

1. With respect to the Census, consider the following statements:

1. The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872.
2. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881 and since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years.
3. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The census provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.
- The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872. It helped in framing new policies, government programs to uplift areas of improvement in the community.
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under **Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Census is one of the most credible sources of information on the following:
 - ✓ Demography.
 - ✓ Economic Activity.
 - ✓ Literacy and Education.
 - ✓ Housing & Household Amenities.
 - ✓ Urbanization, Fertility, and Mortality.
 - ✓ Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
 - ✓ Language.

2. Consider the following regarding the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. It amended the Constitution to extend 10% reservation economically weaker sections among all castes and communities, including all Christians and Muslims.
2. The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking total Reservation to 60%.

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:

- One Hundred and Twenty- Fourth Amendment Bill was introduced to extend 10% quota to “the economically weaker sections in the general category that are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation”.
- The bill was designed to amend the Constitution to extend 10% reservation in direct recruitment in government jobs and for admission in higher educational institutions to “economically weaker” sections among all castes and communities, Christians and Muslims included, who are not eligible under the already existing quotas.
- It was amended because the issue was related to the Fundamental rights Articles 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth) and 16 (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment) of the Constitution
- The amendment was ratified in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by two thirds of

members present and voting, and by the legislatures of not less than half the states.

- The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking total reservation to 60%.

3. Which of the following are the conditions to be included in the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)?

1. Annual household income below Rs 8 lakh.
2. Agriculture land below 5 acres.
3. Residential house below 1000 sqft.
4. Residential plot below 100 yards in notified municipality.
5. Residential plot below 200 yards in non-notified municipality area.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the above are the conditions are the requirements for the reservation in EWS.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
2. Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to Households.

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:

What is a Census?

- The origin of the Census in India goes back to the colonial exercise of 1881.
- Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, delimitation exercise, etc.
- However, as early as the 1940s, W.W.M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner for India for the 1941 Census, had pointed out that “the census is a large, immensely powerful, but blunt instrument unsuited for specialized inquiry.”

What is SECC 2011?

- The Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 was a major exercise to obtain data about the socio-economic status of various communities.
- It had two components: a survey of the rural and urban households and ranking of these households based on pre-set parameters, and a caste census.
- However, only the details of the economic conditions of the people in rural and urban households were released. The caste data has not been released till now.
- SECC 2011 was conducted by three separate authorities but under the overall coordination of Department of Rural Development in the Government of India.
 - ✓ Census in Rural Area has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD).
 - ✓ Census in Urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).
 - ✓ Caste Census is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs: Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India.

Difference between Census & SECC:

- The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
- Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Doctrine of Lapse Policy:

1. It was an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie.
2. Under this policy the princely state that was under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.

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:

Doctrine of Lapse:

- It was an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie when he was India's Governor-General from 1848 to 1856. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- According to this, any princely state that was under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.
- Thus, any adopted son of the Indian ruler would not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:
 - ✓ Satara (1848 A.D.),
 - ✓ Jaitpur, and Sambalpur (1849 A.D.),
 - ✓ Baghat (1850 A.D.),
 - ✓ Udaipur (1852 A.D.),
 - ✓ Jhansi (1853 A.D.), and
 - ✓ Nagpur (1854 A.D.)

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The GST compensation is paid out of Compensation Cess every two months by the Centre to states.
2. The taxpayers who have opted for the GST composition scheme are not liable to collect and remit the GST compensation cess to the Central 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:

- GST Taxation: The GST became applicable from 1st July 2017 after the enactment of the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016.
- With GST, a large number of central and state indirect taxes merged into a single tax.
- Compensation Cess:
- The states are guaranteed compensation for any revenue shortfall below 14% Growth (base year 2015-16) for the first five years ending 2022.
- GST compensation is paid out of Compensation Cess every two months by the Centre to states. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The compensation cess was specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
- All the taxpayers, except those who export specific notified goods and those who have opted for GST composition scheme, are liable to collect and remit the GST compensation cess to the central government. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Compensation Cess Fund: The GST Act states that the cess collected and the amount as may be recommended by the GST Council would be credited to the fund.

7. In context to the AMRUT Mission (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation),

consider the following statements:

1. It comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It's one of purpose is to ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.

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:

AMRUT Mission (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation):

- It was launched in June 2015
- It comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.

Components:

- Capacity building, reform implementation, water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, urban transport and Development of Green Spaces and parks.
- The reforms aim at improving delivery of citizen services, bringing down the cost of delivery, improving financial health,

- augmenting resources and enhancing transparency. It also includes replacement of street lights with LED lights.

Purpose:

- To ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a Sewerage Connection.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Priority zone of the Mission is water supply followed by sewerage.
- To increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well-maintained open spaces (e.g., parks).
- To reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g., walking and Cycling).

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Sufism:

1. It gained prominence in the 10th and 11th centuries during the reign of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. The Chisti Silsila was founded by Shihabuddin in Baghdad and was established in India by Bahauddin Zakariya.
3. The Chistis accepted maintenance Grants from the Sultans and took an active part in politics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Many native Indian ideas, including yogic postures, music, and dance, were absorbed by Sufism in India. During the time of the Delhi Sultanate in the 10th and 11th centuries, Sufism rose to prominence.
- Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chisti (also known as Gharib Nawaz) founded the Chisti order in India in 1192 CE.
- The Chistis avoided the company of kings and nobles, preferring to stay out of state Politics.

9. Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?

- (a) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
(b) Digital currency will totally replace the Physical Currency in about two decades.
(c) FDI inflows will drastically increase.
(d) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time payment system designed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

- UPI allows you to send money instantly from your bank account to multiple retailers without having to type in your credit card number or your net banking or wallet password.
- UPI is a payment mechanism that allows you to send money from one bank account to another using your smartphone.

10. With reference to Algal blooms, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Algal blooms may occur in freshwater as well as Marine Environments.
2. Harmful algal blooms can produce extremely dangerous toxins that can sicken or kill People and Animals.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Algal blooms may appear in both Freshwater and Marine Habitats.
- Overgrowths of algae in water are known as harmful algal blooms. Harmful algal blooms may produce very toxic poisons that can make humans and Animals sick or even kill them.

1. Freedom of speech and expression is restricted under which of the following grounds?

1. Security of the State.
2. Friendly relations with foreign States.
3. Public order.
4. Decency and morality.
5. Executive action.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Right to freedom of speech and expression is subject to reasonable restrictions being imposed under Article 19(2).
- Out of the eight different grounds listed on Article 19(2) of the Constitution, the majority of hate speech laws are saved by the 'public order' exception. The eight different grounds are;
 1. Security of the State.
 2. Friendly relations with foreign States.
 3. Public order.
 4. Decency and morality.
 5. Contempt of court.
 6. Defamation.
 7. Incitement to an offence, and
 8. Sovereignty and integrity of India.

- Reasonable restrictions on these grounds can be imposed only by a duly enacted law and **not by executive action. So, answer is (a).**

2. 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.**

3. Which of the Indian states/UTs share International border with China?

1. Sikkim
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Jammu & Kashmir
5. Ladakh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- India shares 3488 km of border with China that runs along the states of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Ladakh too.
- After the bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, China now shares its border only with Ladakh and not with J&K.



4. With respect to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), consider the following statements:

1. India has maintained that the LAC passes through Finger 8, which has been the site of the final military post of China.
2. China, on the other hand, says the LAC passes through Finger 2 and it has been patrolling up to Finger 4- mostly in light vehicles, and at times up to Finger 2.

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 Line of Actual Control (LAC) – the line that separates Indian and Chinese troops since 1962 – generally runs along the land except for the width of Pangong Tso. Here, it runs through water.
- Both sides have marked their areas announcing which side belongs to which country.
- India controls about 45 km stretch of the Pangong Tso and China the rest.
- The lake is divided into sections called fingers. There are eight of them in contention here. India and China have different understanding of where the LAC passes through.
- India has maintained that the LAC passes through Finger 8, which has been the site of the final military post of China.
- India has been patrolling the area – mostly on foot because of the nature of the terrain – up to Finger 8. But Indian forces have not had active control beyond Finger 4.
- China, on the other hand, says the LAC passes through Finger 2. It has been patrolling up to Finger 4- mostly in light vehicles, and at times up to Finger 2.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

5. Consider the following, with regard to Brahmaputra River:

1. It is known as Yarlung in China.
2. It originates from the Kailash range under the name of Burhi Dihing.
3. Sadiya is a town in Arunachal Pradesh where the river enters India.

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: b)

Explanation:

- The Brahmaputra River originates under the name of Siang or Dihang, from the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The river is known as Yarlung Tsangpo in China. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Its tributaries include Dibang, Lohit, Siang, Burhi Dihing, Tista, and Dhansari.
- It is a perennial river and has several peculiar characteristics due to its geography and prevailing climatic conditions.

- The river is in itself dynamic as frequent landslides and geological activity force it to change course very often.

6. Consider the following, with reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

1. It aims to ensure assured tap water supply to all rural households by 2030.
2. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States.

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 Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in 2019, it envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.
- The mission ensures functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as Sustainable Agriculture.

- It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water; drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supply System, Grey water treatment and its reuse.

Features:

- JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
- Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse, is undertaken in convergence with other government programmes/schemes.
- The Mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission.

Funding Pattern:

- The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

7. Consider the following, with regard to the draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP):

1. The policy proposes the setting up of an apex governing body called the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI).

2. The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

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 Ministry of Civil Aviation has released a draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) that will require entities providing these services and their equipment to be registered, as well as be liable for penalties.
- The policy proposes a two-tier governance structure for air sports in the country, which will include an apex governing body called the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) and associations for each air sport. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and will represent India at the Lausanne (Switzerland)-headquartered Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) and other global platforms related to air sports. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It will provide governance over various aspects of air sports, including regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties, etc.

- Each air sports association will lay down its safety standards for equipment, infrastructure, personnel and training, and specify the disciplinary actions to be taken in case of non-compliance. Inability to do so may lead to penal action by the ASFI.
- It is proposed that popular air sports attractions in the country such as Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh, Gangtok in Sikkim, Hadapsar in Maharashtra and Vagamon in Kerala can be declared as a “control zone” for air sports in order to ensure the safety of other manned aircraft.

8. With reference to Kaziranga National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is designated as an ‘Important Bird Area’ by Birdlife International.
2. It is the home of the world’s most one-Horned Rhinos.
3. UNESCO has declared Kaziranga National Park as a World Heritage Site

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kaziranga National Park is a national park located in the state of Assam. It hosts two-thirds of the world’s great one-horned

Rhinoceroses and is a declared World Heritage Site.

- It is also designated as an ‘Important Bird Area’ by Birdlife International.

Options:

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

9. Basel Norms often seen in news seeks to

- (a) Control Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
- (b) Strengthen the regulation, supervision and Risk Management for more resilient banks and banking systems
- (c) Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants
- (d) Combat international tax avoidance by multinational companies

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Garhjat Hills is located in the state of Odisha
- Nallamala Hills is located across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- Ponmudi Hills is located in Kerala

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Basel norms or Basel accords are the International Banking regulations issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. The Basel norms is an effort to coordinate banking regulations across the globe, with the goal of strengthening the International Banking System.
- It aims to strengthen regulation, supervision and risk management for more resilient banks and banking systems

10. Arrange the following hills from North to South:

1. Ramgarh Hills
2. Garhjat Hills
3. Nallamala Hills
4. Ponmudi Hills

1. When a person is refused to renew FCRA registration for his NGO by unlawful means, he is protected under which of the following Fundamental Right?

- (a) Article 21A.
- (b) Article 14.
- (c) Article 19.
- (d) Article 32.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

Constitutional Provisions for NGOs in India:

- **Article 19(1)(c)** on the right to form Associations.
- **Article 43** which highlights the State's having an Endeavour to promote cooperatives in rural areas;
- **Concurrent List in Entry 28** Mentions about – Charities and charitable Institutions, Charitable and Religious Endowments and Religious Institutions”.

2. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010, candidate contesting the election is debarred from receiving contribution.

Statement 2: FCRA comes under the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1

(b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1

(c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct

(d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As per FCRA 2010, the following organizational individuals are debarred from receiving foreign contribution. They are

1. Candidate for election
2. cartoonist, editor, publishers of registered newspaper
3. Judge, government servants or employee of any corporation
4. Member of any legislature
5. Political parties.

- Despite being a law related to financial regulation, this law does not fall within the purview of the RBI but **under the Home Ministry** as it is internal security legislation.

3. Galwan Valley, sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state/UT?

- (a) Ladakh
- (b) Jammu & Kashmir
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Uttarakhand

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Photographs of Indian Army troops holding a large tri-colour at the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh as part of the New Year celebration were released recently by Sources in the Security Establishment.

4. 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.
- As the COVID third wave has started in many states/UTs, their respective Governments have planned for strict Guidelines of Curfew.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Indo-Israel Relations:

- 1. India is Israel's largest trade partner in Asia and seventh largest globally.
- 2. Operation Breathing Space was conducted by Israel to work with Indian authorities on the Covid-19 response.
- 3. The Indian armed forces have inducted the Phalcon AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) from Israel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India is Israel's third-largest trade partner in Asia and seventh largest globally.
- Both countries currently have USD 4.14 billion of trade (April 2020 – February 2021), a figure that doesn't include the defence trade which has been increasing. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Israeli companies have invested in India in energy, renewable energy, telecom, real estate, water technologies, and are focusing on setting up Research & Development centres or production units in India.
 - The first recipients of grants from the Israel-India Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) were announced in July 2018, including companies working to better the lives of Indians and Israelis through efficient water use, improving communications infrastructure, solar energy use, and life-changing surgeries.
 - The Indian armed forces have inducted a wide array of Israeli weapon systems over the years, which range from Phalcon AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) and Heron, Searcher-II and Harop drones to Barak anti-missile defence systems and Spyder quick-reaction anti-aircraft missile systems.
 - The acquisitions also include a host of Israeli missiles and precision-guided munitions, from Python and Derby air-to-air missiles to Crystal Maze and Spice-2000 bombs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - At the 15th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Bilateral Defence Cooperation between India and Israel, both countries agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation
- 2020, an Israeli team arrived in India with a multi-pronged mission, codenamed Operation Breathing Space to work with Indian authorities on the Covid-19 response. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
6. In context to Nuclear disarmament, consider the following statements:
1. India has neither signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) nor the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).
 2. Recently, the G7 countries, ahead of a review of the NPT 1970, have pledged to prevent atomic weapons spreading and to avoid nuclear conflict.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Five permanent United Nations Security Council members (China, France, Russia, the U.K. and US) pledged to prevent atomic weapons spreading and to avoid nuclear conflict.
- The pledge was made in a rare joint statement ahead of a review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 1970. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

- The statement comes as tensions between Russia and the US have reached heights rarely seen since the Cold War over a troop build-up by Russia close to the Ukrainian border.
- The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the Goal of Disarmament.
- Presently, it has 190 member states.
- The NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) are two of the most important global efforts towards nuclear disarmament. India has not signed NPT and CTBT. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

7. In context to the Open-source software, consider the following statements:

1. It is a software that is distributed with its source code.
2. It allows anyone to modify the software to best fit their needs.

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:

- Open source software (OSS) is software that is distributed with its source code, making it available for use, modification, and distribution with its original rights. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Source code is the part of software that most computer users don't ever see.
- It's the code computer programmers manipulate to control how a program or application behaves.
- OSS typically includes a licence that allows programmers to modify the software to best fit their needs and control how the software can be distributed. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The idea of making source code freely available originated in 1983 from an ideological movement informally founded by Richard Stallman, a programmer at MIT.
- Examples of Linux, Mozilla Firefox, VLC media player, SugarCRM, etc.

8. Which of the following statements is not correct with regards to the Pangong Tso lake?

- (a) Extending to almost 160 km, one-third of the Pangong Lake lies in India and the other two-thirds in China.
- (b) It is situated at a height of almost 4,350 m and is the world's highest freshwater lake.
- (c) It is formed from Tethys Geosyncline.

(d) Pangong Tso literally translates into a “conclave lake” since Pangong means conclave in Ladakhi and Tso means a lake in the Tibetan language.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Pangong Tso is an endorheic lake spanning Eastern Ladakh and West Tibet. It has a land-locked basin separated from the Indus River basin by a small elevated ridge, but is believed to have been part of the latter in prehistoric times.
- Lake Baikal is the highest freshwater lake. It is in the southern part of eastern Siberia, Russia.

9. Which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV.
- (b) Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine.
- (c) Globally, the number of people infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses are several times more than those infected with HIV.
- (d) Some of those infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses do not show the symptoms for many years.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- There are vaccines to prevent hepatitis A and hepatitis B; however, no vaccine is available for hepatitis C.

10. Consider the following statements with regards to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty:

1. Ever since it came into effect in 1970 after it was opened for signing in 1968, the Non-Proliferation Treaty has 187 nations who are a party to it – more than any other arms Limitation Treaty.
2. The Non-Proliferation Treaty prohibits the nations who don't have nuclear weapons from acquiring them, at the same time prohibiting the nuclear states from helping others in acquiring the weapons.
3. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the successor of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, verifies compliance with the treaty.

Choose the correct code:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT is an International Treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear Energy, and to further the goal of achieving Nuclear Disarmament and general and Complete Disarmament.
- Opened for signature in 1968, the treaty entered into force in 1970.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
2. This Act assumed that the GST revenue of each State would grow at 14% every year, from the amount collected in 2015-16, through all taxes subsumed by the GST.
3. A State that had collected tax less than this amount in any year would be compensated for the shortfall.
4. The amount would be paid every two months based on provisional accounts, and adjusted every year after the State's accounts were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections in November 2021 (for sales in October) rose 25.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,31,526 crore.
- The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.

