ebola.
- (d) A vaccine candidate to be developed by Bharat Biotech India (BBIL) against the Novel Coronavirus.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Heparin is a blood thinner that has long been used in patients vulnerable to blood clots in their legs, lungs, heart or other body parts.
- It is used to reduce their risk of heart attacks, strokes and pulmonary embolism. Several patients with critical illnesses, including those requiring kidney dialysis, are given the Drug.

9. Consider the following statements about the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):

1. It is an atmosphere-ocean coupled Phenomenon in the Indian Ocean.
2. It is characterized by a difference in sea-surface temperatures.
3. It is the rapid upwelling of deep and shallow ocean currents near the eastern coast.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is an atmosphere-ocean coupled phenomenon in the Indian Ocean.
- It is characterised by a difference in sea-surface temperatures.

- IOD is the difference between the temperature of the eastern (Bay of Bengal) and the western Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea).

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The double mutant strain of SARS-CoV-2 reported in India is scientifically named B.1.617.
2. Studies have shown reduced efficacy of vaccines against the double mutant strain of SARS-CoV-2.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The double mutant strain of SARS-CoV-2 reported in India is scientifically named B.1.617.
- The double mutant Covid variant is a concern as the Union health ministry said in its statement that “such mutations confer immune escape and increased infectivity” to the Coronavirus.
- Studies have shown reduced efficacy of vaccines against the double mutant strain of SARS-CoV-2.

1. Which of the following weather events are Formed due to Precipitation?

1. Fog
2. Smog
3. Acid Rain
4. Smoke
5. Mists

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The main forms of precipitation include Drizzle, Rain, Sleet, Snow, Graupel (small particles of snow with a fragile crust of ice; soft hail), Hail, Fog, Smog, Mists.

2. With respect to the cryptocurrencies, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Cryptocurrencies use decentralized technology to let users make secure payments and store money without the need to use their name or go through a bank.
2. The most common cryptocurrencies are Bitcoin, Libra, Ethereum, Blockchain, etc.

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:

- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
- Cryptocurrencies use decentralized technology to let users make secure payments and store money without the need to use their name or go through a bank. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- They run on a distributed public ledger called blockchain, which is a record of all transactions updated and held by currency holders.
- The most common cryptocurrencies are Bitcoin, Libra, Ethereum, Ripple, and Litecoin. Blockchain is a technology and not a cryptocurrency like others. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had banned cryptocurrencies in 2018.
- RBI also stated that it poses several risks, including anti-money laundering and terrorism financing concerns (AML/CFT) for the state and liquidity, credit, and operational risks for users.
- It had also said that it would seriously consider developing a sovereign digital currency when the time is appropriate.

- Subsequently, the Supreme Court has struck down a circular of the RBI, which bans financial institutions from enabling deals in digital or cryptocurrencies.
- The ban was challenged by the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMA) sighting that dealing and trading in cryptocurrency was a legitimate business activity and that the RBI did not have jurisdiction over it as these assets could be classified as commodities rather than currency.

3. With reference to “Blockchain Technology” consider the following statements:

1. It is a public ledger that everyone can inspect, but which no single user controls.
2. The structure and design of blockchain is such that all the data in it are about cryptocurrency only.
3. Applications that depend on basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody’s Permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Blockchain technology is a decentralized Data Management Technology. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Blockchain Technology can be used for storing any type of data from Land records to vehicle ownership two transactions of cryptocurrency .**So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies & their wallets have been created by computer experts, without taking permission from any government or Central Bank. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. La Soufriere Volcano; which was erupted recently is located in

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Mauritius
- (c) Caribbean Islands
- (d) Andaman & Nicobar

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is an active stratovolcano on the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- A stratovolcano is a tall, conical volcano composed of one layer of hardened lava, tephra, and volcanic ash. These volcanoes are characterized by a steep profile and Periodic, Explosive Eruptions.
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, located in the southern Caribbean, consists of more

than 30 islands and cays, nine of which are inhabited.

- It is the highest peak in Saint Vincent and has had five recorded explosive eruptions since 1718, most recently in April 2021.
- The last time the volcano had erupted was in 1979.



Explanation:

- Dhruv Mk III is an indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV).
- It is a multi-role chopper with the Shakti engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- HAL is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bangalore, India. It is governed under the management of the Ministry of Defence.
- Recently, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the Dhruv Mk III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- The aircraft, a step up from Mk 1, will be able to mitigate low visibility during search and rescue operations even at night.
- It has a 0.7 mm gun, which will give a huge capability from a LIMO (low intensity maritime operations) Standpoint.
- The automatic flight control system is hugely superior to the Previous One.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Dhruv Mk III:

1. It is an indigenously developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
2. The aircraft is designed to mitigate low visibility during rescue operations at night.

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

6. With reference to National Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report, consider the following:

1. The report is a part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change Mission.
2. As per the report Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand are in the category of highly vulnerable states.

Answer: d)

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 Department of Science and Technology has released a report titled ‘The Report Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework’.
- It identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk and key drivers of Vulnerability.
- It is part of the capacity building programme under the two missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (total 8 missions).
- National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC).

Key Findings of the Report:

- Highly Vulnerable States: It identified Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal as states highly vulnerable to climate change.

- Low Vulnerable States: Uttarakhand, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Nagaland, Goa and Maharashtra.
- Highly Vulnerable Districts: Among all states, Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand have over 60% districts in the category of highly Vulnerable Districts.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Brus:

1. They are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs) in Mizoram.
2. They are referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
3. The Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) was created on the recommendation of Debhar Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Brus, also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

- In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state
- Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) is a government of India classification created with the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development indices. 75 tribal groups have been categorized by the Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.

8. In which of the following states are Bru (Reangs) recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group?

1. Assam
2. Tripura
3. Manipur
4. Mizoram

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Brus also known as the Reangs, are spread across Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- They are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in Tripura.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Khajuraho Group of Monuments:

1. It is a group of Hindu and Jain temples and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. They are known for their nagara-style architectural symbolism.
3. All the temples are made of sandstone.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Khajuraho Group of Monuments are a group of Hindu and Jain Temples in Madhya Pradesh patronised by Chandela Kings.
- The Khajuraho Group of Monuments are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures.
- The temples at Khajuraho are all made of Sandstone.
- It is a UNESCO World heritage Site.

10. Consider the following statements with respect

to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC):

1. SARFAESI Act provides the legal basis for setting up ARCs in India.
2. There is no specific limit on the extent of debt an ARC can take over from banks.
3. The ARC can take over only secured debts which have been classified as a non-Performing Asset.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, provides the legal basis for setting up ARCs in India.
- There are no specific ceilings or flooring limits on the extent of debt an ARC can take over from Banks.
- The ARC can take over only secured debts which have been classified as a non-performing asset (NPA).