- This Act assumed that the GST revenue of each State would grow at 14% every year, from the amount collected in 2015-16, through all taxes subsumed by the GST.
- A State that had collected tax less than this amount in any year would be compensated for the shortfall. The amount would be paid every two months based on provisional accounts, and adjusted every year after the State's accounts were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- This scheme is valid for five years, i.e., till June 2022.
- **So, all the statements are correct.**

2. With respect to the Central Water Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted as a statutory body under the Water Act, 1974.
2. It presently functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. The Commission is entrusted for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation, and drinking water supply and water power development.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- CWC is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources and is presently functioning as an **attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti**. So, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It was formed in 1974-1975 via a notification. **So statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation of the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country, for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation, drinking water supply and water power development.
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
2. The Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886 and the agreement was renewed in 1970.
3. The dam is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu 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:

- The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
- The dam situated at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers
- It is located 881 m (2,890 ft) above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, South India.
- It was constructed between 1887 and 1895 by John Pennycuick and also reached in an agreement to donate water eastwards to the Madras Presidency area (present-day Tamil Nadu). The Periyar National Park in Thekkady is located around the dam's reservoir. The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu state.
- Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886.
- The agreement was renewed in 1970.
- Tamil Nadu was given rights to the land and the water from the dam as well as the authority to develop hydro-power projects at the site, and Kerala would receive rent in return.

- So, all the three statements are correct.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Mekedatu is a multipurpose drinking and power project that involves building a balancing reservoir in Tamil Nadu.
2. The project once completed is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas (4.75 TMC) and also can Generate 400 MW power.

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:

- Mekedatu is a multipurpose (drinking and power) project.
- It involves building a balancing reservoir, near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district in Karnataka. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The project once completed is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas (4.75 TMC) and also can generate 400 MW Power.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs 9,000 crore.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Bioenergy Crops:

1. Bioenergy crops can induce a cooling effect on the areas where they are Cultivated.
2. Wheat, corn, main edible oilseeds/edible oils, sugarcane, and other crops are some of the Bioenergy Crops.

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 New Study has found that Converting Annual crops to perennial bioenergy crops can induce a cooling effect on the areas where they are cultivated. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The researchers simulated the biophysical climate impact of a range of future bioenergy crop cultivation scenarios. Eucalyptus, poplar, willow, miscanthus and switchgrass were the bioenergy crops used in the study.
- The study also demonstrated the importance of the crop type choice, the original land use type upon which bioenergy crops are expanded, the total cultivation area and its spatial Distribution patterns.

- Crops from which Biofuels are produced or manufactured are called Biofuel crops or Bioenergy Crops. “Energy crops” is a term used to describe biofuel crops.
 - Wheat, corn, main edible oilseeds/edible oils, sugarcane, and other crops are among them. Hence statement 2 is correct.
 - Biofuels have a number of advantages over fossil fuels, including the ability to burn cleaner and emit fewer pollutants and greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, into the sky.
 - They’re also environmentally friendly, and energy corporations frequently mix Biofuels with Gasoline.
6. Consider the following:
1. A mutation Is a single change in the genetic material of the virus.
 2. A variant Is the whole sequence of the virus, which may contain one or more mutations.

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:

Mutation, Variant and Strain:

- When a virus replicates it doesn’t always manage to produce an exact copy of itself.

- This means that, over time, the virus may start to differ slightly in terms of its genetic sequence.
- Any changes to the viral genetic sequence during this process is known as a Mutation.
- The words ‘mutation’ and ‘variant’ are sometimes used interchangeably, but they mean quite different things. A mutation is a single change in the genetic material of the virus (RNA in this case). A variant is the whole sequence of the virus (the genome), which may contain one or more mutations. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- When a new variant has different functional properties to the original virus and becomes established in a population, it is sometimes referred to as a New Strain of the virus.
- All strains are variants, but not all variants are strains.

7. Consider the following with reference to savannas :

1. Savannas grow in 40° to 60° latitudes from the Equator.
2. Grasses and Trees that grow in the Savanna have adapted to life with little water and hot Temperatures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

Savannas:

- Savanna, also spelled savannah, vegetation type that grows under hot, seasonally dry climatic conditions and is characterized by an open tree canopy (i.e., scattered trees) above a continuous tall grass understory (the vegetation layer between the forest canopy and the ground).
- The largest areas of savanna are found in Africa, South America, Australia, India, the Myanmar (Burma)–Thailand region in Asia, and Madagascar.
- In general, savannas grow in tropical regions 8° to 20° latitudes from the Equator. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- Conditions are warm to hot in all seasons, but significant rainfall occurs for only a few months each year—about October to March in the Southern Hemisphere and April to September in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Mean annual precipitation is Generally 80 to 150 cm although in some central continental locations it may be as low as 50 cm.
- The dry season Is typically longer than the wet season, but it varies considerably, from 2 to 11 months. Mean monthly temperatures are about 10 to 20 °C in the

dry season and 20 to 30 °C in the wet season.

- Grasses and trees that grow in the savanna have adapted to life with little water and hot temperatures. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Grasses, for example, grow quickly in the wet season when water is abundant and turn brown in the dry season to conserve water.

8. Consider the following statements with regards to Cotton Cultivation:

1. Gujarat leads the states in India in terms of Cotton Production.
2. Cotton requires well-drained black soil for cultivation.
3. There is no MSP protection for cotton in India.

Choose the correct code:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Gujarat is the largest cotton-producing state in India. The state accounts for around 30% of the total cotton production in the Country.
- Cotton requires well-drained black soil for cultivation. Black soils are very fine-grained and dark and contain a high proportion of calcium and magnesium carbonates.

- They also have a high moisture retention capacity which is required for cotton plants.
- Government announces minimum support price (MSP) for raw cotton as well.

9. “S-gene Target Failure Strategy”, often seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- (a) It is used to ascertain if an individual has developed antimicrobial resistance
- (b) It is used to identify the success rate of Gene Therapy
- (c) It is used to detect the Omicron variant of Covid19
- (d) It is used to produce the latest Anti-Covid pills

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a testing kit for detecting the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.
- The kit will be used to confirm Omicron in patients with its S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) strategy

2. Under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs are also reserved for women.
3. States with population up to 20 lakh are exempted from providing reservations to STs at all levels of panchayats.

Choose the correct code:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- 243B of the Indian Constitution states that there shall be constituted in every State, Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels. However, it also states that panchayats at the intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding twenty lakhs.
- There is no such provision regarding the reservation of seats for tribals.

10. Consider the following statements with regards to the tribal rights in India:

1. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act makes it mandatory for the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in proportion to their population.

1. 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.

2. 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.,).
3. Recently, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) were used for the first time to drop explosive devices, triggering blasts inside the Air Force Station's technical area in Jammu. UAVs are used in which of the following purposes?
1. Package Delivery
 2. in Agriculture for spraying pesticides
 3. Monitoring Environmental Changes
 4. Aerial Photography
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) All the above
- Answer: d)**
- Explanation:**
- Drone is a layman terminology for Unmanned Aircraft (UA). There are three subsets of Unmanned Aircraft- Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Autonomous Aircraft and Model Aircraft.

- Remotely Piloted Aircraft consists of remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other Components, as specified in the type design.
- Besides combat use, drones are used for a range of purposes like package delivery, in Agriculture (spraying pesticides etc), Monitoring Environmental Changes, Aerial Photography, and during search and Relief Operations, among others.

4. With reference to the Drone Rules, 2021, which of the statement(s) given below is/are *not* correct?

1. No flight permission required upto 200 feet in green zones and upto 400 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
2. No pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use), nano drone and for R&D organisations.
3. No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Digital sky platform shall be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system.
- No flight permission required upto 400 feet in green zones and upto 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
- **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- No pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use), nano drone and for R&D organisations.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Import of drones and drone components to be regulated by DGFT.
- No security clearance required before any registration or licence issuance.
- No requirement of certificate of airworthiness, unique identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence for R&D entities.
- Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg. This will cover drone taxis also.
- Issuance of Certificate of Airworthiness delegated to Quality Council of India and certification entities authorised by it.
- Manufacturer may generate their drone's unique identification number on the digital

sky platform through the self-certification route.

- Maximum penalty under Drone Rules, 2021 reduced to INR 1 lakh. This shall, however, not apply to penalties in respect of violation of other laws.
- Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.
- Drone promotion council to be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.

5. With reference to Caspian Sea, which of the following statements is/are Correct?

1. It is the world's largest inland body of Water.
2. The Caspian Sea is endorheic.
3. Volga, Ural, and Terek empty into the Caspian Sea.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water. It lies to the east of the Caucasus Mountains and the west of the vast steppe of Central Asia.
- The sea's name derives from the ancient Kaspi peoples, who once lived in Transcaucasia to the west.

- It is an endorheic basin that lies between Europe and Asia. The sea is bordered by Kazakhstan in the northeast, by Turkmenistan in the southeast, by Iran in the south, by Azerbaijan in the southwest, and by Russia in the northwest.
- The shores of the northern Caspian are low and reflect the great accumulation of alluvial material washed down by the Ural, Terek, and Volga rivers that empty into the sea whose deltas are extensive.

6. With respect to Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a centrally sponsored Scheme that aims to enhance the Competitiveness of existing individual Micro-Enterprises in the Unorganized segment of the food Processing Industry.
2. It has an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme was launched on 29th June 2020.
- It is a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme. The share of expenditure under the PM FME Scheme is as follows:
- 60:40 between the Central Government and state Governments and UTS with the Legislature
- 90:10 between central and North Eastern and Himalayan states
- 100 percent central assistance for UTs Without Legislatures.
- It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector and support Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- Under the scheme, 2,00,000 micro food processing units will be directly assisted with credit-linked subsidies.
- It has an outlay of 10,000 crore and will run for five years – 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- The central government will bear the expenditure for the first year irrespective of who incurs it; later it will be adjusted in the ratio mentioned above; in the next four years.

- The Central Government will provide funds to the state based on the approved Project Implementation Plan (PIP).
- One-District One-Product Approach (ODOP) plan to be implemented to encompass input procurement, common services availability, and product marketing.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. As per Article 348 of the Constitution of India, English is the Official Language for all the Courts in India.
2. The Governor of a state, with the consent of the Chief Justice of the relevant High Court, can Authorize use of official Language of the state in proceedings before its High Court.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- As per Article 348 of the Constitution of India,
- All proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court (Not all the Courts).
- The Authoritative texts of all,
- Bills to be introduced or amendments to be moved in either House of Parliament or in

the House or either House of the Legislature of a State,

- Acts passed by Parliament or the Legislature of a State and all Ordinances
- Orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued under this Constitution.
- “Shall be in the English language”.
- The Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, Authorized the use of the Hindi language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State: Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to any Judgment, decree or order passed or made by such High Court.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Omisure Kit:

1. It Is a made in India RT-PCR kit approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research.
2. It uses S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) strategy and eliminates the step involving Genome Sequencing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a made-in-India testing kit (RT-PCR Test), named Omisure, for detecting the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The kit currently In use to detect Omicron in the country has been developed by the US-based scientific instrumentation company Thermo Fisher.
- Further, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has proposed some measures to strengthen laboratory capacities, with the focus on Addressing Inequalities in access to Covid-19 Diagnostics Tools.
- The RT-PCR kit is manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics. It uses S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) strategy.
- Currently, Omicron patients are detected only after genome sequencing.
- However, the Omisure test kit helps to eliminate this step and detects the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV2 in the nasopharyngeal/ oropharyngeal specimens during the RT-PCR tests. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The Omicron variant underwent several mutations in the S-gene, the SGTF strategy checks and indicates it in patients who are Detected Covid positive.

- ‘S’ Gene, ORF, ‘N’ gene, RdRp, ‘E’ gene are viral genes that are targeted to detect Covid-19 virus.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Jagannath Temple Odisha:

1. It was constructed by King Anatarvarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
2. It was also called the Black Pagoda by the sailors.

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:

Jagannath Temple:

- The temple is believed to have been constructed in the 12th century by King Anatarvarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Jagannath Puri temple is called ‘Yamanika Tirtha’ where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of ‘Yama’, the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- This temple was called the “White Pagoda” and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages

(Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram). Hence statement 2 is not correct.

- The Sun Temple of Konark was once called the Black Pagoda by the sailors because it was supposed to draw ships into the shore and cause shipwrecks.
- There are four gates to the temple- Eastern ‘Singhdwara’ which is the main gate with two crouching lions, Southern ‘Ashwadwara’, Western ‘Vyaghra Dwara’ and Northern ‘Hastidwara’. There is a carving of each form at each gate.
- In front of the entrance stands the Aruna stambha or sun pillar, which was originally at the Sun Temple in Konark.

10. In context to the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It Introduced the 10% EWS (Economically Weaker Section) Quota.
2. It amended Article 15 and Article 16 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

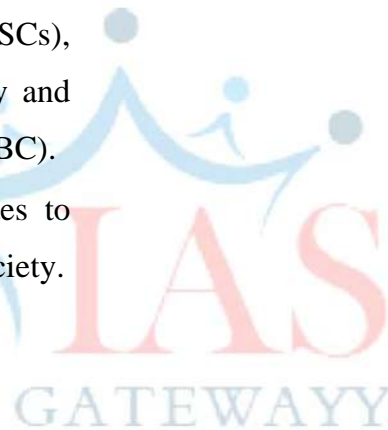
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

EWS Quota:

- The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019 by amending Articles 15 and 16. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- It Inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6). Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- It Is for economic reservation in jobs and admissions in education institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).
- It enables both Centre and the states to provide reservation to the EWS of society.



1. Which of the following country is *not* a bordering country of Kazakhstan?

- (a) Kyrgystan
- (b) China
- (c) Tajikistan
- (d) Russia

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Kazakhstan is bounded on the northwest and north by Russia, on the east by China, and on the south by Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, the Aral Sea, and Turkmenistan; the Caspian Sea bounds Kazakhstan to the southwest.



2. Which of the following country is *not* bordered by Iran?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Syria

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Iran displayed three ballistic missiles at an outdoor prayer esplanade in central Tehran recently as talks in Vienna aimed at

reviving Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers flounder.

- 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.



3. In the context of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010, consider the following statements:

1. Section 5 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 gives the Union government “unchecked and unbridled powers” to declare an organisation as being one of political nature and deny it access to funds from Sources Abroad.
2. FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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:

- FCRA regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country.
- The Act, first enacted in 1976 was amended in the year 2010 and then 2020.
- Section 5 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 gives the Union government “unchecked and unbridled powers” to declare an organisation as being one of political nature and deny it access to funds from sources abroad.
- FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

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

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

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- According to a regulatory filing by the company recently, Telecom operator Bharti Airtel will not avail the option of conversion of the interest on deferred spectrum and AGR dues to equity, under the reforms package.
- Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the **usage and licensing fee** that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is divided into **spectrum usage charges and licensing fees**, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.
- **Spectrum usage charges** is the charge that is required to be paid by the licensees providing mobile access services, as a percentage of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
- The spectrum slabs/rates for the same are notified by the Government from time to Time.
- The Cabinet recently approved several measures to extend a lifeline to the cash-strapped telecom sector, including a redefinition of the much-litigated concept of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to **exclude non-telecom revenue** and a four-year moratorium on players’ dues to the

Government. So, statement 2 is correct.

- The AGR directly impacts the outgo from the pockets of telcos to the DoT as it is used to calculate the levies payable by operators.

5. Keoladeo National Park is in the state of

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Keoladeo National Park, located in the State of Rajasthan, is an important wintering ground of Palearctic migratory waterfowl and is renowned for its large congregation of non-migratory resident Breeding Birds.
- It is the only park in India that is completely enclosed by a 2 m high boundary wall that minimizes the possibilities of any encroachment and biotic disturbances.
- The park was the only known wintering site of the Central Population of the critically Endangered Siberian Crane, and also serves as a wintering area for other globally threatened species such as the Greater Spotted Eagle and Imperial Eagle.

6. With respect to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
2. Contributions made by a citizen of India or by the PIO card holders living in another country, from his/her Personal Savings, through the Normal Banking Channels, are not treated as Foreign Contribution.
3. An association can invest the foreign contribution received by it in the profitable ventures and can utilize the proceeds for welfare activities.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Contributions made by a citizen of India living in another country (i.e., Non-Resident Indian), from his personal savings, through the normal banking channels, are not treated as foreign contributions. However, the PIO Card holders are excluded from the list.
- The association should utilize such funds for the welfare purpose or activities for which it is received. The utilization should

be in line with the objectives of the association. However, foreign contributions can be utilized for self-sustaining activities, not meant for commercial purposes.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India imposes limits on the expenditure incurred by a candidate and the Political Parties, on their Election Campaign.
2. If a candidate has not filed his/her statement of expenses within the required time period, the Election Commission after consultation with the President, has the authority to declare him/her to be Disqualified for a period of three years.
3. A candidate is not allowed to spend more than the maximum limit of election expenses.

Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India imposes limits on the expenditure incurred by a Candidate, but not political parties, on their Election Campaign.

- Candidates have to keep a separate account and file the election expenses with the poll watchdog under the law. An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification for up to three years under Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- A candidate is not allowed to spend more than the Maximum limit of election Expenses.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Cheetah:

1. It Is the only carnivore that has been eliminated from India due to over-hunting.
2. The African Cheetah Is bigger in size than the Asiatic Cheetah.
3. Both the African and Asiatic Cheetah are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the union minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' under which 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the Next Five Years.

- Reintroductions of large carnivores have increasingly been recognised as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions.
- The cheetah is the only large carnivore that has been eliminated, mainly by over-hunting in India in historical times.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The cheetah is one of the oldest of the big cat species, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the Miocene era.
- The cheetah is also the world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia.
- The African cheetah is bigger in size as compared to Asiatic cheetah. The latter is smaller and paler and has more fur with a smaller head and a longer neck. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The African cheetah is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List whereas the Asiatic cheetah is listed as Critically Endangered. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

9. Consider the following with regard to UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) programme:

1. It is the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme
2. National Power Corporation Limited has been designated as the implementing agency for this programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Power has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) programme.
- The initiative evolved into the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Launched in 2015 and initially labelled as the LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), it aims to promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a government company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, has been designated as the implementing agency for this programme. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- Every domestic household having a metered connection from their respective Electricity Distribution Company is

eligible to get the LED bulbs under the Scheme.

10. Consider the following with regard to Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, 2013:

1. It is based on the Vishakha guidelines given by the Supreme Court in the Vishakha and others v State of Rajasthan 1997 case.
2. As per the act every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.

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:

Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment Act, 2013:

- **Background:** The Supreme Court in a landmark judgement in the Vishakha and others v State of Rajasthan 1997 case gave 'Vishakha Guidelines'.
- These guidelines formed the basis for the The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 ("Sexual Harassment Act"). Hence statement 1 is correct.

- **Mechanism:** The Act defines sexual harassment at the workplace and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.
- Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more Employees.
- Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.
- The Complaints Committees are required to provide for conciliation before initiating an inquiry if requested by the complainant.
- **Penal Provisions:** Penalties have been prescribed for employers. Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with a fine.
- Repeated violations may lead to higher Penalties and cancellation of license or Registration to Conduct Business.
- **Responsibility of Administration:** The State Government will notify the District Officer in every district, who will constitute a Local Complaints Committee (LCC) so as to enable women in the unorganised sector or small establishments to work in an Environment free of Sexual Harassment.

1. With respect to the Asiatic Cheetah, consider the following statements:

1. The cheetah has been classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.
2. It inhabits a variety of mostly arid habitats like dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.
3. The Shahgarh bulge landscape in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan is one of the sites chosen for reintroduction of the species in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Government is preparing to translocate the first batch of eight from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh soon after the situation linked to the current third wave of Covid-19 becomes normal, and total 50 in various parks over a period of five years.
- Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) are large cat of the subfamily Felinae and are considered as the fastest land animal.
- The 4 subspecies of cheetahs are Southeast African cheetah, Asiatic cheetah, Northeast African cheetah and Northwest African cheetah.

- They are found in North, Southern and East Africa, and a few localities in Iran.
- It inhabits a variety of mostly arid habitats like dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.
- The **African Cheetah** has been classified as **Vulnerable** by the **IUCN**; while the **Asiatic Cheetah** (found only in Iran) has been classified as **Critically Endangered** and both are listed under **Appendix I** of **CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019:

1. It seeks to give citizenship to refugees from the Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities fleeing religious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to India before 31st December, 2014.
2. Residential requirement for citizenship through naturalization for persons from other countries from the above mentioned is 5 years.
3. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of the country, except Assam, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

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: a)

Explanation:

- The Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 that seeks to give citizenship to refugees from the Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities fleeing religious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to India before 31st December, 2014.
- So, statement 1 is correct.
- Residential requirement for citizenship through naturalization from the above said countries is at least 5 years.
- Residential requirement for citizenship through naturalization for others is 11 years. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of the country. So, statement 3 is not correct.
- The beneficiaries of Citizenship Amendment Act can reside in any state of the country.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Register of Citizens (NRC):

1. The NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens that includes demographic information about all those individuals who qualify as citizens of India as per the Citizenship Act, 1955.

2. The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India and since then it has not been updated until recently.

3. So far, such a database has only been maintained for the state of Assam.

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 NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens. It includes demographic information about all those individuals who qualify as citizens of India as per the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India and since then it has not been updated until recently.
- So far, such a database has only been maintained for the state of Assam.
- ✓ In 2014, the SC ordered the updation of the NRC, in accordance with Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003 in all parts of Assam. The process officially started in 2015.
- **So all the statements are 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)

Explanation:

- 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, with regard to ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)’:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Culture with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.
2. It also aims to promote local culture, arts, Cuisine, Handicrafts, etc., to generate Livelihood in the Identified Places.

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:

- ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)’ was launched by the Ministry of Tourism with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Objectives of the PRASHAD scheme are as follows:
 - Harness pilgrimage tourism for its multiplier and direct effect on employment generation and economic development.
 - Follow pro-poor tourism concept and community-based development in the development of the pilgrimage destinations.
 - Leveraging public expertise and capital.
 - Enhance tourist attractiveness sustainably by developing world-class infrastructure in religious destinations.
 - Create awareness amongst the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of improved living standards, increase in sources of

income and overall development of the area.

- Promote local culture, arts, cuisine, handicrafts, etc., to generate livelihood in the identified Places.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.

6. In context to Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Pollution, consider the following statements:

1. The largest source of SO₂ In the atmosphere is the burning of Fossil Fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.
2. There are no natural sources of Sulfur dioxide pollution.
3. Short-term exposures to SO₂ can harm the human respiratory system and make Breathing Difficult.

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: c)

Explanation:

- The largest source of SO₂ In the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Smaller sources of SO₂ emissions include: industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore, natural sources such as

- volcanoes, and locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with a high sulfur content. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- SO₂ can affect both health and the environment. Short-term exposures to SO₂ can harm the human respiratory system and make breathing difficult. People with asthma, particularly children, are sensitive to these effects of SO₂. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Pangolin:

1. It is the only mammal to have large keratin scales to cover its skin.
2. The Indian Pangolin is mainly found in the arid region, the high Himalayas and the northeast region.
3. It is listed in the IUCN Red List as an Endangered species.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Pangolins are scaly anteater mammals and they have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin. They are the only

known mammals with this feature. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It uses these scales as armour to defend itself against predators by rolling into a ball when threatened.
- Insectivore- Pangolins are nocturnal, and their diet consists of mainly ants and termites, which they capture using their long tongues.
- Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in India.
- The Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The species is also found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Conservation Status:

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered.
- Hence, Statement 3 is Correct.
- Chinese Pangolin is ‘critically endangered’
- CITES: Appendix I
- Hence, option B is correct.

8. With reference to Ramanathaswamy Temple, which of the following statements is/are Incorrect?

1. It is a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
2. It is built in Dravidian style and was constructed during the Vijayanagar Period.

3. Its Gopuram is the biggest Gopuram in India.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Ramanathaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to the God Shiva located on Rameswaram island in the state of Tamil Nadu. It is also one of the twelve Jyotirlinga temples.
- The temple was expanded during the 12th century by the Pandya dynasty, and its principal shrine's sanctum was renovated by Jeyaveera Cinkaiariyan and his successor Gunaveera Cinkaiariyan of the Jaffna kingdom. The temple has the longest corridor among all Hindu temples in India.
- Its Gopuram is NOT the biggest Gopuram in India.

9. Consider the following statements about Indian Pangolin:

1. As per the IUCN Red List, the Indian Pangolin is listed as 'Critically Endangered'.
2. The colour of its scales varies depending on the colour of the earth in its surroundings.
3. It is nocturnal and rests in deep burrows during the day.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As per the IUCN Red List, the Indian Pangolin is listed as 'Endangered'.
- The pangolin possesses a cone-shaped head with small, dark eyes, and a long muzzle with a nose pad similar in colour, or darker than, its pinkish-brown skin.
- It has powerful limbs, tipped with sharp, clawed digits.
- The colour of its scales varies depending on the colour of the earth in its surroundings.
- The most noticeable characteristic of the pangolin is its massive, scaled armour, which covers its upper face and its whole body with the exception of the belly and the inside of the legs.
- The pangolin has no teeth, but has strong stomach muscles to aid in digestion.

10. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya Kingdom?

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli
- (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- (d) Nelluru

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Kakatiyas' famous commercial harbour was Motupalli.
- Marco Polo, the famed Venetian adventurer, passed through this port on his way to Kakatiya and Published a travelogue on the richness and Strength of Andhra Desha.
- The port of Machilipatnam functioned as the Golconda Kingdom's Main Seaport.



1. Krishna River was recently seen in news. Which of the following are the tributaries of the Krishna River?

1. Tungabhadra
2. Mallaprabha
3. Koyna
4. Kabini

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Source:** It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra. It is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
 - **Drainage:** It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
 - **Tributaries:** Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.
 - **Kabini is a tributary of River Cauvery.**
- So, answer is b.

2. With respect to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, consider the following statements:

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
2. China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India with 7.6%.
3. All the members of the Bank are from the Asian region only.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has been appointed vice-president of the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- Mr. Patel will serve a three-year term as one of the multilateral development bank's five vice-presidents.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.

- The Parties (57 founding members) to agreement comprise the Membership of the Bank. There are more than 100 members now.
- The bank started operation after the agreement entered into force on 25 December 2015, after ratifications were received from 10 member states holding a total number of 50% of the initial subscriptions of the Authorized Capital Stock.
- **Aim:** By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors today, it aims to connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.
- **Voting Rights:** China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %).
- The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.
- **Various organs of AIIB:**
 - ✓ **Board of Governors:** The Board of Governors consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country. Governors and Alternate Governors serve at the pleasure of the Appointing Member.
 - ✓ **Board of Directors:** Non-resident Board of Directors is responsible for the direction of the Bank's General

- ✓ operations, exercising all powers delegated to it by the Board of Governors
- ✓ **International Advisory Panel:** The Bank has established an International Advisory Panel (IAP) to support the President and Senior Management on the Bank's strategies and policies as well as on general operational issues.

3. Jallikattu is celebrated during the harvest Festival of which of the following state?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The bull-taming sport is popular in Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul districts known as the Jallikattu belt.
- Jallikattu is celebrated in the second week of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.
- A tradition over 2,000 years old, Jallikattu is a competitive sport as well as an event to Honour bull owners who rear them for Mating.
- It is a violent sport in which contestants try to tame a bull for a prize; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize.

- Jallikattu is considered a traditional way for the peasant community to preserve their pure-breed native bulls.
- At a time when cattle breeding is often an artificial process, conservationists and peasants argue that Jallikattu is a way to protect these male animals which are otherwise used only for meat if not for ploughing.
- Jallikattu first came under legal scrutiny in 2007 when the Animal Welfare Board of India and the animal rights group PETA moved petitions in the Supreme Court against Jallikattu as well as bullock cart races. The Tamil Nadu government, however, worked its way out of the ban by passing a law in 2009, which was signed by the Governor.
- In 2011, the UPA regime at the Centre added bulls to the list of animals whose training and exhibition is prohibited.
- In May 2014, days before the BJP was elected to power, the Supreme Court banned the bull-taming sport, ruling on a petition that cited the 2011 notification.
- In January 2017, massive protests erupted across Tamil Nadu against the ban, with Chennai city witnessing a 15-day-long Jallikattu uprising.
- The same year, the Tamil Nadu Government released an ordinance Amending the central Act and allowing Jallikattu in the state; this was later ratified by the President.
- The Amendment was subsequently approved by the President of India, effectively overturning the Supreme Court ban and allowing the sport to be played without any legal hurdle.
- PETA Challenged the state move, arguing it was Unconstitutional (Article 29(1)).
- In 2018, the Supreme Court referred the Jallikattu case to a Constitution Bench, where it is pending now.

4. Consider the following pairs:

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

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Major Inter-State River Disputes	
River (s)	States
Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha

Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha
Mahanadi	Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka
Periyar	Tamil Nadu, Kerala

5. With respect to Gharials, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are endemic to the Indian sub-continent
2. They are recognized as keystone species
3. It is listed as Critically Endangered on IUCN Red List

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Gharial is endemic to the Indian Subcontinent, occurring in the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Mahanadi River systems. It is believed that the gharial is now extinct from Myanmar, Bhutan and Pakistan.

- Gharial is a keystone species of the Running Freshwater Ecosystem and plays an important role in aquatic ecosystems.
- The Gharial, once Widespread, is now listed as 'Critically Endangered' in the IUCN Red List.

6. Which of the following States are covered under Inner Line Permit?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Manipur
3. Meghalaya
4. Mizoram
5. Nagaland
6. Sikkim

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.
- There are four North-Eastern states that have ILP:
 - ✓ Arunachal Pradesh
 - ✓ Nagaland

- ✓ Mizoram
- ✓ Manipur

7. Consider the following statements with respect to Model Code of Conduct:

1. The Model Code of Conduct is enforced from the date of announcement of election schedule by the Election Commission and is operational till the process of elections are Completed
2. It is a legally enforceable document.
3. Karnataka was the first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections in 1960

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Model Code of Conduct is a set of Guidelines that are issued by India's Election Commission (EC) for candidates and Political Parties during Elections.
- The code goes into effect when the election Timetable is announced and continues in effect until the Procedure is completed. It is not a legally Enforceable Document.
- Kerala is the first state to implement the Model code of conduct in India in its 1960 Elections.

8. In context to the Collective Security Treaty, consider the following statements:

1. It Is an intergovernmental military alliance of post-Soviet states.
2. It Is referred to as the Tashkent Pact.

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:

- It Is an intergovernmental military alliance (six countries) that came into effect in 2002.
- It is an intergovernmental military alliance that was signed on 15th May 1992.
- In 1992, six post-Soviet states belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States—Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—signed the Collective Security Treaty. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- This is also referred to as the “Tashkent Pact” or “Tashkent Treaty”.
- Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

9. Consider the following with regard to Gharials:

1. They are only found in Chambal River in India.
2. Population of Gharials is a good indicator of clean river water.

3. They are categorized as critically endangered by IUCN.

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: b)

Explanation:

- Chambal river is the primary habitat of Gharials but they are found in many other parts in the freshwater of northern India eg. Ghagra, Gandak river, Girwa river (Uttar Pradesh), the Ramganga river (Uttarakhand) and the Sone River (Bihar). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Population of Gharials is a good indicator of clean river water.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India has three species of Crocodylians namely:
 - Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - Mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*): IUCN- Vulnerable.
 - Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*): IUCN- Least Concern

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

1. It stretches from the Atlas Mountains of North Africa to beyond the Himalayas.
2. The Alps are an interzonal mountain system between Central and Mediterranean Europe.
3. Mont Blanc in the Alps is the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Alps is a small segment of a discontinuous mountain chain that stretches from the Atlas Mountains of North Africa across southern Europe and Asia to beyond the Himalayas. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Alps are an Interzonal mountain system (Orobiome), or a “transition area” between Central and Mediterranean Europe. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Though they are not as high and extensive as other mountain systems uplifted during the Paleogene and Neogene periods (i.e., about 65 million to 2.6 million years ago)—such as the Himalayas (great mountain system of Asia) and the Andes and Rocky Mountains (in South America

and North America respectively) —they are responsible for major geographic phenomena.

- Mont Blanc is the highest peak in the Alps.
- Mount Aconcagua, the highest point in the Western Hemisphere, lies in the Southern Andes Mountains.
- Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

1. Consider the following pairs:

Missiles	Characteristics
----------	-----------------

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Brahmos | Supersonic Cruise Missile |
| 2. Akash | Anti-Tank Missile. |
| 3. Nag | Surface-to-air missile |

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Brahmos | Supersonic Cruise Missile |
| 2. Akash | Surface-to-air missile. |
| 3. Nag | Anti-Tank Missile |

2. Which of the following is/are *not* correct regarding the allotment of symbols for the Political Parties?

1. A party/candidate has to provide a list of three symbols from the Election Commission's (EC) Free Symbols list at the time of Filing Nomination Papers and one among them is Allotted on first come first Serve Basis.
2. When a recognised political party splits, the Election Commission takes the decision on Assigning the Symbol.
3. The Constitution of India empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As per the guidelines, to get a symbol allotted:
 - ✓ A party/candidate has to provide a list of three symbols from the EC's free symbols list at the time of filing nomination papers.
 - ✓ Among them, one symbol is allotted to the party/candidate on a first-come-first-serve basis.
 - ✓ When a recognised political party splits, the Election Commission takes the decision on assigning the symbol.
 - ✓ **So, statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968** empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its Name and Symbol.
- The EC is also the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger. The Supreme Court upheld its validity in Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971.

3. Recently, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in a last effort to save his life, in Maryland hospital in USA. This type of transplantation is called as

- (a) Allo Transplant
- (b) Auto transplant
- (c) Isotransplant
- (d) Xenotransplant

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A Transplant between two genetically different members of the same species is called an **allotransplant**.
- A transplant between members of the same species that are genetically identical (inbred animals or identical twins) is called an **isotransplant**.
- And a transplant from one person to themselves (for example moving bone from the hip to the back to fix a broken vertebra) is called an **autotransplant**.
- **Xenotransplantation** or heterologous transplant, is the transplantation of living cells, organs or tissues from one species to another. Such cells, organs or tissues are called xenografts or xenotransplants.
- The technique of Xenotransplantation of human Tumour Cells into Immunocompromised mice is often used in pre-clinical Oncology Research.

4. With respect to the BrahMos Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster as the first stage and liquid ramjet as the second stage.
2. It operates on the “Fire and Forgets” principle.
3. Brahmos is one of the fastest cruise missile currently operationally deployed with speed of Mach 2.8, which is 3 times more than the speed of sound.

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:

- BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully test-fired by DRDO from the Indian Navy destroyer INS Vishakhapatnam off the Western Coast.
- A combination of the names of Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by DRDO and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia.
- It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster as the first stage and liquid ramjet as the second stage.

- The cruise missiles like BrahMos are a type of systems known as the ‘standoff range weapons’ which are fired from a range sufficient to allow the attacker to evade defensive fire from the adversary.
 - Brahmos is a multiplatform it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
 - It operates on the “Fire and Forgets” principle it does not require further guidance after launch. Brahmos is one of the fastest cruise missile currently operationally deployed with speed of Mach 2.8, which is 3 times more than the speed of sound. These weapons are in the arsenal of most major militaries in the world.
 - The range of the missile was originally capped at 290 km as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Following India’s entry into the club in June 2016, officials said the range would be extended to 450 km and to 600km at a later stage. An extended range missile had been tested earlier.
 - INS Visakhapatnam, with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes, is the first of four ingeniously designed and built Project-15B class stealth guided missile destroyers and was commissioned in November 2021.
 - **So, all the Three Statements are correct.**
5. The Economic cost of food grains to the Food Corporation of India is Minimum Support Price and bonus (if any) paid to the farmers Plus
- (a) Transportation cost only
 - (b) Interest cost only
 - (c) Procurement incidentals and distribution cost
 - (d) Procurement incidentals and charges for Godowns
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- The total of the Minimum Support Price and bonus (if any) paid to farmers, including procurement incidentals and distribution costs, is the economic cost of food grains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
 - The procurement cost, procurement price, and distribution cost are the three primary components of FCI’s economic cost.
 - Freight, handling charges, storage charges, transit losses, and establishment fees are all included in the Distribution Costs.
 - The initial costs incurred during the Procurement of foodgrains are known as Procurement incidentals.
6. Which of these statements is/are correct with regards to Tuberculosis?
1. TB is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis, belonging to

the Mycobacteriaceae family consisting of about 200 Members.

2. Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) is presently the sole vaccine available for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (TB).
3. BCG works well in some geographic locations and not so well in others. Generally, the Farther a country is from the equator, the higher the Efficiency.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation

- The bacterium that causes tuberculosis is Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which belongs to the Mycobacteriaceae family, which has roughly 200 members.
- By manipulating a strain of Mycobacterium bovis, two Frenchmen, Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin, produced BCG.
- In 1921, it was used for the first Time in Humans.
- BCG was first used on a small basis in India in 1948, and it became part of the National Tuberculosis Control Program in 1962.
- One fascinating feature about BCG is that it works well in certain places but not so well in others.

- The efficiency of a country increases as it moves further from the Equator.

7. Which of the following statements is not true about India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant?

- (a) The vessel, to be named Vikrant after the decommissioned maiden carrier of the Navy.
- (b) The motto of the ship is "Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah which is taken from Atharva Veda and is translated as "I defeat those who fight against me".
- (c) It is expected to carry an air group of up to thirty aircraft.
- (d) On its commission, the new INS Vikrant would be the fourth aircraft carrier to defend India's shores.

Answer: b)

Explanation

- INS Vikrant, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 is an aircraft carrier constructed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for the Indian Navy.
- It is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India. INS Vikrant (R11) was the first aircraft carrier to ever grace the arsenal of the Indian Navy.
- Initially starting life as the HMS Hercules of the British Royal Navy, the ship was re-christened as 'Vikrant' after purchase by the Indian Navy.

- The motto of the ship is “Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah”, which is taken from Rigveda (NOT Atharva Veda) and can be translated as “I defeat those who fight against me”.

8. Consider the following :

1. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) gives the status of developing and developed country to its members on the basis of Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in current USD of the previous year.
2. The developing countries get automatic benefit from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- There are no World Trade Organisation (WTO) definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries. Members announce for themselves whether they are “developed” or “developing” countries.
- The World Bank assigns the world’s economies to four income groups—low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries.

- The classifications are updated each year on 1st July and are based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in current USD of the previous year. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Developing country status in the WTO brings certain rights.
- There are some WTO Agreements which provide developing countries with longer transition periods before they are required to fully implement the agreement and developing countries can receive technical assistance.
- That a WTO member announces itself as a developing country does not automatically mean that it will benefit from the unilateral preference schemes of some of the developed country members such as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
- In practice, it is the preference giving country which decides the list of developing countries that will benefit from the preferences
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

9. ‘Gateway to Hell’, sometimes seen in the news, is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Azerbaijan
- (b) Iraq
- (c) Turkmenistan
- (d) Kyrgyzstan

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Darvaza gas crater also known as the ‘Gateway to Hell’ is located in the Karakum desert, 260 kilometres away from Turkmenistan’s capital, Ashgabat, the crater has been burning for the last 50 years.
- The details of the origin of the crater are not actually known but it has been said that the crater was created in 1971 during a Soviet drilling operation.
- The crater has become a significant tourist attraction in the country. In 2018, the country’s president officially renamed it as the “Shining of Karakum”.
- However, recently, Turkmenistan has decided to find a way to extinguish the fire in the Darvaza gas crater as it negatively affects both the Environment and the Health of the people living nearby along with the loss of valuable natural resources for which the country can get significant profits
- Turkmenistan has been at the centre of methane leakages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

10. Consider the following, with regard to Gobind Singh one of the ten Sikh Gurus:

1. He was the third Guru of Sikhs.
2. The introduction of the turban to cover hair is brought by him
3. He founded the principles of Khalsa.

1. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the ratification of seven chemicals listed under Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to be banned in India. Which of the following were among them?

1. Chlordecone
2. Hexabromobiphenyl
3. Pentachlorobenzene
4. Hexachlorobenzene
5. Hexachlorobutadiene

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Cabinet further delegated its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to Union Ministries of External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in respect of POPs for streamlining the procedure.
- Considering its commitment towards providing a safe environment and addressing human health risks, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had notified the 'Regulation of Persistent Organic

- Pollutants Rules, in 2018 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The regulation inter alia prohibits the manufacture, trade, use, import and export of seven chemicals, namely:
 - ✓ Chlordecone,
 - ✓ Hexabromobiphenyl,
 - ✓ Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Hepta Bromodiphenyl Ether (Commercial octa-BDE),
 - ✓ Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE),
 - ✓ Pentachlorobenzene,
 - ✓ Hexabromocyclododecane, and
 - ✓ Hexachlorobutadiene.
- India already ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2006 as per Article 25(4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default "opt-out" position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/ acceptance/ approval or accession is explicitly deposited with UN depositary.
- The convention calls to ban nine of the dirty dozen chemicals (key POPs), limit the use of DDT to malaria control, and curtail inadvertent production of dioxins and furans. The convention listed twelve distinct chemicals in **Three Categories:**

1. Eight pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene)
2. Two industrial chemicals (poly chlorinated biphenyls and **hexachlorobenzene**). So, answer is c.
3. Two unintended by-products of many industrial processes involving chlorine such as waste incineration, chemical and pesticide manufacturing and pulp and paper bleaching (poly chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans, commonly referred to as dioxins and furans).
2. The GEF is a financial mechanism for which of the major international environmental conventions?
1. UNFCCC
 2. UNCBD
 3. Stockholm Convention POPs
 4. UNCCD
 5. The Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
 - (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- GEF was established with the Rio Earth Summit of 1992.

- It is headquartered at Washington, D.C., USA.
- The GEF is jointly managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The financial mechanism was established to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.
- It provides funds to the developing countries and transition economies for projects related to climate change, biodiversity, the ozone layer, etc.
- It is a financial mechanism for 5 major international environmental conventions:
 - ✓ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
 - ✓ The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD),
 - ✓ The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),
 - ✓ The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and
 - ✓ The Minamata Convention on Mercury.

3. Freedom of Speech and Expression is restricted under which of the following Grounds?

1. Contempt of Court.
2. Friendly relations with foreign States.
3. Public order.
4. Decency and morality.
5. Defamation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Right to freedom of speech and expression is subject to reasonable restrictions being imposed under Article 19(2).
- Out of the eight different grounds listed on Article 19(2) of the Constitution, the majority of hate speech laws are saved by the 'public order' exception. The eight different grounds are;
 1. Security of the State.
 2. Friendly relations with foreign States.
 3. Public order.
 4. Decency and morality.
 5. Contempt of court.
 6. Defamation.
 7. Incitement to an offence, and
 8. Sovereignty and integrity of India.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Supplementary Grant is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.
2. Supplementary Grant is specified by the Article 115 of the constitution of India, along with Additional and Excess Grants.

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:

- **Supplementary Grant:** It is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a **particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.** It is specified by the Article 115 of the constitution of India, along with Additional and Excess Grants.
- **Other Grants:** In addition to the budget that contains the ordinary estimates of income and expenditure for one financial year, various other grants are made by the Parliament under extraordinary or special circumstances. Apart from Supplementary Grants, these include:

- ✓ **Additional Grant:** It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for **additional expenditure upon some new service** not contemplated in the budget for that year.
- ✓ **Excess Grant:** It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year. It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year. Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.
- ✓ **Vote of Credit:** It is granted for meeting an unexpected demand upon the resources of India, when on account of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service, the demand cannot be stated with the details ordinarily given in a budget. Hence, it is like a blank cheque given to the Executive by the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ **Exceptional Grant:** It is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.
- ✓ **Token Grant:** It is granted when funds to meet the proposed expenditure on a new service can be

made available by reappropriation. A demand for the grant of a token sum (of Re 1) is submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha and if assented, funds are made available. Reappropriation involves transfer of funds from one head to another. It does not involve any additional expenditure.

- Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are specified in Article 116 of the constitution.
- Supplementary, additional, excess and exceptional grants and vote of credit are regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.

5. Consider the following statements with regards to Adi Shankaracharya:

1. He took Samadhi at a young age of 33, at Kedar tirth.
2. He was a devotee of Shiva.
3. He propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism) and wrote many commentaries on the Vedic canon (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit.

Choose the correct code:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Adi Shankaracharya is widely recognised as a religious reformer in the early 8th century and is considered one of the most prominent thinkers and religious leaders in Indian history.
- Adi Shankaracharya was born in Kaladi, Kerala, near Kochi.
- He was a devotee of Shiva and Maya Theory, Advaita Vedanta (Non-Dualism), and Tarak Brahma are all related to him.
- Its major beliefs are thoroughly expressed in the Upanishads and systematized by the Brahma-sutras, according to its adherents (also known as the Vedanta-sutras). Its origins can be traced back to the 7th-century CE thinker Gaudapada, who wrote the Mandukya-karika, a verse-based commentary on the Mandukya Upanishad.
- At the age of 33, he died (took samadhi) at Kedar tirt

6. Consider the following statements about Tashkent Declaration:

1. It was signed between India and Pakistan following the war of 1971.
2. The Tashkent Declaration failed to limit any possibility of a future conflict between India and Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

(d) None

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri signed the Tashkent Agreement on 10 Jan 1966 with Pakistan's president to put an end to the 17-day war between India and Pakistan.
- The agreement was mediated by the Soviet Union which helped restore peace at the borders. Despite being regarded as a huge diplomatic achievement, the Tashkent Declaration did not prevent India and Pakistan from fighting in the future.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. He established the Belur Math.
2. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose called him the "maker of modern India".
3. National Youth Day is celebrated in his Honour.

The above statements describe:

- (a) Swami Vivekananda
(b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(c) Dayananda Sarasvati
(d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Swami Vivekananda was influenced by Ramakrishna Paramahansa who became his Guru.

- He established many Mathas in India, the most important being the Belur Math in Belur, Howrah district.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the “maker of modern India.”
- In his honour, the government of India in 1984 declared his birthday ‘National Youth Day’.

8. Consider the following with regard to ‘Agreement on Agriculture’:

1. It is aimed to remove trade barriers and to promote transparent market access and integration of global markets.
2. The subsidies for environmental protection and regional development programmes are included in the Green box.
3. The measures to support prices, or subsidies directly related to production quantities are included in the Amber box.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Agreement on Agriculture is aimed to remove trade barriers and to promote transparent market access and integration

of global markets. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Three pillars of Agreement on Agriculture:
- Domestic Support: It calls for reduction in domestic subsidies that distorts free trade and fair price.
- Under this provision, the Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) is to be reduced by 20% over a period of 6 years by developed countries and 13% over a period of 10 years by developing countries.
- Under this, Subsidies are categorized into:

Green Box:

- Subsidies that do not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion.
- They are government-funded and must not involve price support.
- They also include environmental protection and regional development programmes. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- “Green box” subsidies are therefore allowed without limits, provided they comply with the policy-specific criteria.

Amber Box:

- All domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box as all domestic supports except those in the blue and green boxes.

- These include measures to support prices, or subsidies directly related to production quantities. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Blue Box:

- This is the “amber box with conditions”. Such conditions are designed to reduce distortion.
- Any support that would normally be in the amber box is placed in the blue box if the support also requires farmers to limit production.
- At present, there are no limits on spending on blue box subsidies.
- Market Access: Market access for goods in the WTO means the conditions, tariff and non-tariff measures, agreed by members for the entry of specific goods into their markets.
- Market access requires that tariffs fixed (like custom duties) by individual countries be cut progressively to allow free trade. It also required countries to remove non-tariff barriers and convert them to Tariff duties.

9. Consider the following, with reference to the African Swine Fever:

1. It Is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects and leads to an acute form of hemorrhagic fever in domestic and wild pigs.
2. It was first detected In Africa in the year 2021.

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:

African Swine Fever:

- It Is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects and leads to an acute form of hemorrhagic fever in domestic and wild pigs. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Other manifestations of the disease include high fever, depression, anorexia, loss of appetite, hemorrhages in the skin, vomiting and diarrhea among others.
- It was first detected In Africa in the 1920s. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- Historically, outbreaks have been reported in Africa and parts of Europe, South America, and the Caribbean.
- However, more recently (since 2007), the disease has been reported in multiple countries across Africa, Asia and Europe, in both domestic and wild pigs.
- In 2021, cases were also detected in India.
- The mortality Is close to 100% and since the fever has no cure, the only way to stop its spread is by culling the animals.

- ASF is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.
- ASF is a disease listed in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and thus, reported to the OIE.
- It is released by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It covers Establishments employing 10 or more Workers in the organised segment in 9 sectors.
- These nine sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

10. Consider the following:

1. The Periodic Labour Force Survey is conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. Quarterly Employment Survey is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the above statement/s is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is conducted by the National Statistical Organization (NSO), MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES).

1. With respect to the Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag), consider the following statements:

1. GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name.
2. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
3. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A GI or Geographical Indication is a name or a sign given to certain products that relate to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town or country.
- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
- Using Geographical Indications may be regarded as a certification that the particular product is produced as per traditional methods, has certain specific qualities, or has a particular reputation because of its Geographical Origin.

- Geographical indications are typically used for wine and spirit drinks, foodstuffs, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

2. Consider the following pairs:

GI Tagged Product	State
1. Apatani	Weave Arunachal Pradesh
2. Kumbakonam Vetrilai	Tamil Nadu
3. Thovalai Manikka Malai	Kerala

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Kumbakonam betel leaves were heart shaped and grown in the Cauvery delta region by small and marginal farmers. It is particularly grown in Ayyampettai, Rajagiri, Pandaravadai and Swamimalai in Thanjavur district.
- On an average, about 60-80 lakh betel leaves were harvested annually from a one-hectare plot. A betel leaf cultivator

spends ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 to grow these leaves on a one-acre land.

- Harvested leaves are washed, cleaned, and graded according to their size and quality. They were traditionally packed in bamboo baskets but now there are several options such as plantain leaves and cloth bags.



About the Apatani Weave:

- The Apatani weave comes from the Apatani tribe living at Ziro, the headquarters of Lower Subansiri district.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and for its angular designs.
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro, and jilan or jackets called supuntarii.
- The people use leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing of the cotton yarns in their traditional ways. And only women folk are Engaged in Weaving.

About the Thoivalai Manikka Malai:

- Thoivalai Manikka Malai is a special type of garland that is made only in Thoivalai, a small village in Kanniyakumari. The flowers used in this particular garland are positioned in a way that when folded they look like a gem.
- The flowers are generally arranged in five rows, but at times for other decorations, 20 rows are used. The height ranges from one foot to 24 feet and above.
- Chamba fibre, nochi leaves, oleander and rose flowers are the key materials used for making this garland. Thoivalai is famous for its abundance of flowers and most of flowers are Procured Locally.



3. With reference to the 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)', consider the following statements:

1. India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 is a biannual publication of Forest Survey of India (FSI), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. The report provides state as well as district wise forest cover of the country and changes thereon with respect to the previous assessment.
3. It also provides the estimates of growing stock within and outside the forest areas, forest cover in the hill, tribal and north eastern states.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 is a **biennial publication** of Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India engaged in the assessment of country's forest resources. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The first report was brought out in 1987. Since then FSI has published 16 reports while 2021 report is the 17th report in the series.
- The report provides state/district wise forest cover of the country and changes thereon with respect to the previous assessment. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- It also provides the estimates of growing stock within and outside the forest areas, forest cover in the hill, tribal and north eastern states, carbon and other important aspects such as tree, bamboo and mangrove cover. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. As per the 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021' arrange the states in the order of decreasing Forest Cover performance in India:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Telangana
3. Odisha
4. Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India's forest and tree cover has risen by 2,261 square kilometers in the last two years with Andhra Pradesh growing the maximum forest cover of 647 square kilometers.
- The total tree-and-forest cover in the country includes an increase of 1,540 square kilometres of forest cover and 721

sq km of tree cover compared to the 2019 report.

- India's total forest and tree cover is now spread across 80.9 million hectares, which is 62 per cent of the geographical area of the country.
- The top five states **in terms of increase in forest cover** are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km) and Jharkhand (110 sq km).
- The Gain in forest cover or improvement in forest canopy density may be attributed to better conservation measures, protection, afforestation activities, tree plantation drives and agroforestry.
- Among the mega cities in the country, Ahmedabad has been the biggest loser when it comes to forest cover.

5. Global Hunger Index is published by

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) World Health Organization
- (c) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- (d) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a multidimensional statistical tool that measures the progress and failures in the fight against hunger on a global level and is used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation.

- GHI is released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington in association with Concern Worldwide of Ireland and Welthungerhilfe.

6. Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital displays in many devices.

1. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays? [PYQ (2017)]
2. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
3. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
4. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A Flexible Organic Light Emitting Diode (FOLED) is a form of Organic Light-Emitting Diode (OLED) that has an electroluminescent organic semiconductor placed on a flexible plastic substrate.
- The OLED is lightweight and has Flexible Plastic Substrates.

- OLED displays can be made on flexible plastic substrates, which could lead to the development of flexible organic light-emitting diodes for novel applications like roll-up displays incorporated in fabrics or clothes.
- The displays could be made cheaply if a substrate like polyethylene terephthalate (PET) can be employed. Furthermore, plastic substrates are shatter-resistant.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Budget Session is the longest session of all.
2. Parliament has to be summoned by the speaker twice in a year, with a gap of no more than six months between its sessions.
3. There is no minimum number of days that Parliament is required to meet in a year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Budget Session is the longest session of Parliament.
- The Constitution empowers the President (NOT Speaker) to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than a six-month gap between the

two sessions. Hence the Parliament must meet at least twice a year.

- The Constitution does not specify when or for how many days Parliament should meet. Article 85 only requires that there should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Henley Passport Index:

1. It ranks the passports of several countries according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
2. India's ranking has degraded in Henley Passport Index 2022.

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 Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin (chairman of Henley & Partners), the ranking is based on exclusive data

- from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.
- It was launched In 2006 and includes 199 Different Passports.
- It Is updated in real time throughout the year as and when visa policy changes come into effect.