1. What are the Possible Implications of rupee

Appreciation in the Short Term?

1. Lower import cost of crude oil
2. Favorable impact on inflation
3. Adverse impact on export-oriented sectors
4. Adverse impact on Inbound Investment

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A stronger rupee will help India cut its crude import bill which will have a favourable impact on inflation in India.
- Exports will be expensive if the value of the Indian rupee appreciates because Indian products will be expensive compared to other competing nations. This will adversely impact India's export competitiveness and impact price-sensitive foreign trade-oriented sectors in India.
- The appreciation in rupee value may also adversely impact foreign investment into India. The primary reason for foreign investment in India is the cheap labour cost. Appreciating rupee value may not augur well for this scenario.

2. The proposed Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) is an economic agreement Between India and which of the following?

- (a) European Union
- (b) Japan
- (c) Russia
- (d) U.S.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) is a proposed economic engagement agreement between India and the EU.

3. Which of the following correctly describes the RESPOND programme of ISRO?

- (a) Addressing the socio-economic needs of the deprived sections through scholarship support
- (b) Establishing links with premier academic institutions to carry out research and Developmental Projects
- (c) Establishing collaborations with third world countries to support their development process
- (d) Addressing the needs of the agricultural sector through the use of space technology

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The main objective of the RESPOND Programme is to establish strong links with premier academic institutions in the

country to carry out research and developmental projects which are of relevance to space and derive useful outputs of such R&D to support ISRO programmes.

- RESPOND programme aims to enhance the academic base, generate quality human resources and infrastructure at the academic institutes to support the Indian Space Programme.
- Under RESPOND, projects in the advanced areas of relevance to the space programme are encouraged to be taken up by premier Universities/Academic Institutions.

4. The International Religious Freedom Report, 2020 was recently released by

- (a) Oxfam International
- (b) USCIRF
- (c) UNHRC
- (d) Amnesty International

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has downgraded India to the lowest ranking, “countries of particular concern” (CPC) in its International Religious Freedom, 2020 report.

5. World Press Freedom Index is released by

- (a) Reporters Sans Frontieres
- (b) WEF

(c) World Bank

(d) UNHRC

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or Reporters without Borders, is a Paris-based non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world.
- Its key publications are:
 - ✓ World Press Freedom Index
 - ✓ Predators of Press Freedom
 - ✓ Press Freedom Barometer

6. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the appointment of Ad-Hoc Judges?

1. The appointment of ad-hoc judges was not provided in the original Constitution.
2. Since the nominees have been judges before, the need to refer the matter to the IB or other agencies is not essential.
3. He will enjoy all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a judge of the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The appointment of ad-hoc judges was provided for in the Constitution under Article 224A. It was added as the Constitutional (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 1963.
 - Since the nominees have been judges before, the need to refer the matter to the IB or other agencies would not arise, shortening the time period of their appointment.
 - Under the Article, the Chief Justice of a High Court for any State may at any time, with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held the office of judge of that court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a judge of the High Court for that State.
 - Such a judge is entitled to such allowances as the president may determine. He will also enjoy all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a judge of the Supreme Court. But, he will not otherwise be deemed to be a judge of the Supreme Court.
 - Their tenure may vary on the basis of the need but “generally should be for a period between two and three years”.
7. When a woman is barred to enter her religious place to worship as her will, which of the following right is **not** violated?
- (a) Article 14
 - (b) Article 15
 - (c) Article 21

(d) Article 21 A

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- When a woman is barred to enter her religious place to worship as her will then that act of prohibition is void and unconstitutional as such practices are not only repugnant to the basic dignity of a woman as an individual but also violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25 of the Constitution.
- Article 21 A deals with Right to Education.

8. In context to the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The startup which has received monetary support under any other Central or State Government scheme would be eligible under this scheme.
2. It was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- It was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with an outlay of Rs. 945 Crore.

Some Eligibility Conditions:

- A startup, recognized by DPIIT, incorporated not more than 2 years ago at the time of application.
- Startups should not have received more than Rs. 10 lakh of monetary support under any other Central or State Government scheme.
- It will support an estimated 3,600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators in the next 4 years.
- An Experts Advisory Committee (EAC), constituted by DPIIT, will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Scheme.

9. In context to “RESPOND Programme”, consider the following statements:

1. It was started by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. It is a research sponsorship programme for encouraging academia to participate and contribute in various space related research Activities.

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, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will support eight joint research projects mooted by the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi.
- The ISRO has extended support to the projects under its RESPOND programme.
- ISRO started the RESPOND (Research Sponsored) programme in the 1970s, with the objective of encouraging academia to participate and contribute in various Space related research activities.
- Under the Programme, ISRO provides financial support for conducting research and development activities related to Space Science, Space Technology and Space Applications in Academic Institutions in India.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Vienna Convention:

1. The Convention is an international treaty that defines consular relations between independent states.

2. Article 36 of this Convention states that foreign nationals who are arrested or detained in the host country must be given notice without delay of their right to have their embassy or consulate notified of that arrest.
3. India approached the International Court of Justice against Pakistan for denial of consular access provided through this Convention in the Kulbushan Jadhav Case.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations is an international treaty that defines consular relations between independent states.
- A consul (who is not a diplomat), is a representative of a foreign state in a host country, who works for the interests of his countrymen.
- Article 36 of the Vienna Convention states that foreign nationals who are arrested or detained in the host country must be given notice without delay of their right to have their embassy or consulate notified of that arrest.

- If the detained foreign national so requests, the police must fax that notice to the embassy or consulate, which can then verify the detained person.
- The notice to the consulate can be as simple as a fax, giving the person's name, the place of arrest, and, if possible, something about the reason for the arrest or detention.
- India approached the ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access (provided through the Vienna Convention) to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence in the Kulbushan Jadhav Case.

1. 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".

2. 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.

3. Section 69A 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: b)

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.**

4. Consider the following statements regarding the ‘Paraquat’:

1. Paraquat is a toxic chemical that is widely used as an insecticide primarily used against Bollworms and Beetle Control.
2. There is no antidote to paraquat and is lethal to the consumers.
3. Paraquat is listed in the prior informed consent (PIC) of Rotterdam Convention.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Paraquat is a **toxic chemical** that is widely used as an **herbicide (plant killer)**, primarily for weed and grass control. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- Paraquat also figures on the list of 99 pesticides and herbicides the **Supreme Court to ban** in an ongoing case.
- Paraquat dichloride is being used for 25 crops in India, whereas it is approved to be used on only nine crops by the **Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee**. This is a **violation of the Indian Insecticides Act**.
- So far in India, only Kerala has banned the herbicide.