Global Rankings:

- Japan and Singapore top the index
- Germany and South Korea held onto the joint second spot on the latest ranking, while Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain shared third place.
- Afghanistan and Iraq continue to be in the 'worst passports to hold' category.
- In 2020, India stood at 84 while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan.
- India (83rd in 2022) shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.
- India now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide with Oman and Armenia being the latest additions. India has added 35 more destinations since 2006.
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

9. With reference to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), consider the following statements:

1. It was established "by the G-7 Countries.
2. The members of the MTCR are prohibited from supplying UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems controlled by the MTCR to non-members.
3. The MTCR was started by the signing of a treaty at Yokohama in 1987.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
- It Is an informal and voluntary partnership among 35 countries to prevent the proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying greater than 500 kg payload for more than 300 km.
- The members are thus prohibited from supplying such missiles and UAV systems that are controlled by the MTCR to non-members. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The decisions are taken by consensus of all the members.

- This is a non-treaty association of member countries with certain guidelines about the information sharing, national control laws and export policies for missile systems and a rule-based regulation mechanism to limit the transfer of such critical technologies of these missile systems. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- It was established in April 1987 by G-7 countries – USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, and Japan. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It is not a legally-binding treaty. Hence, no punitive measures could be taken against non-compliance to the guidelines of the regime.
- India was inducted into the Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016 as the 35th member.
- India can procure high-end missile technology and run joint programmes for development of unmanned aerial vehicles with other countries. Eg. Procurement of theater missile interceptor “Arrow II “ from Israel, military drones like “Avenger” from the USA etc.

10. Global Risks Report, sometimes seen in news is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Health Organisation
- (b) World Economic Forum.
- (c) World Trade Organisation

(d) The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Global Risks Report 2022, an annual report, was released by the World Economic Forum. It tracks global risk perceptions among risk experts and world leaders in business, government, and civil society.
- It examines risks across five categories: economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological.
- World Economic Forum (WEF): Based in Geneva, Switzerland, WEF is a not-for-profit international organisation established in the year 1971.
- The Forum provides a platform for the CEOs of the largest companies, heads of state of countries, to meet each other and discuss business through bilateral meetings.
- It is mostly known for its annual meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland. It's a meet to showcase countries' potential in order to attract businesses.
- It is basically a networking event where countries project themselves to garner investment.
- Hence option B is correct.

1. Which of the following statement(s) regarding Special Marriage Act 1954 is/are **not** correct?

1. It was created to validate and register interreligious and inter-caste marriages for Indians living only in India and not in abroad.
2. People of the same faith can also marry under this act.
3. The act validates the marriage between two consenting adults belonging to different faiths, and there is strict punishment for those who forcibly convert the other partner just for the sake of marriage.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Special Marriage Act 1954 is the legislation made to validate and register interreligious and inter-caste marriages in India.
- It allows two individuals to solemnize their marriage through a civil contract without any religious formalities to be carried out under the Act.
- While considering the age, the male must be at least 21 and the female be 18 at least.

- This Act includes Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhist's marriages. This act applies to all Indian states, except Jammu & Kashmir.
- This Act applies not only to Indian citizens who belong to different castes and religions but **also to Indian nationals who live abroad.**
- Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- People of the **same faith can also marry under this act** but separate laws for marriage also exist in their respective faith. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- In case all of the conditions under the act are fulfilled, the parties are supposed to give a notice for their marriage to the Marriage Officer in an area.
- The provisions under the Act require parties to an intended marriage to publish their private details for public scrutiny 30 days prior to the intended marriage.
- Anyone who believes that either of the given parties do not fulfill all the required conditions can file an objection against the marriage and the marriage officer can reject the marriage.
- Further the act only validates the marriage of two people belonging to different faiths, but there is no punishment for those who forcibly convert the other partner just for the sake of marriage. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

2. Consider the following regarding Interfaith Marriages:

1. Unlike regular marriages, both the bridegroom and the bride must be at least 21 years of age at the time of marriage.
2. At the time of their marriage, both parties must be Monogamous.

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 bridegroom must be at least 21, and at the time of the marriage, **the bride must be at least 18 years of age.**
- This is the minimum age limit respectively for a boy/girl to marry.
- So, statement 1 is not correct.
- At the time of their marriage, both parties must be monogamous; i.e., they must be unmarried and at that time should not have any living spouse.
- So, statement 2 is correct.
- In order to be able to decide for themselves, the parties should be mentally fit, i.e., they must be sane at the time of marriage.
- It is to be noted that the Indian Government is planning to raise the legal

age of marriage to 21 from 18 for women. For men it is already 21.

- The Government argues that this will Empower Women and ensure gender parity.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Rule 53 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, the power to suspend can only be exercised by the Speaker, and it cannot be put to vote in a resolution.
2. Should any member be ordered to withdraw for a second time in the same session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself “for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session.

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:

- Under Rule 53 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, the power to suspend can only be exercised by the Speaker, and it cannot be put to vote in a resolution.
- Rule 53 states that the “Speaker may direct any member who refuses to obey his

decision, or whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the Assembly”.

- The member must “absent himself during the remainder of the day’s meeting”.
- Should any member be ordered to withdraw for a second time in the same session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself “for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session”.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the cold wave:

1. A cold wave is declared when there’s a significant increase in minimum or night time temperature.
2. For the plains, a cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 degrees Celsius (C) less than normal for Two Consecutive Days.
3. Presence of cloud cover in the region is one of the reason for the occurrence of cold wave.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted cold wave conditions over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the next two days.
- **Cold Wave:** A rapid **fall in temperature** within 24 hours to a level requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture, industry, commerce, and social activities.
- So, statement 1 is not correct.

Cold Wave Conditions:

- For the plains, a cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 degrees Celsius (C) less than normal for two consecutive days.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- For coastal stations, the threshold value of minimum temperature of 10 degree Celsius is rarely reached. However, the local people feel discomfort due to the wind chill factor which reduces the minimum temperature by a few degrees depending upon the wind speed.
- ✓ A wind chill factor is a measure of the cooling effect of the wind on the temperature of the air.

Reasons for the Fall in Minimum

Temperature:

- **Absence of cloud cover in the region:**

Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Snowfall in the upper Himalayas** that has blown cold winds towards the region.

- **Subsidence of cold air over the region:** Subsidence is the downward movement of cold and dry air closer to the surface.

- **Prevailing weak La Nina conditions in the Pacific Ocean.**

✓ La Nina is the abnormal cooler sea surface temperatures reported along the equatorial Pacific Ocean and it is known to favour cold waves.

✓ During La Nina years, the severity of cold conditions becomes intense. The frequency and area covered under the grip of a cold wave becomes larger.

5. In context to the Rare Earth Metals, consider the following statements:

1. These minerals have unique magnetic, Luminescent, and Electrochemical Properties.
2. They are a set of seventeen metallic elements.

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:

- They are a set of seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table in addition to scandium and yttrium that show similar physical and chemical properties to the lanthanides.

- These minerals have unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties and thus are used in many modern technologies, including consumer electronics, computers and networks, communications, health care, national defense, etc.

- Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- They are a set of seventeen metallic elements. The 17 Rare Earths are cerium (Ce), dysprosium (Dy), erbium (Er), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), holmium (Ho), lanthanum (La), lutetium (Lu), neodymium (Nd), praseodymium (Pr), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), scandium (Sc), terbium (Tb), thulium, ytterbium (Yb), and yttrium (Y).

- Hence, statement 2 is correct.

6. Consider the following with regard to ‘India State of Forest Report-2021’:

1. The forest cover In the tiger reserve has been added for the first time in 2021.
2. Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country in terms of Area.
3. Panna Tiger Reserve has the highest forest cover in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released the India State of Forest Report-2021.
- It Is an assessment of India’s forest and tree cover, published every two years by the Forest Survey of India.
- The first survey was published in 1987, and ISFR 2021 is the 17th.

New Features of ISFR 2021:

- It has for the first time assessed forest cover in tiger reserves, tiger corridors and the Gir forest which houses the Asiatic lion.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The forest cover in tiger corridors has increased by 37.15 sq km (0.32%) between 2011-2021, but decreased by 22.6 sq km (0.04%) in tiger reserves.
- Forest cover has increased in 20 tiger reserves in these 10 years, and decreased in 32.
- Buxa (West Bengal), Anamalai (Tamil Nadu) and Indravati reserves (Chhattisgarh) have shown an increase in forest cover while the highest losses have been found in Kawal (Telangana), Bhadra (Karnataka) and the Sundarbans reserves (West Bengal).
- Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh has the highest forest cover, at nearly 97%. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Area-wise: Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland.
- The term 'forest area' denotes the legal status of the land as per the government records, whereas the term ‘forest cover’ indicates presence of trees over any land.
- Mangroves have shown an increase of 17 sq km. India’s total mangrove cover is now 4,992 sq km.

7. In context to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, consider the following statements:

1. It was established by the Washington Treaty.
2. It Is based on the principle of collective security.

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:

North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

- It Is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 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.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.

8. Which of the following gives ‘Global Gender Gap Index’ ranking to the countries of the World?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UN Human Rights Council
- (c) UN Women
- (d) World Health Organization

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to Measure Gender Equality.

9. As a tsunami leaves the deep water of the open ocean and travels into the shallower water Near the coast, which of the following events may take place?

1. The tsunami’s speed diminishes as it Travels into Shallower Water
2. It may Grow to be several meters or more in Height near the Coast.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As a tsunami leaves the deep water of the open ocean and travels into the shallower water near the coast, the tsunami’s speed

diminishes and it may grow to be several meters or more in height near the coast.

10. Kohima War Cemetery is a memorial dedicated to the

- (a) Soldiers who were killed while fighting insurgency in the Nagaland
- (b) People who sacrificed their lives during the conflict between the British India and Burma
- (c) Soldiers of the 2nd British Division of the Allied Forces who died in World War II
- (d) Troops of British India who died in wars fought between 1914 and 1919

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Kohima War Cemetery is a Memorial dedicated to soldiers of the 2nd British Division of the Allied Forces who died in the Second World War at Kohima, the capital of Nagaland

1. With respect to the River Board Act, consider the following statements:

1. The river board act provides for the Establishment of river boards for the Cleaning and Rejuvenation of River and river valleys.
2. Such a river board is established on the request of the state governments concerned.

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 river board act provides for the establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of the Inter-state River and river valleys.
- So, statement 1 is not correct.
- Such a river board is established on the request of the state governments concerned.
- So, statement 2 is correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Art 262 provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes.
2. The inter-state water dispute act empowers the Central Government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a

dispute between the two or more states in relation to the water of an inter-state river.

3. The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding and the act also bars the Supreme Court and any other court to have Jurisdiction in this Matter.

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:

- Art 262 provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes.
- It has two following provisions:
 - ✓ Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
 - ✓ Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.
- Under the provisions of the act, the central government has enacted, River boards act (1956) and Inter-state water disputes act (1956).
- The river board act provides for the establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of the Inter-

state River and river valleys. Such a river board is established on the request of the state governments concerned.

- The inter-state water dispute act empowers the central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between the two or more states in relation to the water of an inter-state river. The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding. Furthermore, the act bars the SC and any other court to have jurisdiction in this matter.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

3. Recently, a volcano erupted in the Island of Tonga, which triggered Tsunami waves around ocean. Tonga is situated in which of the following seas?
- Atlantic Ocean
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Indian Ocean
 - Arctic Ocean

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, Hunga-Ha'apai and Hunga-Tonga.
- The Tonga Islands occur along the Ring of Fire—a perimeter of heightened volcanic and seismic activity that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.



4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ring of Fire is the result from subduction of oceanic tectonic plates beneath lighter continental plates.
2. The area where these tectonic plates separates is called a subduction zone.
3. The Ring of Fire is a Pacific region home to over 450 volcanoes, including three of the world's four most active volcanoes – Mount St. Helens in the USA, Mount Fuji in Japan and Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

Which of the statement given above is *not* correct?

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

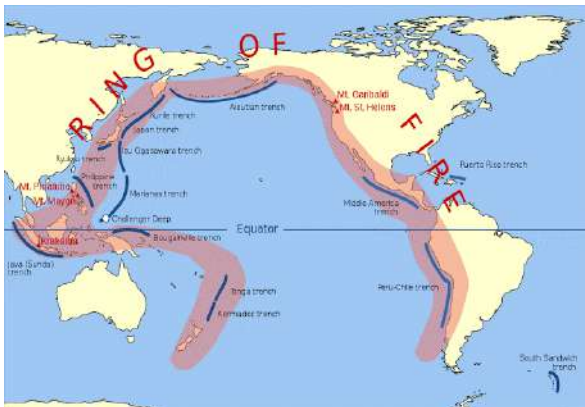
Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Ring of Fire is a Pacific region home to over 450 volcanoes, including three of the world's four most active volcanoes –

Mount St. Helens in the USA, Mount Fuji in Japan and Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines. It is also sometimes called the circum-Pacific belt. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- Around 90% of the world's earthquakes occur in the Ring of Fire, and 80% of the World's Largest Earthquakes.



- It stretches along the Pacific Ocean coastlines, where the Pacific Plate grinds against other, smaller tectonic plates that form the Earth's crust – such as the Philippine Sea plate and the Cocos and Nazca Plates that line the edge of the Pacific Ocean.
- The 40,000-kilometre horse-shoe-shaped ring loops from New Zealand to Chile, passing through the coasts of Asia and the Americas on the way.
- The people most at risk from activity in the Ring of Fire are in the US west coast, Chile, Japan and island nations including the Solomon Islands.
- These areas are most at risk because they lie on so-called subduction zones – which

are boundaries that mark the collision between two of the planet's tectonic plates.

- The Ring of Fire is the result from subduction of oceanic tectonic plates beneath lighter continental plates.
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The area where these **tectonic plates meet** is called a subduction zone.
- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

5. Consider the following, with regard to National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. It Inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009.

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 Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- NCPDR is a statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for

Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

- It Is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The Commission's mandate Is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It Inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- It monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

6. In context to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with the establishment of the ECI.
2. It was made a multi-member body by the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a Supreme Court judge by Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.
- Article 324 to 329 of the constitution deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.
- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The commission consists of one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners appointed by the President of India.
- They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a Supreme Court judge by Parliament. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

7. Consider the following:

1. Government has dedicated 207 Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes to technical textiles to help in monitoring the data of import and export, in providing financial support and other incentives to manufacturers.
2. Technotex India is a flagship event organized by the Ministry of Textiles for the promotion of technical textile.
3. India is the largest technical textile exporter in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.
- Technical Textile products derive their demand from development and industrialization in a country.
- Scenario of Technical Textile:
 - The growth of technical textiles in India has gained momentum in the past five years, currently growing at an 8% per annum rate.
 - It is aimed to hasten this growth to 15-20% range during the next five years.
 - The current world market is USD 250 billion and India's share in it is USD 19 billion.
 - India is an aspiring player with USD 40 billion in this market (8% Share).
 - The biggest players are the USA, western Europe, China and Japan (20-40% share). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Initiatives Related to Technical Textile:

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles Sector: It aims to promote the production of high value Man-Made Fiber (MMF) fabrics, garments and technical textiles.

- Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) Codes for Technical Textile: In 2019, 100% FDI under Automatic Route: The Government of India allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route. International technical textile manufacturers such as Ahlstrom, Johnson & Johnson etc have already initiated operations in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Technotex India: It is a flagship event organized by the Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and comprises exhibitions, conferences and seminars with participation of stakeholders from across the global technical textile value chain. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme: To improve exports and indirectly promote investments in textile machinery.

8. The Election schedule for state assembly Elections in India is decided by:

- (a) State Election Commission
- (b) Governor
- (c) Election Commission of India
- (d) President on the advice of Council of Ministers

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India Announces the dates for the state Assembly elections.

9. Consider the following statements with regards to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, FCRA:

1. Foreign funding of persons in India is Regulated under the FCRA Act and is Implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Under the Act, Registered NGOs can receive foreign Contributions for five purposes – social, Educational, religious, Economic and Cultural.
3. The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.

Choose the correct code:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Under the Act, registered NGOs can receive foreign contributions only for the

purposes of/activity related to social, educational, religious, economic and cultural nature.

- The Act requires that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained. The money cannot be used for any other purpose.

10. Which of the given statements with regards to Kathak dance is/are not correct?

1. Usually a solo performance, the dancer often pauses to recite verses followed by their Execution through Movement.
2. Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or North Indian Music.
3. Under the Tughlaq and Khilji emperors and their nobles, Kathak was performed in the court, where it acquired its present features and developed into a form of dance with a Distinctive Style.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Kathak is one of the major forms of Indian classical dance.
- Kathak originated as a storytelling device for portraying the epic tales from Hindu

scriptures, Mahabharata and Ramayana. Poetry was combined with rhythmic movement to aid in worshipful storytelling.

- Kathak is indigenous to Northern India and developed under the influence of both Hindu and Muslim cultures. It was under the Mughal emperors and their Nobles that Kathak was performed in the court, where it acquired its present Features and developed into a form of Dance with a distinctive style.
- Kathak is characterized by intricate footwork and precise rhythmic patterns that the dancer articulates by controlling ankle bells.

1. With reference to the electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) and VVPAT, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. An EVM is designed with the control unit kept with the Chief Electoral Officer and the balloting unit kept within the voting compartment.
2. The electronic voting machine came in India as a replacement to ballot papers and was first used in Parvur assembly constituency in Kerala in 1982.
3. If there is any mismatch between the recording of votes given by EVMs and the VVPAT, then the latter result will prevail over the Former.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- An EVM is designed with two units: the control unit and the balloting unit. These units are joined together by a cable. **While the control unit of the EVM is kept with the presiding officer or the polling officer**, the balloting unit is kept within the voting compartment for electors to cast their votes. This is done to ensure that the polling officer verifies your identity. So, statement 1 is not correct.

- Initially, election results are announced based on the recording of votes given by EVMs. If the election results are disputed, then the votes recorded under VVPATs shall be counted and announced. If there is any mismatch between the two results, then the VVPAT's result will prevail over the EVMs. So, statement 2 is correct.
- The electronic voting machine came in India as a replacement to ballot papers and was first used in No. 70 Parvur assembly constituency in Kerala in 1982. So, statement 3 is correct.
- In a large scale, the machines have been in use in India since 1999. The machines have been credited with making the voting process simpler, as now vote can be registered with just a click on the button.

2. Section 124A of IPC is sometimes seen in news. It is seen as a hindrance to which of the following Fundamental Right?

- (a) Article 21A.
- (b) Article 14.
- (c) Article 19.
- (d) Article 32.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sedition, which falls under **Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code**, is defined as any action that brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt towards the

government of India and has been illegal in India since 1870.

- The sedition law has been in controversy for far too long.
- Often the governments are criticized for using the law — Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) — against vocal critics of their policies.
- Therefore, this Section is seen as a restriction of individuals' freedom of expression and falls short of the provisions of reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech under **Article 19 of the Constitution.**

3. With respect to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which of the following statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The UNSC has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve three-year terms.
2. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.
3. India has the current presidency of the UNSC.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The United States is pushing the United Nations Security Council to impose more sanctions on North Korea following a series of North Korean missile launches.
- Current UNSC Presidency belongs to **Norway** which ends on January 31, 2022. India Previously assumed presidency on August 2021. Its next presidency period is on December 2022. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
- **Members:** The Security Council consists of fifteen members. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members.
- These Permanent Members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new

Member states or candidates for Secretary-General.

- The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve **two-year terms**.
- **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**

4. Coffee Club, an informal group was sometimes seen in news. Which of the country is **not** present in the Club?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Italy
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Canada

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Uniting for Consensus (UFC)** is a movement, nicknamed the **Coffee Club** that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council.
- Under the leadership of Italy, it aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations (**Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan**) and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.

5. consider the following, With reference to the 5G,

1. It uses a Millimetre-wave spectrum.
2. It uses upgraded LTE.
3. It provides speeds up to 20 Gbps.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Features of 5G Technology:

- **Millimeter Wave Spectrum:** The 5G networks will operate in the millimetre wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds because the frequency is so high, it experiences little interference from surrounding signals. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Upgraded LTE:** 5G is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Internet Speed:** In the high-band spectrum of 5G, internet speeds have been
- tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second) as compared to the maximum internet data speed in 4G recorded at 1 Gbps.

- 5G network speeds should have a peak data rate of 20 Gb/s for the downlink and 10 Gb/s for the uplink. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
6. The World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trends 2022, recently seen in news is released by which of the following?
- (a) World Bank
 - (b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - (c) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
 - (d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report titled World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends (WESO Trends) 2022.
- The WESO Trends includes comprehensive labour market projections for 2022 and 2023. It gives assessments of how labour market recovery has unfolded worldwide, reflecting different national approaches to pandemic recovery and analysing the effects on different groups of workers and economic sectors.
- The International Labour Organisation was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice.

- It became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.
- It is a tripartite organisation, the only one of its kind bringing together representatives of governments, employers and workers in its executive bodies.
- India is a founding member of the ILO with a total 187 member States.
- Hence, option C is correct

7. Consider the following

1. When meteoroids enter the Earth's atmosphere, they are called Asteroids.
2. When a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and hits the ground, it is called a Meteors.

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:

- Difference between Meteor, Meteorite and Meteoroid
- The difference between a meteor, meteorite and meteoroid is nothing but where the object is.
- Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids. "Think of them as "space rocks,".

- But when meteoroids enter the Earth's atmosphere, they are called meteors.
- Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- But if a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and hits the ground, it is called a meteorite.
- Hence statement 2 is not correct.

8. Consider the following statements with regards to India State of Forest report 2021:

1. The first survey was published in 1987, and ISFR 2021 is the 17th.
2. Three categories of forests are surveyed – very dense forests (canopy density over 70%), moderately dense forests (40-70%) and open forests (10-40%).
3. It has for the first time assessed forest cover in tiger reserves, tiger corridors and the Gir forest which houses the Asiatic lion.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India State of Forest report 2021 for the first time assessed forest cover in tiger reserves, tiger corridors and the Gir forest which houses the Asiatic lion.

- The first such forest survey was published in 1987 and the current 2021 edition is the 17th edition of the survey.
- Under the survey, the forests are categorized into three types– very dense forests (canopy density over 70%), moderately dense forests (40-70%) and open forests (10-40%).

9. With reference to Swadeshi Movement, consider the following statements:

1. It contributed to the revival of the Indigenous artisan crafts and industries.
2. The National Council of Education was established as a part of Swadeshi Movement.

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 Swadeshi movement was launched in 1905 as a protest against the partition of Bengal. Swadeshi textile mills, soap, tobacco and match factories, tanneries, etc. were established under the Swadeshi Movement.
- Therefore, the swadeshi movement contributed to the revival of the indigenous artisan crafts and industries.

- National Council of Education was established in Bengal in 1906 to promote technical education in India as part of the swadeshi movement.

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

1. She was arrested for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and the Salt March led by Gandhi.
2. She became the President of Indian National Congress in 1932.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Matangini Hazra was an Indian revolutionary who participated in the Indian independence movement until she was shot dead by the British Indian police in front of the Tamluk Police Station on 29 September 1942.
- She was affectionately known as Gandhi buri, Bengali for old lady Gandhi.



1. Consider the following statements regarding the Constitutional Provisions related to the Reservations:

1. Article 16(4) empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees.
2. 77th Amendment Act added a new clause (4A) to **Article 16**, empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in promotion of any backward class of citizens
3. Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Article 16(4)** empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts **in favour of any backward class of citizens** which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state.
- By way of the **77th Amendment Act**, a new **clause (4A)** was added to **Article 16**,

empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to **Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees** if the state feels they are not adequately represented in services.

- Both 1st and 2nd statements are interchanged.
- **So, both 1 and 2 are incorrect.**
- Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any constitutional right.
2. Reservation of seats to certain communities was not a Fundamental Right.

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 has said that reservation of seats to certain communities was not a Fundamental Right.

- **So statement 2 is correct.**
- The Court said this while refusing to act on a petition filed by all political parties from Tamil Nadu who sought 50% OBC reservation in the all-India NEET seats surrendered by states.
- All political parties from Tamil Nadu filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution.
- They accused the Centre of violating the “right of the people of Tamil Nadu to have a fair education” by not implementing the 50% quota for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes for the All-India Quota seats in medical and dental science courses. Reservation is not a fundamental right”. Hence, Article 32 could not be applied.
- Therefore, not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any constitutional right.
- **So statement 1 is correct.**
- In February 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that there is no fundamental right to claim reservation in public jobs and no court can order a state government to provide for reservation to SC/STs.

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

- (a) Panchayati Raj
- (b) Municipalities and Corporations
- (c) Three legislative lists

(d) Anti-Defection Laws

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Tenth Schedule of Indian Constitution is popularly known as the **Anti-Defection Act**. Original constitution had no such provisions. It was included in the Constitution in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi government.
- The main intent of the law was to deter “the evil of political defections” by legislators motivated by the lure of office or other similar considerations.
- The grounds for disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law includes
 - a) If an elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party.
 - b) If he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorized to do so, without obtaining prior permission.
 - c) Going against the party whip.
- As a pre-condition for his disqualification, his abstention from voting should not be condoned by his party or the authorized person within 15 days of such incident.
- Articles 102 (2) and 191 (2) deals with anti-defection.
- The law disallows MPs/ MLAs to switch parties after elections, make the members follow the whips issued by their party.

- It also applies to a nominated member if he/ she join a political party after 6 months of nomination and to an independent candidate if he/she joins a party after the election.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Anti-Defection Law provided a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences.
- It accepted “split” within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect, and allowed the formation of a new party or “merger” with other

political party if not less than two-thirds of the party's members commit to it.

- **The 91st Constitutional Amendment introduced in 2003 deleted the Provision Allowing Split.**
- The 91st Amendment also barred the Appointment of defectors as Ministers until their Disqualification period is over or they are re-elected, whichever is earlier.
- But, obviously, such laws have not put to rest the trend of defections.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The eastern swamp deer is only found in Assam
2. The IUCN status of Barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) is Near Threatened

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The eastern swamp deer is endemic to Kaziranga. Notably though the overall population of the eastern swamp deer has decreased, the distribution of this species has increased beyond its traditional confines of the Kaziranga to even the Orang National Park and Laokhowa-Burachapori wildlife sanctuaries, both

located in the state of Assam. The eastern swamp deer is extinct elsewhere in South Asia.

- The barasingha, also called swamp deer, is a deer species distributed in the Indian subcontinent. The IUCN status of Barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) is vulnerable.

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct about National Commission for Safai Karamcharis?

1. It is a statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. It takes suo-moto notice of all such matters that are in relation to the non-implementation of the provisions of Manual Scavengers Act 2013

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is currently a temporary non-statutory body that investigates the conditions of Safai Karamcharis and makes recommendations to the Government of India regarding their welfare.

- Recently the Cabinet approved the extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years.
- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis can take suo-moto notice of all such matters that are in relation to the non-implementation of the provisions of Manual Scavengers Act 2013.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to Public services:

1. According to Article 310, members of the defence services, the civil services of the Centre and the all-India services or persons holding military posts or civil posts under the Centre or Civil services of a state, hold office during the pleasure of the president.
2. A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was Appointed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Article 310 of the Indian Constitution deals with the tenure of office of persons serving the Union or a State

- It states that except as expressly provided by this Constitution, every person who is a member of a defence service or of a civil service of the Union or of an all India service or holds any post connected with defence or any civil post under the Union, holds office during the pleasure of the President, and every person who is a member of a civil service of a State or holds any civil post under a State holds office during the pleasure of the Governor of the State.
- A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed.

8. In context to the Pacific ‘Ring of fire’, consider the following statements:

1. It is characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
2. It has several tectonic plates on its boundaries.
3. The Aleutian Islands in Alaska also form part of this.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’ or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is an area along the Pacific

Ocean that is characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

- It is home to about 75% of the world’s volcanoes – more than 450 volcanoes. Also, about 90% of the world’s earthquakes occur here.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Ring of Fire is stretched to approximately 40,000 kilometers tracing boundaries between several tectonic plates including the Pacific, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The chain runs up along the western coast of South and North America, crosses over the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, runs down the eastern coast of Asia past New Zealand and into the northern coast of Antarctica. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

1. It became the fifteenth Specialized Agency of the United Nations.
2. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

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:

- International Telecommunication Union
- It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- It is the oldest among all the 15 specialized agencies of the UN. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it is also a member of the United Nations Development Group and has 12 regional and area offices in the world. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- Its Membership includes 193 Member States and around 800 public and private sector companies and academic institutions as well as international and regional Telecommunication Entities.
- Recently, India got elected as a member of ITU Council for another 4-year term - from 2019 to 2022. India has remained a Regular Member since 1952.

10. The ‘SaaRthi App’, sometimes seen in the news, is related to?

- (a) Old Age Pension.
- (b) Women Protection
- (c) Securities Market
- (d) Child Development

Answer: c)

Explanation:

Saarthi:

- Recently, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched SaaRthi – a mobile app on investor education.
- It aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.
- The app will also explain about KYC process, trading and settlement, Mutual Funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.

Securities Market

- Securities are Financial Instruments issued to Raise Funds.
- The primary function of the securities markets is to enable the flow of capital from those that have it to those that need it.
- Securities markets provide channels for allocation of savings to investments and thereby decouple these two activities.
- Hence option C is correct.

1. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the Central Deputation of AIS Officers?

1. A cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government.
2. In case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government.
3. However, existing rules did not mention any time limit for deciding on such disagreement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Centre has proposed amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules in order to exercise Greater control in central deputation of IAS officials.
- Central deputation has often been at the centre of tussles between the Centre and the States.

What is the current rule on deputation?

- Central deputation in the Indian Administrative Service is covered under Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954, inserted in May 1969.

As per the Rule:

- A cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government or under a company, association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, which is wholly or substantially owned or controlled by the Central Government or by another State Government.

What happens in case of disagreement?

- In case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government.
- However, existing rules did not mention any time limit for deciding on such disagreement.

What are the Proposed Amendments?

- The proposal will give greater say to the Centre.
- The amendments enable the Union Government to seek the services of an Indian Administrative Service (IAS),

- Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer posted in a State even without the State government's consent.
- The Centre will be able to relieve an officer from their cadre if the State Government does not give effect to the Central Government's decision within the specified time.
- In case of any Disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or state Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the central government "within a specified time".
- Services of an AIS officer with a specific domain expertise may be required for any important time-bound flagship programme or project.

2. 'Two state solution', sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following countries?

- (a) India and Pakistan
- (b) Israel and Palestine
- (c) China and Taiwan
- (d) North and South Korea

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The "two-state solution" is based on a UN resolution of 1947 which proposed two states – one would be a state where Zionist Jews constituted a majority, the other

where the Palestinian Arabs would be a majority of the population.

3. Israel is bordered by which of the following sea(s)?

- 1. Mediterranean Sea
- 2. Red Sea
- 3. Sea of Galilee
- 4. Dead Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Israel is bordered by Mediterranean Sea only. Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake in Israel and Dead Sea is a salt lake in Israel
- Mediterranean Sea is in the West of Israel.
- Red Sea bordering countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen.

4. With respect to the Swamp Deer, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Swamp Deer has been classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.
- 2. It is also called barasingha, and is endemic to Kaziranga.

3. It is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The population of the vulnerable eastern swamp deer, extinct elsewhere in South Asia, has dipped in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- Officials attributed the decrease from 907 individuals in 2018 to 868 during the Eastern Swamp Deer Estimation on January 10 and 11 to two high floods in 2019 and 2020.
- The barasingha, also called swamp deer, deer is endemic to Kaziranga.
- The eastern swamp deer was once concentrated in the central Kohora and Bagori ranges of Kaziranga.
- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- State animal of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Range:** central and northern India and southern Nepal.

- **India:** Assam, Jumna River, Ganges River, Brahmaputra River, Madhya Pradesh, Utter Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh.

5. With reference to the ‘Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 (PBPT Act)’, consider the following statements:

1. A property transaction is not treated as a benami transaction if the owner of the Property is not aware of the transaction.
2. Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government.
3. The Act provides for three authorities for investigations but does not provide for any appellate mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A property transaction is treated as a benami transaction even if the owner of the property is not aware of the transaction based on the principle that ignorance of the law can never be an excuse for the violation of law.
- An appellate mechanism has been provided in the form of adjudicating authority and appellate tribunal.

6. With respect to Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. DAY-NRLM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
2. The programme is supported partially by the World Bank

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a new name given to Aajeevika – NRLM in November 2015. The initiative to move towards a demand-driven strategy enabling the states to formulate their own livelihoods-based Poverty Reduction action Plan is at the core of the Mission.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the ambit of the Ministry of Rural Development
- The programme is financially supported partially by the World Bank

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Brent Crude is sourced from U.S. oil fields
2. West Texas Intermediate is slightly “sweeter” and “lighter” than Brent
3. Brent Crude is more ubiquitous, and most oil is Priced using Brent Crude as the Benchmark, akin to two-thirds of all oil pricing

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Brent Crude is sourced from North Sea.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the ‘Schools of Hindu Laws’:

1. Mitakshara law school is observed in southern Indian states only.
2. Under Mitakshara law school, the son has no automatic ownership right by birth but acquires it on death of his father.
3. Under Dayabhaga law school, the sons do not enjoy coparcenary rights when the father is alive.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The term Mitakshara Is derived from the name of a commentary written by Vijnaneswara, on the Yajnavalkya Smriti.
- The term Dayabhaga is derived from a similarly named text written by Jimutavahana.
- It Is observed in all parts of India and subdivided into the Benares, the Mithila, the Maharashtra and the Dravida schools. It is observed in Bengal and Assam.
- A son, by birth acquires an interest in the ancestral property of the Joint Family.
- A son has no automatic ownership right by birth but acquires it on death of his father.
- All the members enjoy coparcenary rights during the father's lifetime. Sons do not enjoy coparcenary rights when the father is alive. A coparcener's share Is not defined and cannot be disposed of.
- The share of each coparcener is defined and can be disposed of.
- A wife cannot demand partition but has the right to a share in any partition between her husband and her sons.
- Here, the same right does not exist for the women because the sons cannot demand Partition as the father is the absolute owner.

9. With reference to the Indian National Army, consider the following statements:

1. The INA was formed under the leadership of Mohan Singh.
2. The slogan of 'Delhi Chalo', was given by Subhash Chandra Bose.

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 INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara and comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan (present-day Malaysia) campaign and at Singapore.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Subash Chandra Bose reached Japanese-controlled Singapore from Germany in July 1943, issued from there his famous call, 'Delhi Chalo', and announced the formation of the Azad Hind Government and the Indian National Army on 21st October 1943. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The INA included both the Indian prisoners of war from Singapore and Indian civilians in South-East Asia.

- It's strength grew to 50,000. The INA fought allied forces in 1944 inside the borders of India in Imphal and in Burma.

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose?

1. He actively participated In the Salt Satyagraha of 1930.
2. He vehemently opposed the signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931.
3. 'Forward' was the name of the newspaper started by Netaji.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Subhas Chandra Bose was born on 23rd January 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province.
- He was highly Influenced by Vivekananda's teachings and considered him as his spiritual Guru. His political mentor was Chittaranjan Das.
- He worked as the editor for Das's newspaper-Forward, and later started his own newspaper, Swaraj. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Association with Congress:

- He stood for unqualified swaraj (independence), and opposed the Motilal Nehru Report which spoke for dominion status for India.
- He actively participated In the Salt Satyagraha of 1930 and vehemently opposed the suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement and signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931. Hence, statement 1 and statement 2 are correct.
- In the 1930s, he was closely associated with left politics in Congress along with Jawaharlal Nehru and M.N. Roy.
- However, due to ideological differences with Gandhi, Bose resigned and left congress and founded a new party, 'the Forward Bloc'.

1. Which of the following bodies is/are *not* constituted under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:

1. National Tiger Conservation Authority
2. Animal Welfare Board for India
3. Central Zoo Authority
4. State Board for Wildlife
5. National Board for Wildlife

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The WPA act provides for the constitution of bodies to be established under this act such as the National and State Board for Wildlife, Central Zoo Authority and National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- Animal Welfare Board for India was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960).
- It was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.

2. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It provides for regulation in cultivation of a specified plant and restricts its possession, sale and transportation.
- Both cultivation and trade of specified plants can only be carried out with prior permission of competent authority.
- Plants protected under Schedule VI include:
 - ✓ Beddomes' cycad (Native to India)
 - ✓ Blue Vanda (Blue Orchid)
 - ✓ Red Vanda (Red Orchid)
 - ✓ Kuth (Saussurea lappa)
 - ✓ Slipper orchids (Paphiopedilum spp.)
 - ✓ Pitcher plant (Nepenthes khasiana)

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 deals with restitution of Conjugal Rights.
2. Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.

3. Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act recognises one aspect of conjugal rights — the right to consortium and protects it by allowing a spouse to move court to enforce the right.

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:

- Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 deals with restitution of conjugal rights.
- Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.
- The law recognises these rights— both in personal laws dealing with marriage, divorce etc, and in criminal law requiring payment of maintenance and alimony to a spouse.
- Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act recognises one aspect of conjugal rights — the right to consortium and protects it by allowing a spouse to move court to enforce the right.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

4. Statue of Equality, sometimes seen in news is built for which of the following personality?

- (a) Sardar Vallabhai Patel

(b) Netaji Subash Chandra Bose

(c) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

(d) Saint Ramanujcharya

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- PM Narendra Modi is all set to unveil the world's second-largest statue (Statue of Equality) in Hyderabad on February 5.
- The 216-foot-tall statue of 11th-century social reformer and saint, Ramanujacharya will be in a sitting position.
- **What is the Statue of Equality?**
 - ✓ The world's second tallest statue in a sitting position is made up of 'panchaloha', meaning a combination of Five Metals i.e. Gold, Copper, Silver, Brass and Zinc.
 - ✓ The Inner Sanctum Deity of Sri Ramanujacharya is built of 120 kilos of gold.
 - ✓ This Commemorates the 120 years the saint spent on earth.

5. consider the following , With reference to the 'Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) guidelines 2021',

1. These guidelines have been prepared by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. The guidelines aim to provide direction for the preparation of spatial plans for Gram Panchayat.

3. The 2021 guidelines replaces the 2016 guidelines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has prepared Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) guidelines, 2021 in a view to transforming rural India and ensuring rural prosperity.
- Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- RADPFI 2021 guidelines is a continuation to the Ministry's efforts towards promotion of Spatial rural planning and would create pathways for rural transformation by developing a perspective for long term planning in villages.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) guidelines, 2017. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

6. In context to Electoral bonds, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. These bonds are issued in the multiples of Rs. 1000 with a maximum limit of Rs. 1 crore.
- 2. Only the State Bank of India is authorized to issue and encash these bonds.
- 3. The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

About Electoral Bonds:

- These bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
- Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Only the State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- These bonds are only redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.

- The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.
- Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other Individuals.
- The donor's name is not mentioned on the Bond.

7. Consider the following, with regard to AntiMicrobial Resistance (AMR):

1. As per the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) report, the death due to AMR is now a leading cause of global deaths, higher than HIV/AIDS or malaria.
2. The Antibiotic Stewardship Program was initiated by the WHO India to control misuse and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs.

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:

- Antimicrobial resistance 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”.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified AMR as one of the top ten threats to global health.
- According to the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) report, 1.27 million people died in 2019 as a direct result of AMR (AntiMicrobial Resistance).
- The death due to AMR is now a leading cause of death worldwide, higher than HIV/AIDS or malaria.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Most of the deaths from AMR were caused by lower respiratory infections, such as pneumonia, and bloodstream infections, which can lead to sepsis.
- **Measures Taken to Address AMR (India):**
- National Action Plan on AMR: It focuses on One Health approach and was launched in April 2017 with the aim of involving

various stakeholder ministries/departments.

- **Antibiotic Stewardship Program:** The ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)) has initiated antibiotic stewardship program (AMSP) on a pilot project across India to control misuse and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- DCGI has banned 40 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) which were found inappropriate.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Contempt of court:

1. The Attorney General's (AG) consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person
2. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, has a limitation period of two years for bringing in action against an Individual.
3. Supreme Court has the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, lays down the law on contempt of court.
- In the case of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, and in the case of High Courts, the Advocate General, may bring in a motion before the court for initiating a case of Criminal Contempt.
- The AG's consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person.
- The Contempt of Court Act, 1971 provides for limitation for filing contempt petitioner within 1 year (NOT 2) for bringing in action against an individual.
- Article 129 of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, Independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG

9. The Living Root Bridges which are like a suspension bridge formed with living plant roots by tree shaping is seen in the State of
- (a) Kerala
 - (b) Odisha
 - (c) Meghalaya
 - (d) Chhattisgarh

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Living Root Bridges in Meghalaya are made from rubber tree roots also known as Ficus elastica tree.
- The double-decker root bridge in Cherrapunji and the single-decker root bridge in Shillong are unique living root bridges in the world.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Saraswati River:

1. It is a major Rig Vedic River
2. It is part of the Sapta Sindhu rivers mentioned in the Rig Veda.
3. The River had originated from Kapal tirth in the Himalayas in the west of Kailash

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Saraswati is a major Rig Vedic river mentioned in the Rig Veda and other Vedic texts.
- It is part of the Sapta Sindhu rivers mentioned in the Rig Veda.
- The river, which had formed in the Himalayas west of Kailash at Kapal tirth, was flowing southward to Mansarovar before turning westward.

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

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

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

and the request for invoking the said defence is bona fide.’

2. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: The nod of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General is a condition precedent to set the criminal contempt proceedings in motion before the apex court.

Statement 2: The consent of the Attorney General before taking cognizance of a complaint is to save the time of the court.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct
- (d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Attorney General K K Venugopal has recently granted consent to initiate contempt proceedings against ‘Dharam Sansad’ leader Yati Narsinghanand over his alleged remarks against the Constitution and the Supreme Court.
- As per Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, the nod of the Attorney

General or the Solicitor General is a condition precedent to set the criminal contempt proceedings in motion before the apex court. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The objective behind requiring the consent of the Attorney General before taking cognizance of a complaint is to save the time of the court. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The AG’s consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person.
- However, when the court itself initiates a contempt of court case the AG’s consent is not required.
- This is because the court is exercising its inherent powers under the Constitution to punish for contempt and such Constitutional powers cannot be restricted because the AG declined to grant consent.
- If the AG denies consent, the matter all but ends. The complainant can, however, separately bring the issue to the notice of the court and urge the court to take suo motu cognizance.
- Article 129 of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or
- with the consent of the AG.

3. Justice J. S. Verma Committee, sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) Judicial Reforms
- (b) Sexual Harassment on Workplace
- (c) Data Privacy
- (d) Non-Performing Assets

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The petitions before the Delhi High Court asking for marital rape to be criminalised are an outcome of the government's refusal to pay heed to the landmark report by the Justice J. S. Verma Committee, constituted in the aftermath of the horrific Nirbhaya gang rape in 2012.
- Though the government has said on multiple occasions that such a move will threaten the institution of marriage, experts say recent judgments, including on the right to privacy, have rendered this argument untenable.
- The Verma panel proposed that "the exception for marital rape be removed" and the law must "specify that a marital or other relationship between the perpetrator or victim is not a valid defence against the crimes of rape or sexual violation".

4. With respect to Marital Rape, consider the following statements:

1. Currently marital rape is not a ground for a divorce in Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslim Personal Law [Shariat] Application Act, 1937 and Special Marriage Act, 1954.
2. Section 375 of the IPC holds that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 18 years of age, is not Rape.

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:

- Currently marital rape is not a ground for a divorce in Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslim Personal Law [Shariat] Application Act, 1937 and Special Marriage Act, 1954, it cannot be used as a ground for divorce and cruelty against husband. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 375 of the IPC holds that "sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under **15 years of age**, is not rape".
- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- No other statute or law recognises marital rape.

- Victims only have recourse to civil remedies provided under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

5. Consider the following, with regard to K-shaped recovery:

1. The economic recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes.
2. It leads to changes in the structure of the economy.
3. The economic recovery path of different parts of the economy, when charted together, may diverge.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

K-Shaped Recovery:

- A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or Magnitudes.
- This is in contrast to an even, uniform Recovery across Sectors, Industries, or groups of people.

- A K-shaped recovery leads to changes in the structure of the economy or the broader society as Economic Outcomes and relations are Fundamentally changed before and after the Recession.

- This type of recovery is called K-shaped because the path of different parts of the economy when charted together may diverge, resembling the two arms of the Roman letter "K."

6. Consider the following:

1. International Counter Terrorism Conference 2022 was organised by the Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC).

2. Global Counter Terrorism Council is an arm of United Nations Security Council against Terrorism.

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:

- International Counter Terrorism Conference 2022
- Recently, the International Counter Terrorism Conference 2022 was organised

by the Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC). Hence statement 1 is correct.

- GCTC is an International Think-Tank Council with an overarching mission of reducing the vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

7. Consider the following:

1. The concept of restitution of conjugal rights in India has Colonial Origins.
2. The law recognises the conjugal rights both in personal laws and in Criminal Law.

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:

- Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.
- The law recognises these rights— both in personal laws dealing with marriage, divorce etc, and in criminal law requiring payment of maintenance and alimony to a spouse. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 and Section 22 of the Special Marriage Act 1954 empower a husband or a wife to move the local district court, complaining that the other partner has “withdrawn” from the marriage without a “reasonable cause”.
- The concept of restitution of conjugal rights is codified in Hindu personal law now, but has colonial origins.
- Originating from Jewish law, the provision for restitution of conjugal rights reached India and other common law countries through British Rule. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The British law treated wives as their husband's personal possession hence they were not allowed to leave their husbands.
- Similar provisions exist in Muslim personal law as well as the Divorce Act, 1869, which governs Christian family law.
- Incidentally, in 1970, the U.K repealed the law on restitution of Conjugal Rights.

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

1. The National Tiger count takes place every four years to estimate the total number of Tigers in India.
2. Karnataka had the highest number of tigers in the 2018 tiger census.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The National Tiger count takes place once every Four Years to estimate the total Number of Tigers in India.
- Madhya Pradesh with 526 Tigers had the highest number of tigers followed by Karnataka with 524 Tigers and Uttrakhand with 442 Tigers Population according to the 2018 tiger census.

9. Basal stem rot (Thanjavur Wilt) is a disease which affects

- (a) Cotton
(b) Coconut
(c) Tobacco
(d) Wheat

Answer: b)

Explanation:

The basal stem rot of coconut is known by several names in different parts of India:

- ✓ Ganoderma wilt in Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ Anaberoga in Karnataka
- ✓ Thanjavur wilt in Tamil Nadu
- The infection begins at the roots; the Symptoms include discolouration and rotting of stems and leaves.
- Researchers from Kerala have identified two new species of fungi from the genus

Ganoderma that are associated with coconut stem rot disease.

- A reddish-brown secretion is seen and this Secretion is reported only in India.
- Once infected, recovery of the plants is highly unlikely.
- In the final stages, the flowering decreases and the coconut palm dies.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Chakmas:

1. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists
2. They are found in Northeast India, Bangladesh, and Nepal
3. Chakma language is part of the Indo-Aryan language family

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists in Faith.
- They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- Chakmas were originally residents of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of former East Pakistan (Bangladesh); they fled when their land was submerged by the Kaptai Dam Project on the Karnaphuli River in the 1960s.

-
- Chakma language is part of the Indo-Aryan language family of the Indian subcontinent, and is closely related to the Bengali language.



1. 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.**

2. Which of the following is/are *not* correct regarding the eligibility to become the National Party?

1. It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
2. In addition, it wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
3. It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 only

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Eligibility for a ‘National Political Party of India:

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

Eligibility for a ‘State Political Party:

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in the State at a general election, either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
- In addition, it wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
- It wins at least three percent (3%) of the total number of seats in the Legislative

Assembly of the State, or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more.

3. With respect to the ICC Cricketer of the Year awards, consider the following statements:

1. Smriti Mandhana was awarded the ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year 2021.
2. Virat Kohli was awarded the ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year 2021.
3. Virat Kohli is the only Indian to be awarded ICC Cricketer of the Year twice in their Career.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year 2021 – Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan). **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for the ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year 2021: Smriti Mandhana (India).
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Virat Kohli and Smriti Mandhana are the only Indians to be awarded ICC Cricketer of the Year twice in their career (2017, 2018) and (2018, 2021) respectively.
- **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

4. 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:

- Amid the rising tensions over Russia's military build-up around Ukraine, NATO allies have put forces on standby and sent ships and fighter jets to bolster Europe's eastern defences.
- 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.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Sandes.

1. This is an end-to-end encrypted messaging app, which is aimed as an alternative to WhatsApp.
2. At present it is available only for government officials.
3. It was launched by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2, 3

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sandes, which is the Indian government's instant messaging app, is now accessible to everyone. Previously, it was only available for government officials. The app has been launched by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), to give a boost to Digital India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative.
- This is an end-to-end encrypted messaging app, which is aimed as an alternative to WhatsApp.
- The app's name is displayed as GIMS (Government Instant Messaging System). But, the government is calling it as Sandes
- Sandes has an interface similar to WhatsApp and you will find most of the WhatsApp features in this app.

6. Consider the following with regard to Natural Gas.

1. It consists primarily of Nitrogen but also includes small percentage of carbon dioxide and methane.
2. It is found in deep underground rock formations or associated with other hydrocarbon reservoirs in coal beds.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Natural gas is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon gas mixture consisting primarily of methane, but commonly including varying amounts of other higher alkanes, and sometimes a small percentage of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen sulfide, or helium.
- It is formed when layers of decomposing plant and animal matter are exposed to intense heat and pressure under the surface of the Earth over millions of years.
- Natural gas is a non-renewable hydrocarbon used as a source of Energy for Heating, Cooking, and Electricity Generation.
- It is also used as a fuel for vehicles and as a chemical feedstock in the manufacture of plastics and other Commercially Important organic Chemicals.
- Natural gas is found in deep underground rock formations or associated with other hydrocarbon reservoirs in coal beds and as Methane Clathrates.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Monoclonal Antibodies.

1. These are naturally generated antibodies in the human body to fight a particular infection.

2. They mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as Viruses.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Sandes.

1. This is an end-to-end encrypted messaging app, which is aimed as an alternative to WhatsApp.
2. At present it is available only for government officials.
3. It was launched by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sandes, which is the Indian government's instant messaging app, is now accessible

to everyone. Previously, it was only available for government officials. The app has been launched by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), to give a boost to Digital India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative.

- This is an end-to-end encrypted messaging app, which is aimed as an alternative to WhatsApp.
- The app's name is displayed as GIMS (Government Instant Messaging System). But the Government is calling it as Sandes
- Sandes has an interface similar to WhatsApp and you will find most of the WhatsApp features in this app.

9. Consider the following with regard to Natural Gas.

1. It consists primarily of Nitrogen but also includes small percentage of carbon dioxide and methane.
2. It is found in deep underground rock formations or associated with other hydrocarbon reservoirs in coal beds.

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Natural gas is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon gas mixture consisting primarily of methane, but commonly including varying amounts of other higher alkanes, and sometimes a small percentage of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen sulfide, or helium.
- It is formed when layers of decomposing plant and animal matter are exposed to intense heat and pressure under the surface of the Earth over millions of years.
- Natural gas is a non-renewable Hydrocarbon used as a source of energy for Heating, Cooking, and Electricity Generation. It is also used as a fuel for vehicles and as a chemical feedstock in the manufacture of plastics and other commercially important organic chemicals.
- Natural Gas is found in deep underground rock Formations or associated with other hydrocarbon reservoirs in coal beds and as Methane Clathrates.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses.

10. Consider the following, with regard to Monoclonal Antibodies.

1. These are naturally generated antibodies in the human body to fight a particular infection.
2. They mimic the immune system's ability to Fight off Harmful Pathogens such as Viruses.

1. With respect to the Central Water Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted as a statutory body under the Water Act, 1974.
2. It presently functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. The Commission is entrusted for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation, and drinking water supply and Water Power Development.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- CWC is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources and is presently functioning as an **attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was formed in 1974-1975 via a notification.
- **So statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation of the State Governments concerned,

- Schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country, for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation, drinking water supply and water power development.

- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala with a length of 244 km.
2. Periyar River originates from Periyar National Park and flows through the Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats.
3. The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, and Perinjankutti.

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

- (e) 1 only
- (f) 2 only
- (g) 1 and 3 only
- (h) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala with a length of 244 km. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is also known as ‘Lifeline of Kerala’ as it is one of the few perennial rivers in the state.

- A perennial river is a channel that has continuous flow in parts of its stream bed all year round.
- Periyar River originates from **Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats** and flows through the **Periyar National Park**. So, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, and Perinjankutti. So, **statement 3 is correct**.

3. Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards:

1. Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are titles under Article 18(1) of ‘the Constitution of India.
2. Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.
3. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of five in a particular year.

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: d)

Explanation:

- National awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri do not amount to titles within the meaning of Article 18(1) of the

Constitution and thus are not to be used as prefixes or suffixes to the name of the recipient in any manner. So, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- Article 18(1) abolishes all titles. It prohibits the State to confer titles on anybody whether a citizen or a non-citizen. Military and academic distinctions are, however, exempted from the prohibition. Thus, a university can give title or honor on a man of merit.
- Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 to be awarded to citizens of India in recognition of their distinguished contribution in various spheres of activity.
- The government suspended the practice of granting the Padma awards for two years in 1977. It was again suspended during mid-1992 when 2 PILs were filed in the High Courts of India. So, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- They are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- A maximum of 3 people can be awarded the Bharat Ratna.
- So, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- The total number of Padma awards to be conferred each year is limited to 120. But the count excludes posthumous awards and any non-resident Indian or Overseas Citizen of India or foreign-based winners.

4. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010, candidate contesting the election is debarred from receiving contribution.

Statement 2: FCRA comes under the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct
- (d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As per FCRA 2010, the following organizational individuals are debarred from receiving foreign contribution. They are

1. Candidate for election
2. cartoonist, editor, publishers of registered newspaper
3. Judge, government servants or employee of any corporation
4. Member of any legislature
5. Political parties.