- There is **no antidote to this herbicide**, the consumers of which **complain of kidney, liver and lung problems. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Paraquat is **yet to be listed** in the **prior informed consent (PIC)** of **Rotterdam Convention. So, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It is an international treaty **on import/export of hazardous chemicals** signed in 1998.
- If it is in the chemical figures of the PIC, the exporting country has to take the importing nation's prior consent before exporting it.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA):

1. It is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under Pressure.
2. It makes use of Cryogenic Distillation Techniques of Gas Separation.
3. The process takes place at very low Temperatures.

Which of the given statement is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is a Technology used to separate some gas

Species from a mixture of gases under pressure.

- PSA operates at near-ambient temperatures (temperature relating to the immediate surroundings) and differs significantly from cryogenic Distillation techniques of Gas Separation.
- Cryogenic separation is a commercial Process that takes place at very low Temperature

6. Consider the following statements:

1. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommends to the US State Department, the names of countries as well as non-state actors engaging in or tolerating violation of Religious Freedom.
2. USCIRF recommendations are non-binding.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- USCIRF is an independent bi-partisan Commission.
- It was created by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998.
- USCIRF's principal responsibilities are to review the facts and circumstances of

violations of religious freedom internationally and to make policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and the Congress.

- In its Annual Report, USCIRF describes threats to religious freedom around the world and recommends to the State Department countries for designation as “countries of particular concern” (CPCs) for engaging in or tolerating “systematic, ongoing, egregious violations.”
- USCIRF also recommends to the State Department that non-state actors cited for similarly severe violations be designated as “entities of particular concern” (EPCs).
- The USCIRF recommendations are non-binding.

7. Consider the following statements about the World Press Freedom Index:

1. It is published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
2. It is an indicator of the quality of Journalism in each country or region.
3. It does not rank public policies.

Which of the given statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- World Press Freedom Index is published every year since 2002 by Reporters without Borders (RSF), a French non-Governmental Organisation.
- The Index ranks 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to Journalists.
- It is a snapshot of the media freedom situation based on an evaluation of pluralism, independence of the media, quality of legislative framework and safety of journalists in each country and region.
- It does not rank public policies even if Governments obviously have a major impact on their country’s ranking.
- It is not an indicator of the quality of Journalism in each country or region.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA):

1. The annual conference of BFA is held in China.
2. India is a member of the BFA.

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 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) is an international not for profit organization which was jointly initiated by 26 member states in 2001, the members have now increased to 29.
- India is also a member of the BFA.
- Its annual conference is held in Boao, Hainan province of China on a regular basis. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The establishment of BFA is modelled on the lines of the World Economic Forum which bases its annual meeting in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. Thus earning the name of ‘Davos of the East’.
- The founding purpose of BFA was to promote economic integration in Asia. Its mission now is to pool positive energy for the development of Asia and the world.
- Its five focal areas include technology innovation, health, education, culture and Media in response to the New Economy

9. In context to Coal Gasification, consider the following statements:

1. It is the process of converting coal into Syngas.
2. The hydrogen obtained from coal gasification can be used for various purposes such as powering a hydrogen Economy.
3. India is yet to set a target for coal Gasification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Coal gasification is the process of converting coal into synthesis gas (also called syngas), which is a mixture of hydrogen (H₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- The syngas can be used in a variety of applications such as in the production of electricity and making chemical products, such as Fertilisers.
- The hydrogen obtained from coal gasification can be used for various purposes such as making ammonia, powering a Hydrogen Economy.
- In-situ gasification of coal–or Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)–is the technique of converting coal into gas while it is still in the seam and then extracting it through wells.
- India has set the target that by 2030 it will gasify 100 million tonne of coal under four major projects with an overall investment of Rs. 20,000 crore.

10. With reference to the ‘Global Youth Mobilization’ initiative, consider the following Statements:

1. It is launched for youths in communities impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. It is supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations (UN) Foundation.

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, an initiative called the ‘Global Youth Mobilization’ has been launched for youths in communities impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- It is a movement of young people taking action to improve their lives now and in a post-Covid-19 World.
- It aims to address the negative impact of the pandemic on young people and support them to build back Better.
- It is supported by the world’s six largest youth organisations, World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations (UN) Foundation.

- There are an estimated 1.2 billion young people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic response measures.
- Disruptions to education, employment, services and social support have changed the future of an Entire Generation.
- Funding: With support from the Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund, Global Youth Mobilization will support and scale-up youth-led solutions and youth engagement programs across the world.
- The Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund was established by the WHO with the help of the UN Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

1. Sendai Framework, sometimes seen in News is related to

- (a) Eradicating AIDS by 2040
- (b) Building User Friendly Environment for Differently able persons
- (c) Disaster Management
- (d) Universal Education for all

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The SFDRR 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:
 - ✓ Understanding Disaster Risk;
 - ✓ Strengthening disaster risk Governance to manage Disaster Risk;
 - ✓ Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and;
 - ✓ Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and Reconstruction.
- It aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years.
- The Framework was adopted at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015.

2. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Program (GSLEP), sometimes seen in news comprises of which of the following countries?

- 1. Kazakhstan
- 2. Tajikistan
- 3. Turkmenistan
- 4. Kyrgyzstan
- 5. Uzbekistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- GSLEP comprises of Russia, China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Among the 5 Central Asian countries Turkmenistan is not present in the GSLEP.

3. 3. With respect to the powers of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the UT of J&K, Consider the Following Statements:

- 1. Police, public order, All India Services and anti-corruption, will fall under the executive functions of the LG, implying that the Chief Minister or the Council of Ministers will have no say in their functioning.

2. In case of difference of opinion between the LG and a Minister when no agreement could be reached even after a month, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor shall be deemed to have been accepted by the Council of Ministers.

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:

- Both the statements are correct.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Blue Flag Tag for Beaches:

1. The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the German Based international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation Greenwatch.
2. Eight Beaches from India were recently accorded Blue Flag Tag which includes Kasarkod and Padubidri beach.
3. Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively.

Which of the statement(s) 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: c)

Explanation:

- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Eight Beaches from India were recently accorded Blue Flag Tag which includes Kasarkod and Padubidri beach. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Disaster Management Act, 2005:

1. The act puts into place a systematic structure of institutions at the national, state and district levels for disaster management.
2. The Act designates the Ministry of Home Affairs as the nodal ministry for steering the overall national disaster management.
3. The National Executive Committee is tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and Effective Response Mechanisms.

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

Management Authority in the performance of its Functions.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Disaster Management Act was passed by the government of India in 2005 for the 'efficient management of disasters and other matters connected to it. However it came into force in January 2006.
- It puts into place a systematic structure of institutions at the national, state and district levels.
- The objective of the act is to manage disasters, including preparation of mitigation strategies, capacity-building and more.
- Definition of a "disaster" in Section 2 (d) of the DM Act states that a disaster means a "catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man made causes.
- The Act designates the Ministry of Home Affairs as the nodal ministry for steering the overall national disaster management.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under this act, is tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and effective response mechanisms.
- The National Executive Committee (NEC) is constituted under Section 8 of the DM Act to assist the National Disaster

6. In context to the AIM-PRIME program, consider the following statements:

1. It promotes science based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance.
2. This nationwide programme was launched by Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with World Bank

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:

- AIM-PRIME program is launched to promote science based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.
- Deep technology is based on tangible engineering innovation or scientific advances and discoveries. Deep Tech is often set apart by its profound enabling power, the differentiation it can create, and its potential to catalyse change.
- Atal Innovation Mission has collaborated with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide programme which will be implemented by

Venture Centre - a non-profit technology business incubator hosted by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research– National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL).

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Blue Flag Certification:

1. To qualify for the blue flag certification, all the criteria must be met and maintained compulsorily.
2. Blue flag beaches are considered as the cleanest beaches of the world.
3. The Golden beach, Odisha and Kappad beach, Kerala are the only two Indian beaches to receive blue flag certification.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
- In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental,

educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.

- There are around 33 criteria that are to be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification,
- Such as the water meeting certain quality standards, having waste disposal facilities, being disabled- friendly, having first aid equipment, and no access to pets in the main areas of the Beach.
- Some criteria are voluntary and Some Compulsory.

8. India draws its human rights obligations from:

1. Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN
3. Rights guaranteed by the Constitution

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- There is an apparent impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on drafting Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Indian Constitution.
- Every citizen is Guaranteed Basic human rights under the Indian Constitution.
- India has acceded to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN.

- As per the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established in 1993 as an independent statutory body as a watchdog of Human rights in the Country.

- Gandhi did support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
- Consequent to the breaking of the Salt Law by the Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the Colonial Rulers.

9. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of ‘indentured labour’.
2. In Lord Chelmsford’s ‘War Conference’, Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent to the breaking of the Salt Law by the Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the Colonial Rulers.

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: b)

Explanation:

- The indentured labour system soon died after Gandhi left South Africa. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of ‘indentured labour’.

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

1. ASEAN grouping is open for membership to all countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. No ASEAN country shares a land border with India.
3. India is one of the founding members of ASEAN.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- ASEAN was founded in 1967 with five members: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. India is not a founding member.
- It is headquartered in Jakarta.
- Myanmar which is a member of ASEAN shares its land border with India.
- ASEAN grouping is not open for membership to all countries in the Asia-Pacific region. ASEAN is an organisation of South-East Asian Nations only.

1. Which of the following is/are In situ Bioremediation Techniques?

1. Bioventing
2. Biopiles
3. Biosparging
4. Bioreactors
5. Bioaugmentation

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Biopiles and Bioreactors represent ex situ Bioremediation Techniques

2. With reference to Detritus Food Chain (DFC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is made up of decomposers which are Heterotrophic Organisms, mainly fungi and Bacteria.
2. In a terrestrial ecosystem, a much larger fraction of energy flows through the detritus food chain than through the Grazing Food Chain (GFC)

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Detritus food chain is the type of food chain that starts with dead organic materials. The dead organic substances are decomposed by microorganisms. The organisms that feed on dead organic matter or detritus, are known as detritivores or decomposers. These detritivores are later eaten by predators. In the detritus food chain, the excreted products by one organism is utilized by another organism.
- The detritus food chain helps in solving Inorganic Nutrients.
- Compared to other kinds of food chains, the detritus food chain has much larger energy flow in a terrestrial ecosystem.

3. 'Evil Quartet' is related to

- (a) Ozone layer depletion
- (b) Industrial Revolution and its impact on Environment
- (c) Loss of Biodiversity
- (d) Oil Exploration risks for the marine life

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The four major causes of loss of biodiversity are
- Habitat Loss and Fragmentation
- Over Exploitation
- Alien Species Invasions
- Co-extinctions

4. In the context to the ways and means advance, which of the statement(s) is/are correct?

1. They are temporary loan facilities provided by RBI to the government to enable it to meet temporary mismatches between revenue and expenditure.
2. The government makes an interest payment to the central bank when it borrows money.
3. The rate of interest is the 1 percent greater than the repo rate, while the tenure is three months.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The WMA scheme for the Central Government was introduced on April 1, 1997, after putting an end to the four-decade old system of adhoc (Temporary) Treasury Bills to Finance the Central Government deficit.
- They are temporary loan facilities provided by RBI to the government to enable it to meet temporary mismatches between revenue and expenditure.
- The government makes an interest payment to the central bank when it borrows money.
- The rate of interest is the same as the repo rate, while the tenure is three months.

- The limits for WMA are mutually decided by the RBI and the Government of India.
- They aren't a source of finance per se. Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments subject to their being repayable "not later than three months from the date of the making of the advance". When the WMA limit is crossed the government takes recourse to overdrafts, which are not allowed beyond 10 consecutive working days.
- The interest rate on overdrafts would be 2 percent more than the repo rate.
- There are two types of Ways and Means Advances — normal and special.
 - ✓ Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility is provided against the collateral of the government securities held by the state. After the state has exhausted the limit of SDF, it gets normal WMA. The interest rate for SDF is one percentage point less than the repo rate.
 - ✓ The number of loans under normal WMA is based on a three-year average of actual revenue and capital Expenditure of the state.

5. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of India?

1. The Judges Inquiry Act mandates the outgoing Chief Justice of India to select the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court Judge as the next CJI.
2. The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the Incumbent CJI.

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:

- The Chief Justice of India is traditionally appointed by the outgoing Chief Justice of India on the day of his (or her) retirement.
- By convention, the outgoing Chief Justice of India selects the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge. Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by:
 - ✓ The date a judge was appointed to the Supreme Court.
 - ✓ If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day.
 - ✓ The one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another.

✓ If both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would ‘win’ in the seniority stakes.

✓ An appointment from the bench would ‘trump’ in seniority an appointee from the bar.

- The Constitution of India does not have any provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI. Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution says there “shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India”.

- The closest mention is in Article 126, which deals with the appointment of an acting CJI.