Despite being a law related to financial regulation, this law does not fall within the purview of the RBI but **under the Home Ministry** as it is internal security legislation.

5. Which of the following are the tri-service Agencies or commands of the Indian Armed Forces?

1. Andaman & Nicobar Command
2. Strategic Forces Command
3. Defence Cyber Agency
4. Defence Space Agency

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the first tri-service theatre Command of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Strategic Forces Command overlooking nuclear command of India is a tri-service command.

- Defence Cyber Agency is a tri-services Command.
- Defence Space Agency draws staff from all 3 services of the Indian Armed Forces.

- The launch of the maiden flight of the SSLV was scheduled for July 2019 but has been delayed due to setbacks from the Covid 19 crisis and other issues.

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the SSLV Project?

1. The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) project of ISRO was launched in the 1960s with the support of the Soviet Union.
2. It is intended to cater to the Commercial Market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The SSLV is intended to cater to a market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits which has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private corporations, and universities for small satellites.
- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) project of ISRO dealing with the design and development of the SSLV is a recent undertaking of ISRO.

7. Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?

- (a) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- (b) Participation of workers in the Management of Industries
- (c) Right to work, education and public Assistance
- (d) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 39(A), promoting equal justice and free legal aid to the poor, Article 48A, stating the principle to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife and Article 43A, stating the right of participation of workers in the management of industries, were added to the Directive Principles during the 42nd Constitutional Amendment of 1976.
- Equal pay for equal work for both men and women – Article 39.
- Right to work, education and public Assistance – Article 41

- Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers – Article 43

8. In context to SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to cater to the market for the launch of small satellites into Earth's geostationary orbits.
2. New Space India Limited (NSIL) aims to mass-produce the SSLV in partnership with the private sector in India through technology transfers.

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 SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) aims to cater to the market for the launch of small satellites into Earth's low orbits (not geostationary orbit at present) that has emerged in recent years to cater to the needs of developing countries, universities for small satellites, and private corporations.
- Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- New Space India Limited (NSIL) is to mass-produce and manufacture the SSLV and the more powerful PSLV in partnership with the private sector in India

through technology transfers. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Its aim is to use research and development carried out by ISRO over the years for Commercial Purposes through Indian Industry Partners.

9. Corruption Perception Index, recently seen in news is released by?

- (a) Oxfam International
- (b) Transparency International
- (c) Economist Intelligence Unit
- (d) World Justice Project

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is released by Transparency International.
- The Index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.
- It relies on 13 independent data sources and uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- Transparency International is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1993 based in Berlin, Germany
- Its non-profit purpose is to take action to combat global Corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.

- Hence option B is correct.

10. Consider the following with regard to Cheetah:

1. It is the only carnivore that has been eliminated from India due to over-hunting.
2. The African Cheetah is bigger in size than the Asiatic Cheetah.
3. Both the African and Asiatic Cheetah are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the union minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' under which 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the next five years.
- Reintroductions of large carnivores have increasingly been recognised as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions.
- The cheetah is the only large carnivore that has been eliminated, mainly by over-hunting in India in Historical Times. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The cheetah is one of the oldest of the big cat species, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the Miocene era.
- The cheetah is also the world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia.
- The African Cheetah is bigger in size as compared to Asiatic Cheetah. The latter is smaller and paler and has more fur with a smaller head and a longer neck. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The African Cheetah is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List whereas the Asiatic Cheetah is listed as Critically Endangered.
- Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Rule 53 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, the power to suspend can only be exercised by the Speaker, and it cannot be put to vote in a resolution.
2. Should any member be ordered to withdraw for a second time in the same session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself “for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session.

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:

- Under Rule 53 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, the power to suspend can only be exercised by the Speaker, and it cannot be put to vote in a resolution.
- Rule 53 states that the “Speaker may direct any member who refuses to obey his decision, or whose conduct is, in his opinion, Grossly Disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the Assembly”.

- The member must “absent himself during the remainder of the day’s meeting”.
- Should any member be ordered to withdraw for a second time in the same session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself “for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session”.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional provisions related to the reservations:

1. Article 16(4) empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees.
2. 77th Amendment Act added a new clause (4A) to **Article 16**, empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in promotion of any backward class of citizens
3. Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Article 16(4)** empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts **in favour of any backward class of citizens** which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state.
- By way of the **77th Amendment Act**, a new **clause (4A)** was added to **Article 16**, empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to **Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees** if the state feels they are not adequately represented in services.
- Both **1st** and **2nd** statements are interchanged.
- **So both 1 and 2 are incorrect.**
- Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.
- **So statement 3 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Tipu Sultan was a ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore and the youngest son of Sultan Hyder Ali of Mysore.
2. Tipu fought the first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69) at the age of 17 and subsequently, against the Marathas and in the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84).

3. He fought Company forces four times during 1767-99 and was killed defending his capital Srirangapatnam in the Fourth Anglo Mysore War.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Tipu Sultan is at the centre of controversy in Mumbai with the BJP claiming a Congress leader is planning to rename a playground in a Muslim dominated locality after the Mysore king.
- He was a ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore and the eldest son of Sultan Hyder Ali of Mysore.
- In the wider national narrative, Tipu has so far been seen as a man of imagination and courage, a brilliant military strategist who, in a short reign of 17 years, mounted the most serious challenge the Company faced in India.
- Fought the first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69) at the age of 17 and subsequently, against the Marathas and in the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84).
- He fought Company forces four times during 1767-99 and was killed defending

his capital Srirangapatnam in the Fourth Anglo Mysore War.

- Tipu reorganised his army along European lines, using new technology, including what is considered the first war rocket.
- Devised a land revenue system based on detailed surveys and classification, in which the tax was imposed directly on the peasant, and collected through salaried agents in cash, widening the state's resource base.
- Modernised agriculture, gave tax breaks for developing wasteland, built irrigation infrastructure and repaired old dams, and promoted agricultural manufacturing and sericulture. Built a navy to support trade.
- Commissioned a "state commercial corporation" to set up factories.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the POCSO Act, 2019:

1. The Act increased Minimum Punishment for penetrative sexual assault from 7 years to 10 Years.
2. It also provides for with imprisonment between 20 years to life, with fine if person commits penetrative sexual assault on child below age of 16 years.
3. The Act also defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct that involves child such as photograph, video, digital or even

computer-generated image

indistinguishable from Actual Child.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Penetrative sexual assault:** The Act increased minimum punishment for this offence from 7 years to 10 years. It also provides for with imprisonment between 20 years to life, with fine if person commits penetrative sexual assault on child below age of 16 years.
- **Aggravated penetrative sexual assault:** The Act added two more grounds to definition of aggravated penetrative sexual assault. These include: (i) assault resulting in death of child and (ii) assault committed during natural calamity or in any similar situations of violence. It also increases minimum punishment from 10 years to 20 years, and maximum punishment to death penalty.
- **Aggravated sexual assault:** The Act added two more offences to definition of aggravated sexual assault. These include:
 - (i) Assault committed during natural calamity and

(ii) Administering or help in administering any chemical substance or any hormone to child for the purpose of attaining early Sexual Maturity.

- **Child Pornography:** The Act defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct that involves child such as photograph, video, digital or even computer-generated image indistinguishable from actual child. It also enhances punishments for certain offences related to child pornography.

- **Storage of pornographic material:** It increased punishment for storage of pornographic material with imprisonment between three to five years, or fine, or both. In addition, it also adds two other offences for storage of pornographic material involving children. These include: (i) transmitting, displaying, distributing such material except for the purpose of reporting it and (ii) failing to destroy or delete or report pornographic material involving child.

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

5. In context to the 'Western disturbance', consider the following:

1. It is an extra-tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region.
2. It causes the most winter and pre-monsoon season rainfall across Southern India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Western Disturbance (WD), labeled as an extra-tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean, is an area of low pressure that brings sudden showers, snow and fog in northwest India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The disturbance travels from the “western” to the eastern direction.
- These travel eastwards on high-altitude westerly jet streams - massive ribbons of fast winds traversing the earth from west to east. Western Disturbances are the cause of the most winter and pre-monsoon season rainfall across North-West India.
- This phenomenon is usually associated with a cloudy sky, higher night temperatures, and unusual rain.
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It is estimated that India gets close to 5-10% of its total annual rainfall from Western Disturbances.

6. consider the following, with regard to Subsidiary Alliance?

1. It was introduced by Lord Wellesley in India.
2. It was a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state.
3. The first Subsidiary Treaty was signed by the Nawab of Awadh in 1801.

Which of the following statements is/are not correct?

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

Answer- C)

Explanation:

Subsidiary Alliance:

- In 1798, it was introduced by Wellesley in India, the ruler of the allying Indian state was compelled to pay a subsidy for the maintenance of the British army in return for getting protection from the British against their enemies.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Those native princes or rulers who would enter into the Subsidiary Alliance were not free to declare war against any other power or enter into negotiations without the con-sent of the British.
- The Subsidiary Alliance was a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state, but this was a promise

seldom kept by the British. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The payment of the arbitrarily-fixed and artificially-bloated subsidy invariably disrupted the economy of the state and impoverished its people.
- On the other hand, the British could now maintain a large army at the cost of the Indian states. They controlled the defense and foreign relations of the protected ally, and had a powerful force stationed at the very heart of his lands.
- Lord Wellesley signed his first Subsidiary Treaty with the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1798. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- The Nawab of Avadh was forced to sign a Subsidiary Treaty in 1801.
- Peshwa Baji Rao II (Maratha) signed the Subsidiary Treaty at Bassein in 1802.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Chakmas and Hajongs:

1. They are tribes only found in the state of Arunachal Pradesh in India.
2. They are migrants from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of erstwhile East Pakistan, now 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: b)

Explanation:

Chakmas and Hajongs:

- Mizoram and Tripura have a sizable population of the Buddhist Chakmas while the Hindu Hajongs mostly inhabit the Garo Hills of Meghalaya and adjoining areas of Assam.
- Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- The Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh are migrants from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Displaced by the Kaptai dam on the Karnaphuli River in the 1960s, they sought asylum in India and were settled in relief camps in the southern and south-eastern parts of Arunachal Pradesh from 1964 to 1969.
- A majority of them live in the Changlang district of the State (Arunachal Pradesh) today.

8. Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?

1. Velu Nachiyar – The first Indian queen to wage war against the British East India Company.
2. Jhalkari Bai – A woman soldier who was one of the key advisors to Kittur Rani Chennamma.

3. Rani Abakka – Tuluva Queen of Ullal known for her revolt against the British East India Company in 1824.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

• **Rani Abbakka:**

✓ Rani Abbakka Chowta was a Tuluva Queen of Ullal who fought the Portuguese in the 16th century.

• **Jhalkari Bai:**

✓ Jhalkaribai was a woman soldier who played an important role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. She served in the women's army of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.

• **Velu Nachiyar:**

✓ Rani Velu Nachiyar was a queen of the Sivaganga estate. She was the first Indian queen to wage war with the East India Company in India.

9. In which among these dance forms are characters grouped under clearly defined types - pacha, kathi, thadi, kari or minukku?

- (a) Mohiniyattam
- (b) Bharata Natyam
- (c) Kuchipudi
- (d) Kathakali

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kathakali is a dance form popular in Kerala. It is an art which has evolved from many social and religious theatrical forms which existed in the southern region in ancient times.
- Chakiarkoothu, Koodiyattam, Krishnattam and Ramanattam are a few of the ritual performing arts of Kerala which have had a direct influence on Kathakali in its form and technique.
- Kathakali is a blend of dance, music and acting and dramatizes stories, which are mostly adapted from the Indian epics. It is a stylised art form, the four aspects of abhinaya – angika, aharya, vachika, satvika and the nritta, nritya and natya aspects are combined perfectly.
- Kathakali is a visual art where aharya, costume and make-up are suited to the characters, as per the tenets laid down in the Natya Shastra.
- The characters are grouped under certain clearly defined types like the pacha, kathi, thadi, kari or minukku. The face of the artist is painted over to appear as though a mask is worn.

10. Which of the given statements with respect to Mullaiperiyar dam is/are *Incorrect*?

1. The Maharaja of Travancore signed a 999-year Periyar Lake lease agreement with the British government in 1886, for its construction across the Periyar River.
2. The dam is located in Kerala, but is operated by Tamil Nadu.
3. It is India's largest masonry dam.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Nagarjuna Sagar Dam in India is the largest masonry dam in the world. Nagarjunasagar Dam located in Nalgonda District is built across River Krishna.

1. 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.**

2. Which of the following countries are included in the Six Party Talks?

1. US
2. UK
3. Russia
4. France
5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) All the above
(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Six-Party Talks between North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the United States began in 2003 with the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. However, these talks have been suspended since April 2009.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
2. Malware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.

3. A spyware can access the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Malicious software or malware can be described as unwanted software that is installed in your system without your consent. Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.
- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A spyware app accesses the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server.
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. 'Pegasus, recently seen in news refers to

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

5. Which of the following is/are the impact of increased US Federal Reserve interest rates on the Indian Economy?

- 1. Bond yields will rise.
- 2. Expensive imports of crude oil.
- 3. Loss in export of IT and IT-enabled services.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the US Federal Reserve (central bank of US) has signalled a possible hike in interest rates. This has led to a nervous reaction in Indian markets.
- Rate hikes by the Federal Reserve affects not only the US economy, but also shapes the macroeconomic outlook and exerts a certain degree of influence on the monetary policies in other Emerging Economies.

Impact of increased Interest Rates on India:

- **On Equity Market:** Bond yields will rise due to the growing dollar shortage in the Global Market.
- Previously, in India, the debt and equity markets witnessed outflows of over Rs 40,000 crore rupees, due to the strengthening dollar and uncertainties perpetrated by the trade war between the US, China, European Union, and other Major Nations. On Export and Forex: India being one of the largest crude oil importers of the world.

- A weaker rupee vis-à-vis a dollar result in more expensive imports of crude oil that may put cost-driven inflationary push across the whole economy and especially in those sectors that are highly sensitive to crude oil price movements.
- India's exports on the other hand, notably IT and IT-enabled services – will benefit to some extent from a stronger dollar with respect to the rupee.
- However, the same benefit may not fully accrue to exporters due to strong Competition in the export market

6. Consider the following, with regard to Fly ash:

1. It is an unwanted unburnt residue of nuclear power plants.
2. It includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO₂), aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃), ferric oxide (Fe₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO).

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:

About Fly Ash:

- Fly ash is an unwanted unburnt residue of coal combustion in a coal thermal power plant. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- It is emitted along with flue gases during the burning of coal in a furnace and collected using the electrostatic precipitators.
- The fly ash collected with the help of precipitators is converted into a wet slurry to minimise fugitive dust emissions.
- It is then transported to the scientifically designed ash ponds through slurry pipelines.
- Composition: Fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3), ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3) and calcium oxide (CaO). Hence statement 2 is correct.

Properties:

- Resemble Portland cement but is chemically different.
- Portland cement is a binding material in the form of a finely ground powder that is manufactured by burning and grinding a mixture of limestone and clay.
- Its chemical composition includes calcium silicates, calcium aluminate and calcium alumino ferrite.
- Exhibit cementitious properties.

- A cementitious material is one that hardens when mixed with water.
- Uses: It is used in concrete and cement products, road base, metal recovery, and mineral filler among others.
- Harmful Effects: Fly ash particles are toxic air pollutants. They can trigger heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and stroke.
- When combined with water they cause leaching of heavy metals in ground water.
- It also pollutes the soil, and affects the root development system of trees.
- Gross under-utilisation of this by-product over the years has led to the accumulation of 1,670 million tonnes of fly ash according to the Summary of Ash Generation and Utilisation during 2020-2021 by the Joint Committee earlier constituted by the NGT.

7. Consider the following, with regard Padma Awards?

1. These are presented annually by the Prime Minister of India on Republic Day.
2. The awards are also conferred in the field of art, sports, science and engineering.
3. The Padma Awards Committee is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Padma Awards are announced annually on Republic Day (26th January).
- Instituted in 1954, it is one of the highest Civilian Honours of India.
- The awards are conferred to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or Disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

Padma Awards are given in three categories:

- Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service),
- Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order) and
- Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- Padma Vibhushan is highest in the hierarchy of Padma Awards followed by Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

Disciplines:

- The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service etc. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Selection Process:

- **Padma Awards Committee:** The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Awarded by President:** The awards are presented by the President of India usually in the month of March/April every year. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

8. Generally, an FTA between two countries covers which of the following areas?

1. Trade in Goods
2. Trade in Services
3. Investments
4. Intellectual Property Rights
5. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A Free trade Agreement (FTA) is an agreement between two or more countries where the countries agree on certain obligations that affect trade in goods and Services, etc.
- FTAs, a form of trade pacts, determine the tariffs and duties that countries impose on imports and exports with the goal of

reducing or eliminating trade barriers, thus Encouraging International Trade.

- Such agreements include clauses on trade facilitation and rule-making in areas such as investment, intellectual property, government procurement, technical standards and sanitary and phytosanitary issues, etc.

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

1. The BRT Tiger Reserve is located in Tamil Nadu.
2. It is a critical habitat providing connectivity for wildlife between the Eastern and the Western ghats landscape.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Bandipur Tiger Reserve is situated in the contiguous landscape spread in the two revenue districts of Southern Karnataka namely Mysore and Chamarajanagar.
- It is considered to be the wildlife corridor that connects the Eastern Ghats to the Western Ghats which in turn facilitates Gene flow between the population species inhabiting both the Mountain Ranges.

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

1. The Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines 1974 is a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan facilitating both nationals to visit certain select religious shrines in both countries.
2. It provides visa-free travel to the pilgrims.
3. The protocol enables religious pilgrimage between the two countries without any discrimination on the lines of religion or sect.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines 1974 is a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan facilitating Indian and Pakistani nationals to visit certain religious shrines in both countries.
- It does not provide visa-free travel to the pilgrims.
- Under the 1974 protocol between countries, visits to religious shrines are being Facilitated Regularly.