- In the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure relies on custom and convention.

- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:

✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.

✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any

✓ qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.

- ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
- ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.

- ✓ Theoretical or Technical expertise in specialized fields such as in IT, finance, accounting, architecture, engineering, mathematics, science, medicine, etc.
- ✓ Any Professional Level job that usually requires a bachelor's degree or higher can come under the H-1B visa for specialty occupations.

6. With respect to H1-B Visa, Consider the Following Statements:

1. It is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ graduate level foreign workers in specialty occupations.
2. H-1B visa holders can bring their spouse and children under 21 years of age to the US under the H4 Visa category as dependents.
3. A person holding H1-B Visa is automatically considered as the Green Card Holder, who becomes permanent resident of US.

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: b)

Explanation:

- It is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ graduate level foreign workers in specialty occupations. **So, statement 1 is correct.** Specialty occupations requires:

- The US H1-B visa is designed to be used for staff in specialty occupations. H-1B has an **option of green card application. So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- H-1B visa holders can bring their spouse and children under 21 years of age to the US under the H4 Visa category as dependents. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- An H4 Visa holder is allowed to remain in the US as long as the H-1B visa holder remains in legal status.
- While an H4 visa holder is not eligible to work in the US, they may attend school, obtain a driver's license and open a bank account while in the US.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the absolute liability principle, a party is not liable and need not pay compensation if a hazardous substance escapes his premises by accident or by an “act of God” among other Circumstances.
2. Under the strict liability principle, the apex court held that a company in a hazardous Industry Cannot Claim any Exemption.

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: c)

Explanation:

- Under the “strict liability principle”, a party is not liable and need not pay compensation if a hazardous substance escapes his premises by accident or by an “act of God” among other circumstances.
- Under the absolute liability principle, the apex court held that a company in a hazardous industry cannot claim any exemption.
- **Since both terms are interchanged both the statements are not correct.**

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Sheep Pox:

1. It is also known as Hog Cholera.
2. The virus of sheep pox is closely related to the Virus of lumpy skin disease.
3. The Disease is confined to Asia only.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Sheep Pox is a severe viral disease in Sheep and its virus is closely related to the Goat (capripoxviruses).
- Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is also known as hog cholera. It is an important disease of pigs.
- The virus is also related to the virus of lumpy skin disease.
- The disease is very serious, often fatal, characterized by widespread skin eruption.
- It is confined to parts of south eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia.

9. In context to the Harlequin Ichthyosis disorder, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare genetic skin disorder to a Newborn infant.
2. This Disorder affects only male Population.

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:

- Harlequin Ichthyosis is a rare genetic skin disorder to a newborn infant. It’s a type of ichthyosis, which refers to a group of disorders that cause persistently dry, scaly skin all over the body.

- It is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern.
- It can be caused by changes (mutations) in the ABCA12 gene.
- Newborn infants are covered with plates of thick skin that crack and split apart and can restrict breathing and eating.
- Premature birth is typical, leaving the infants at risk for complications from early delivery.

Affected Population:

- It affects males and females in equal numbers.
- It affects approximately one in 5,00,000 persons.
- There are around 250 such cases across the world.

Treatment:

- A newborn with Harlequin ichthyosis requires neonatal intensive care, which may include spending time in a heated incubator with high humidity

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The WHO has also identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025 under its 'E-2025 Initiative'.
- In 2017, WHO launched the E-2020 initiative to support a group of countries to achieve zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2020.
- Building on the successes of the E-2020, WHO has identified a new group of 25 countries that have the potential to stamp out Malaria within a 5-year Timeline.
- After entering the human body, parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their Rupture.
- It is preventable as well as Curable.

10. In context to Malaria, consider the following statements:

1. E-2025 is a program launched by WHO to globally eradicate malaria by 2025.
2. Parasites causing malaria multiply within the liver cells.
3. It is both Curable and Preventable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. Which one of the following statements about the provisions of the Constitution of India is Correct?

- (a) Constitution defines who minorities are.
- (b) Only linguistic, ethnic and religious minorities find mention under Article 30.
- (c) Minorities can establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- (d) An educational institution established by a religious minority loses its minority status on receiving financial aid from the Government.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The constitution does not define the term Minority.
- **Article 29** – Protection of Interests of Minorities This article is intended to protect the interests of minority groups.
- **Article 29(1):** This provides all citizen groups that reside in India having a distinct culture, language, and script, the right to conserve their culture and language. This right is absolute and there are no ‘reasonable restrictions’ in the interest of the general public here.
- **Article 29(2):** The State shall not deny admission into educational institutes maintained by it or those that receive aids from it to any person based on race, religion, caste, language, etc. This right is given to individuals and not any community.

- **Article 30** – Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institution This right is given to minorities to form and govern their own educational institutions. Article 30 is also called the “Charter of Education Rights”.
- **Article 30(1):** All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. (Read about Minority Protection in India in the linked article.)
- **Article 30(2):** The State should not, when granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language. Hence option c is the correct answer.

2. With respect to differences between Section 144 and Curfew, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Section 144 prohibits gathering of four or more people in the concerned area, while during curfew people are instructed to stay indoors for a particular period of time.
2. Section 144 also empowers the authorities to block the internet access while Markets, schools, colleges and offices remain closed under the curfew and only essential services are allowed to run on prior notice.

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:

- Both the statements are correct.

3. Who among the following are eligible for Postal Ballot System?

1. Members of the armed forces
2. Spouses of government employees posted outside India
3. Citizens above 80 years of age
4. Persons under Preventive Detention
5. Persons under Punitive Detention

Select the correct answers using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Seeking to make the procedure to opt for postal ballot more convenient for those above 80 years of age and people with disabilities, the Election Commission has come out with a set of new instructions.
- The form required to opt for the postal ballot would be delivered at the residence of all those above 80 years of age and

people with disabilities by the booth level officer under his polling station.

- It would be up to these two category of voters to opt for postal ballot.
- Others who can avail the facility are as follows:

- ✓ Members of the armed forces like the Army, Navy and Air Force, members of the armed police force of a state (serving outside the state), government employees posted outside India and their spouses are entitled to vote only by post.

- ✓ In other words, they can't vote in person. Voters under preventive detention can also vote only by post.

- ✓ Special voters such as the President of India, Vice President, Governors, Union Cabinet ministers, Speaker of the House and government officers on poll duty have the option to vote by post.

- ✓ But they have to apply through a prescribed form to avail this facility.

4. India is member to which of the following organisations?

1. ASEAN
2. RCEP
3. BIMSTEC
4. SAARC

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:

- The 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. India was never been a member of ASEAN.
 - India dropped out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in November 2019 at ASEAN+3 summit, because of increasing trade deficits with partner nations and increasing China-India tensions.
 - India is a member of both BIMSTEC and SAARC.
5. The 'Deep Time' project, that aimed at studying how people adapt to extreme changes in living conditions and environment caused by isolation and darkness, was held recently in Which country?
- (a) Switzerland
(b) France
(c) USA
(d) Germany

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Deep Time project was held in the Lombrives Cave in France.

- Deep Time project investigated how a lack of external contact would affect the sense of time.
- It aimed at studying how people adapt to drastic changes in living Conditions, Environments.

6. Which of the following statements is/are **Incorrect?**

1. India has procured the C-17 Globemaster from the USA.
2. It is manufactured by Boeing.
3. It is a large military transport aircraft used for tactical and strategic airlift missions to transport troops, cargo including heavy weaponry, medical evacuation and airdrop duties.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India has procured the C-17 Globemaster from the USA.
- C-17 Globemaster is manufactured by Boeing.
- It is a large military transport aircraft used for tactical and strategic airlift missions to transport troops, cargo including heavy weaponry, medical Evacuation and Airdrop Duties.

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

1. The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has been set up under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to allow reporting of cybercrimes.
2. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been established under the Ministry of Home Affairs to act as a nodal point in the fight against cybercrime.
3. I4C has envisaged the Cyber Crime Volunteers Program to bring together citizen volunteers on a single platform to help them contribute to the fight against cybercrime by flagging any unlawful content for facilitating law enforcement agencies.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has been set up under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been established under the Ministry of Home Affairs to act as a nodal point in the Fight against cybercrime.
- I4C has envisaged the Cyber Crime Volunteers Program to bring together

citizen volunteers on a single platform to help them contribute to the fight against cybercrime by Flagging any unlawful content for Facilitating law Enforcement Agencies.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Free and Open Source Software (FOSS):

1. It is free of cost software which has no constraints on copyrights.
2. The 'Aadhar' is built using FOSS.
3. The Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has announced the '#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge' to accelerate adoption of FOSS.

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: c)

Explanation:

- A Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) may also be referred to as Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) or Free/Open Source Software (F/OSS).
- It doesn't mean software is free of cost.
- The term "free" indicates that the software does not have constraints on copyrights.
- It allows other people also to contribute to the development and improvement of the software like a community.

- India's largest-government projects (including Aadhaar) and many technology start-ups have also been built using FOSS.
- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has announced #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge to accelerate adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in Government.

9. Consider the following statements, with reference to Exercise Varuna:

1. It is a bilateral maritime exercise of India and France.
2. For the first time UAE is participating in this Exercise.
3. It is part of the French carrier strike group's 'CLEMENCEAU 21' Deployment.

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:

- The Indian and French Navies have been conducting bilateral maritime exercises since 1993. Since 2001, these exercises have been called 'VARUNA'.
- These interactions further underscore the shared values as partner navies, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an

open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

- The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' is being conducted in the Arabian Sea.
- This is the first time that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is participating in the Varuna maritime exercise.
- The 'Varuna' joint exercise is part of the French carrier strike group's 'CLEMENCEAU 21' deployment, which the French Navy is conducting in the eastern Mediterranean, the Gulf and the Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea).
- Its goal is to contribute to the stabilization of these strategic zones and strengthening cooperation with the navies of partner countries, in particular India for the Indian Ocean component.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme:

1. It was Introduced to meet mismatches in the receipts and Payments of the Government.
2. The government can avail immediate cash from the RBI under WMA Scheme.
3. The government doesn't have to pay any interest to RBI for withdrawal under WMA Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

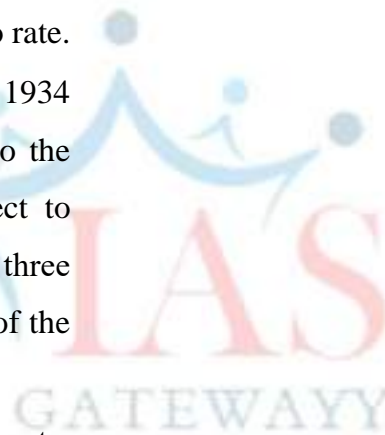
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme was introduced in 1997 to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- The Government can avail immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days
- Interest is charged at the existing repo rate.
- Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments subject to their being repayable “not later than three months from the date of the making of the advance”.
- Interest is charged at the existing repo rate. If the WMA exceeds 90 days, it would be treated as an overdraft (the interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- The limits for WMA (for Centre) are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.
- A higher limit provides the government flexibility to raise funds from RBI without borrowing them from the market.

- There are two types of Ways and Means Advances — normal and special.
- A Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility is provided against the collateral of the Government securities held by the state.
- After the state has exhausted the limit of SDF, it gets normal WMA.
- The interest rate for SDF is one percentage point less than the repo rate.
- The number of loans under normal WMA is based on a three-year average of actual revenue and capital expenditure of the State.



1. Consider the following statements, with regard

to Chandlers Good Governance Index

1. It is released by Singapore.
2. Sweden is ranked first in the Chandlers Good Governance Index.
3. India's Good Governance Index is released by NITI Aayog.

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: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI). **Finland has topped the list.**
- The CGGI is released by the Chandler Institute of Governance which is a private nonprofit organization headquartered in Singapore.
- The Index classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- India's Good Governance Index is launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to determine the status of governance in the country.
- It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.

2. Consider the following statements, with regard to PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust (PGInvIT)

1. It is the first InvIT to be listed in the Indian markets.
2. Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power

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 Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) has launched its Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) - PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust (PGInvIT).
- It is the first time a state-owned entity (PGCIL) is monetizing its infrastructure assets through the InvIT route.
- This will be only the third InvIT to be listed in the Indian markets, after IRB InvIT and India Grid Trust, both of which went public in 2017. The InvIT route was proposed by the Centre as an alternative fundraising route for state-run companies to manage Funding Requirements without having to depend on Government Support.

- Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) is a public limited company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- It is the largest power transmission company in India.
- It started its commercial operation in the year 1992-93 and is today, a Maharatna company.

3. Consider the following statements, with regard to PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust (PGInvIT)

1. It is a project of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
2. DANTAK was tasked to construct the pioneering motorable roads in Bhutan.
3. The BRO works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs

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:

- Project DANTAK was established on 24th April 1961. It is one of the oldest Projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) commemorating its Diamond Jubilee in Bhutan.

- It was a result of the visionary leadership of the third King of Bhutan and then Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- DANTAK was tasked to construct the Pioneering Motorable Roads.
- BRO was conceived and raised in 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for coordinating the speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country.
- It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. PM CARES Fund is not a Public Authority under the ambit of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, 2005.
2. The Atomic Energy Act, 1912 provides that it shall be an offence to disclose information restricted by the Central Government.
3. Whenever there is a conflict between the RTI Act and the Official Secrets Act (OSA), the provisions of the RTI Act overrides those of the OSA.

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:

- All the three statements are correct.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. A compulsory license is a license or authorisation issued by the government to an applicant for making, using and selling a patented product without the consent of the patentee.
2. The application for compulsory license can be made any time after 3 years from date of sealing of a patent.
3. Under the Section 92 of the Act compulsory licenses can also be issued suo motu by the Controller of Patents if there is either a national emergency or extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use.

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:

- All the three statements are correct.

6. 'COVIFOR' a medicine used to treat COVID-19, was sometimes seen in news is a generic version of

- (a) Hydroxy-Chloroquine
- (b) Chloroquine
- (c) Paracetamol
- (d) Remdesivir

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval to Hetero, a generic pharmaceutical company for Manufacturing and Marketing of the Investigational Antiviral Medicine 'Remdesivir' from for the treatment of COVID-19.
- Hetero's generic version of **Remdesivir** will be marketed under the brand name 'COVIFOR' in India.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI):

1. DCGI lays down standards and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India.
2. It acts as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding quality of drugs.
3. It also trains Drug Analysts deputed by State Drug Control Laboratories and other Institutions.

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:

- DCGI under gamut of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is responsible for approval of licenses of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, vaccines, IV fluids and sera in India.
- DCGI lays down standards and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India.
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It acts as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding quality of drugs.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- It prepares and maintains national reference standard.
- It brings about uniformity in enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- It trains Drug Analysts deputed by State Drug Control Laboratories and other Institutions.
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

8. Project DANTAK of Bhutan, involving Indian support, deals with?

(a) Carbon sequestration for reducing Greenhouse Gases

(b) Border security along Bhutan-China Border

(c) Creating critical Road and Essential Infrastructure

(d) Conservation of snow leopard and tiger Population

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Project DANTAK was established on April 24, 1961, as a result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty the Third King and then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. Identifying the utmost importance of connectivity in spurring the socio-economic development and growth of Bhutan, DANTAK was tasked with constructing the pioneering motorable roads in the Kingdom.
- Over the years, DANTAK has met the myriad infrastructure requirements in Bhutan.
- Project DANTAK is commemorating its Diamond Jubilee in Bhutan. Over 1,200 DANTAK personnel laid down their lives while constructing important infrastructure in Bhutan.

9. In India, which of the following can be considered as public Investment in Agriculture?

1. Fixing Minimum Support Price for Agricultural Produce of All Crops.
2. Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.
3. Social Capital Development.

4. Free electricity supply to farmers.
5. Waiver of agricultural loans by the Banking system.
6. Setting up of cold Storage Facilities by the Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- While fixing the Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce of all crops, providing free electricity supply to farmers and waiver of agricultural loans by the banking system do not result in any form of capital formation and constitute revenue expenditure for the state, the measures such as Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Social Capital Development and Setting up of cold storage facilities by the government amount to public investment in agriculture.

10. Which of the following statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

1. Helicopters need compact and powerful aero engines for operating at extreme conditions.
2. To achieve this, single-crystal blades having complex shape and geometry

manufactured out of nickel-based super alloys capable of withstanding high temperatures of operation are used.

3. Recently, DRDO achieved this major technological breakthrough and India joined an elite list of a few countries such as the U.S., the U.K., France and Russia which have the capability to design and manufacture such single crystal component.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

1. With reference to the powers of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory, consider the following statements:

1. The Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister will aid and advise the Administrator in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters which the Union Territory has power to make laws.
2. It also allows the LG to act in his discretion in the matter of law-making, even though the Council of Ministers has the task of aiding and advising him.
3. In case of a difference of opinion between the LG and his Ministers on any matter, the Administrator is bound to refer it to the President for a decision.

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 Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 provides for a Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry (as Puducherry was then called), with a Council of Ministers to govern the “Union Territory of Pondicherry”.
- The same Act says that the UT will be administered by the President of India through an Administrator (LG).

✓ Section 44 of the Act, says the Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister will “aid and advise the Administrator in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory has power to make laws”.

✓ The same clause also allows the LG to “act in his discretion” in the matter of law-making, even though the Council of Ministers has the task of aiding and advising him. **So, both statement 1 and 2 are correct.**

- In case of a difference of opinion between the LG and his Ministers on any matter, the Administrator is bound to refer it to the President for a decision and act according to the decision given by the President.
- However, the Administrator can also claim that the matter is urgent, and take immediate action as he deems necessary. **So, statement 3 is also correct.**

2. Supply Chain resilience Initiative, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following countries?

- (a) Australia, Japan and India
- (b) India, Japan and the U.S.
- (c) Australia, India and New Zealand
- (d) India, Sri Lanka and Maldives

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) formally launched recently by the Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia brought a wary response from China, which has described the effort as ‘unrealistic’.
- The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.
- Initially, SCRI will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience and holding investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains.
- Possible policy measures under the initiative may include:
 - ✓ Supporting the enhanced utilization of digital technology.
 - ✓ Supporting trade and investment diversification.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The nearest major town is Joshimath.
2. There is no settlement in the national park.
3. It is encompassed in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve.
4. It is in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

5. It is known for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers.

The above statements refer to?

- (a) Indravati National Park
- (b) Dudhwa National Park
- (c) Gangotri National Park
- (d) Valley of Flowers National Park

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Dudhwa is in U.P, whereas Joshimath is in Uttarakhand. So, A is eliminated.
- While Gangotri park is in Uttarakhand, Harsil is the nearest town and it is not in the UNESCO network. So, C is also eliminated.
- Indravati is in MP, so D is also wrong.
- Valley of Flowers National Park is located in West Himalayas, it is home to rare and endangered animals, including the Asiatic black bear, snow leopard, musk deer, brown bear, red fox and blue sheep.
- Flowers like orchids, poppies, primulas, marigold, daisies and anemones carpet the ground at the National Park.

4. With respect to the Rice fortification, consider the following statements:

1. Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process.

2. Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.
3. Fortified rice contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.

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:

- Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.
- Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process.
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- These fortified kernels are then mixed with normal rice in a 1:100 ratio, and distributed for consumption.
- Rice is the world's most important staple food. An estimated 2 billion people eat rice every day, forming the mainstay of diets across large of Asia and Africa.
- Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.

- The fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Fortified rice are contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

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

1. It is a regional development bank which is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.
2. ADB is modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital Subscriptions.
3. South Asia Economic Focus Report released by ADB analyzes economic and development issues in developing countries in Asia.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines.
- ADB is modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting

system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.

- South Asia Economic Focus Report is released by World Bank.

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

1. Meghdoot App warn people about lightning
2. Damini App provide forecast to Farmers
3. Mausam App communicate the weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Meghdoot App was launched to provide the location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in Local Languages.
- Damini Lightning Alert app is designed for giving warning to the user about lightning on the basis of user location.
- Mausam App is designed to communicate the weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner.

7. What is the use of Biochar in farming?

1. Biochar can be used as a part of the Growing medium in the Vertical Farming
2. When biochar is a part of the Growing Medium, it promotes the growth of nitrogen fixing microorganisms.
3. When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it enables the medium to retain water for a longer time.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Biochar is Charcoal that is produced by pyrolysis of biomass, in the absence of oxygen and is used as a soil ameliorant for both carbon sequestration and soil health benefits.
- Biochar can be used as a part of the growing medium in vertical farming.
- When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it promotes the growth of Nitrogen-Fixing Microorganisms.
- When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it enables the growing medium to retain water for a Longer Time.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO):

1. It provides a basis for virtually all modern anaesthetic techniques.
2. It is under India's National as well as WHO's List of Essential Medicines.

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:

- Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) is high purity oxygen suitable for use in the human body. So, it is used for medical treatments.
- This oxygen provides a basis for virtually all modern anaesthetic techniques, restores tissue oxygen tension by increasing the oxygen availability, aids cardiovascular stability, etc.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) includes this on their List of Essential Medicines.
- According to the Drug Prices Control Order, 2013, LMO is placed under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

9. In context to the Middle East Green Initiative, Consider the Following Statements:

1. It was launched by the G20 countries on the occasion of the G20 Summit in Saudi Arabia.
2. It aims to accelerate the transition to clean energy and boost the amount of energy Generated by Renewables.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, Saudi Arabia launched Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative to combat the threat of climate change.

Saudi Green Initiative:

- To raise the vegetation cover, reduce carbon emissions, combat pollution and land degradation, and preserve marine life.

Middle East Green Initiative:

- It aims to preserve marine and coastal environments, increase the proportion of natural reserves and protected land, improve the regulation of oil production, accelerate the transition to clean energy and boost the amount of energy generated by renewables.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of three integrated theatre commands.
2. The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services.

- The Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of three integrated theatre commands—northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the Maritime Role.

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:

- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.
- The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal—from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy—with seamless Efficacy.
- The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services.
- Integration and jointness of the three forces will avoid duplication of resources. The resources available under each service will be available to other services too.
- The services will get to know one another better, strengthening cohesion in the Defence Establishment.

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):

1. These are specialized financial institutions that buy the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.
3. The ARCs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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:

- An Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets.
- A NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
- This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.

- The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.
- The Act helps reconstruction of bad assets without the intervention of courts. Since then, a large number of ARCs were formed and were registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- RBI has got the power to regulate the ARCs.

2. In context to Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create a virtuous cycle of Enhancing Supply Chain Resilience.
2. It aims to attain strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the Indo-Pacific region.
3. It has formally been launched jointly by India, Japan, USA and Australia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a

view to eventually attaining strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth in the Indo-Pacific region.

- The Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).
- The trio (India, Japan and Australia) along with the US makes Quad Grouping.

3. Consider the following statements, with regard to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

1. It is the resistance acquired by any Microorganism against Antimicrobial Drugs.
2. The microorganisms that develop AMR are known as superbugs.
3. It is among the top ten priority works of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with WHO.

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:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is the resistance acquired by any microorganism (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasite, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals,

antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections.

- As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others.
- Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are sometimes referred to as “superbugs”.
- AMR is already responsible for up to 7,00,000 deaths a year.
- India, with its combination of large population, rising incomes that facilitate purchase of antibiotics, high burden of infectious diseases and easy over-the-counter access to antibiotics, is an important locus for the generation of resistance genes.
- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) identified AMR as one of the top 10 priorities for the ministry’s collaborative work with the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- India has also launched the National Action Plan on AMR resistance 2017-2021.

4. In the context to the Parliamentary Committees, which of the statement(s) given below is/are **not** correct?

1. Finance Committees existence is uninterrupted and Usually Reconstituted on an Annual Basis.
2. Select Committees formed for a specific purpose, such as to deliberate on a

particular bill and cease to exist once the bill is Disposed.

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:

- **‘Standing’ Committees:** Their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis. Some standing committees are departmentally related. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **‘Select’ Committees** formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill. Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Finance Committees** are considered to be particularly powerful. The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.
5. Consider the following statements regarding the Vehicular Scrapage Policy:
1. Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy Government Commercial Vehicles more than 15 years old and private vehicles

which are over 20 years old will be scrapped.

2. As a Disincentive, Increased re-registration fees would be Applicable for vehicles 15 years or Older from the initial date registration.

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:

- Both the statements are correct.
6. 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 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. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

7. Human Capital Index is released by

- (a) WEF
- (b) IMF
- (c) World Bank
- (d) UNSC

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020.
- The index benchmarks key components of Human Capital across Countries.
- India has been ranked at the 116th position in the HCI 2020.

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

1. The drug prevents the virus from producing a particular enzyme RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) that is necessary for the virus to Replicate itself.
2. The drug has also been shown to shorten the duration of patient hospital stays.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Remdesivir drug prevents the virus from producing a particular enzyme RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) that is necessary for the virus to replicate itself.
- The drug has also been shown to shorten the duration of patient hospital stays.

9. With reference to Red Herring Prospectus, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the Preliminary Registration Document prepared by Merchant bankers for prospective IPO-making companies in the case of Book Building Issues.
2. It contains details of either price or number of shares being offered or the amount of issue.

Options:

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

Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile in its air-to-air Weapons Capability.

- Python 5 is the newest member in the range of Python AAMs.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Red Herring Prospectus is the preliminary Registration Document prepared by merchant bankers for prospective IPO-making companies in the case of book Building Issues.
- It does not disclose the details of price, the number of shares being offered, the coupon of the issue, or the size of the issue.
- It has the details regarding the company's operation and financial position and standing.

10. Python-5 recently seen in news is a

- (a) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- (b) Air-to-Air Missile
- (c) Surface to Air Missile
- (d) Surface to Surface Missile

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Python is a family of air-to-air missiles (AAMs) built by the Israeli weapons manufacturer Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- Now, India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas has added the 5th generation